

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

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Art & Culture and Ancient History

Q.1) The 'Bharat Ratna Award' is presented for:

- a) Military service
- b) Exceptional service/performance in any field
- c) Outstanding achievements in business
- d) Political leadership

Q.2) Which one of the following linguistic family do the 'Kuki-Zo and Meitei' people's languages belong to?

- a) Indo-European
- b) Dravidian
- c) Austroasiatic
- d) Tibeto-Burman

Q.3) Which one of the following is a unique feature of the Rakhigarhi site compared to other Indus Valley Civilization sites?

- a) It has a well-preserved palace complex.
- b) It is larger in size compared to other sites.
- c) Its extensive use of bronze tools.
- d) It has yielded a significantly different style of pottery.

Modern Indian History

Q.4) The 'Vaikom Satyagraha' is considered significant because:

- a) It was the first major Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- b) It highlighted the issue of caste discrimination in Kerala.
- c) It directly led to the abolition of the caste system in India.
- d) It marked the beginning of the non-violent independence movement.

Geography

Q.5) Which one of the following is likely the benefit of Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the consumers?

- a) The tag guarantees the product is the cheapest in the market.
- b) It ensures the product comes from a specific region known for its quality.
- c) It offers a wider variety of the product to choose from.
- d) The tag allows for easier copying of the product by other producers.

Q.6) With reference to the Katchatheevu Island, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Palk Strait.
2. It is not suited for permanent settlement as there is no source of drinking water on the island.
3. In 1974, India and Sri Lanka signed a maritime agreement that ceded Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Venezuela shares borders with which of the following countries?

- a) Brazil, Colombia, and Guyana
- b) Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia
- c) Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala
- d) Peru, Ecuador, and Suriname

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Weather patterns around the world can be affected by variations in the Pacific Ocean's temperature and wind patterns caused by the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

Statement-II: The Pacific Ocean covers almost a third of the earth.

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.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declares a heat wave if the maximum temperature of a weather station reaches at least 40 degrees C in the plains and at least 30 degrees C in hilly regions.
2. The wet bulb temperature is the highest temperature to which a surface can be cooled by water evaporating from 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.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The domestic steel sector accounts for 12% of India's greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), also known as sponge iron, refers to iron produced by directly reducing iron ore into solid-state iron without melting 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.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Volcanic vortex rings are formed due to the interaction of volcanic ash with magnetic fields in the Earth's atmosphere.
2. Mt. Etna in Italy is known for its occasional volcanic vortex rings.
3. Stratovolcanoes are often associated with the generation of volcanic vortex rings.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.12) The 'Port of Baltimore' is located on which one of the following rivers?

- a) Potomac River
- b) Arkansas River
- c) Susquehanna River
- d) Patapsco River

Polity

Q.13) With reference to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Its function is to regulate civil aviation security at airports.
2. It works in accordance with international regulations set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
3. Air traffic control falls within the purview of BCAS.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.14) With reference to the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips, consider the following statements:

1. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology is used in VVPAT systems to print the paper record of each vote.
2. VVPAT slip helps in verifying the authenticity of the polling booth.
3. In case of discrepancies between electronic voting machine (EVM) results and VVPAT slips, the VVPAT slips are used for manual counting and verification.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution aims to promote the interests of tribal communities in some of the Northeast regions. In which one of the following ways would the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule provide benefits to the region?

- a) Resolve territorial disputes with neighboring countries
- b) Provide legal safeguards for traditional practices and land rights
- c) Increase funding allocations from the central government
- d) Eliminate poverty within a designated timeframe

Q.16) With reference to the Chief Election Commissioner, consider the following statements:

1. The tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner is five years or until the age of 60, whichever is earlier.
2. The removal of the Chief Election Commissioner from office can be done through a process similar to that of a judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be a member of any political party.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.17) During elections, which one of the following statements about the Election Commission's special powers is correct?

- a) It can issue ordinances during the election period
- b) It can appoint state governors
- c) It can grant statehood to Union Territories
- d) It can transfer civil servants and police officers

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. The legalization of living wills, which grants terminally-ill patients to make decisions about withholding or withdrawing medical treatment and die with dignity, is pending in India.
2. There is also no established protocol for authenticating living wills through digital health records by the National Health Authority.

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.19) Who of the following, by convention, administers the oath to the newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha?

- a) President of India
- b) Vice President of India
- c) Chief Justice of India
- d) Prime Minister of India

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is responsible for regulating drug pricing and ensuring the availability of affordable medicines.
2. The NPPA annually revises the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines on the basis of Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
3. The scheduled medicines included in Schedule-II of the Medication Pricing Control Scheme (MPCS), 2013 are called as essential medicines.
4. All medicines under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are subject to price regulation.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 20 (3) of the Constitution provides that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
2. A confession made under fear of harsher punishment from police is considered invalid under Article 20(3).

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.22) Consider the following statements:

1. A party is recognised as a 'national' or 'state' party under the provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 (Symbols Order) by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
2. A recognised political party has a reserved symbol that is not allotted to any other candidate in any constituency.
3. If a political party is registered but not recognized, it cannot get a common symbol for elections if it contests in two Lok Sabha constituencies.

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.23) Consider the following pairs:

Parliamentary Procedures-----Objectives

1. Zero Hour-----Raising matters of urgent public importance without prior notice.
2. Half-an-Hour Discussions----- Opportunity for members to highlight specific issues briefly.
3. Calling Attention-----Provides a platform for in-depth discussion on a pre-approved topic of significant public interest.
4. Special Mentions-----Members draw attention to specific grievances or issues faced by their constituents.

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.24) Consider the following statements:

1. Universal health coverage (UHC) represents the goal of ensuring that all individuals have access to comprehensive, high-quality health services without suffering financial hardship.
2. India's Constitutional provisions do not provide a basis for the right to health.

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

Acts & Policies

Q.25) Consider the following statements:

1. The state is legally mandated to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
2. The Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) primarily aims to track employment data for government schemes.

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 following organizations has launched the 'One Vehicle One FASTag' initiative?

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
- d) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. The demand for work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has seen a decline.
2. Employment under MGNREGS is generated only when there is no alternative paying better wages.

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.28) Consider the following statements:

1. Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019 encourages domestic manufacturing of solar panels.
2. Domestic manufactures listed “approved” under Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019 gets eligible to participate in the PM solar rooftop 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.29) With reference to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Act, the birth and death database can be used to update the National Population Register.
2. The digital birth certificates issued under the Act will become a supportive document along with the Adhaar card to prove the date of birth for various services.
3. According to the Act, Registrar General of India (RGI) shall maintain the database of registered births and deaths at the national level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Index & Reports

Q.30) The ‘State of the Global Climate Report’ is an annual publication that tracks climate change indicators. Which one of the following organizations is responsible for publishing this report?

- a) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- d) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Q.31) With reference to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023, which of the following statements are correct?

1. More than half of the surveyed students struggled with basic mathematics.
2. Approximately 25% of students in the age group 14 to 18 years were unable to read a Class 2 level text in their vernacular language.
3. The survey observed a decreasing trend in dropout rates with age.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.32) Consider the following statements:

1. The Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) is an international agreement that prohibits nuclear weapons tests or any other nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water.
2. Nehru's advocacy for nuclear disarmament played a role in the establishment of the PTBT.
3. The PTBT has helped in the improvement in relations between the US and Russia.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET):

1. It is a collaborative framework established by the United States and India to enhance cooperation in developing fields of technology.
2. Nuclear Technology Development is one of the focus areas under iCET.
3. It is led by the Ministry of External Affairs in India and the Department of State in the USA.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.34) If a country is designated as an Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) country for Indian citizens, then which one of the following does it imply?

- a) Indian citizens need special clearance from the government to travel to that country.
- b) Indian citizens are not allowed to travel to that country for any reason.
- c) Indian citizens require emigration clearance before traveling to that country for employment purposes.
- d) Indian citizens are encouraged to travel to that country for employment opportunities.

Q.35) Consider the following:

1. Individuals
2. Businesses
3. Governments

How many of the above entities can become targets of US sanctions?

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

Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

1. It is an intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally.
2. It includes representatives from all 193 UN member states.
3. It works with Special Procedures, to monitor, advise, and publicly report on human rights situations in specific countries, or on major issues.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.37) With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), how many of the following statements are correct?

1. It promotes political and military alliances between Muslim nations.
2. The OIC Charter emphasizes the importance of strict adherence to Sharia law in all member states.
3. Its membership is based on geographic proximity to the Arabian Peninsula.

Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

1. AUKUS is a security pact formed to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. One of the pillars of the AUKUS focuses on joint development of advanced technologies such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and cyber technology.

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

Economy

Q.39) Consider the following:

1. Population
2. Area
3. Income distance
4. Poverty level
5. Forest and ecology
6. Disaster vulnerability

How many of the above criteria were used by the Fifteenth Finance Commission when designing the tax transfer formula?

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

Q.40) Consider the following statements:

1. Personal loans dominate the lending activities of banks, comprising the largest share.
2. The Digital India Trust Agency is committed to promoting digital literacy and skills development initiatives to ensure equitable participation in the digital economy.

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.41) The Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is a useful indicator for:

- a) Predicting stock market performance
- b) Understanding consumer spending habits
- c) Measuring the outlook of businesses and analyzing possible economic trends.
- d) Measuring individual company profitability

Q.42) Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank was set up on April 1, 1935 in Calcutta as a joint stock company.
2. The RBI is tasked with providing agricultural subsidies and grants to farmers for crop cultivation directly into their accounts.
3. The RBI is often referred to as the "banker's bank" because it sets interest rates for loans between banks.

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.43) Consider the following statements:

1. Tax evasion focuses on income tax, while tax avoidance applies to other types of taxes.
2. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) does not cover electricity and petroleum products.

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) The Price-to-Earnings (PE) ratio measures:

- a) The company's market capitalization divided by its annual earnings
- b) The company's annual revenue divided by its market capitalization
- c) The company's annual earnings divided by its market capitalization
- d) The company's annual earnings divided by its annual revenue

Q.45) Consider the following statements:

1. India's seafood exports have increased in recent years.
2. India has emerged as one of the world's largest 'shrimp' exporters.
3. In India, Kerala alone account for almost 70% of India's shrimp output.

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.46) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the power to raise taxes rests largely with the Union government while a greater part of the overall government spending is done by the State governments.
2. The RBI's classification of developmental expenditures includes interest payments, pensions, and subsidies, all of which have seen a decline in spending by the Union government.

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.47) Consider the following statements:

1. The largest export destination for India's bulk drugs is Canada.
2. China plays a major role in supplying bulk drugs to India's advanced pharmaceutical sector.

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) Which one of the following is the main purpose of Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD)?

- a) Provide a medium of exchange for international trade
- b) Speculate on changes in currency exchange rates
- c) Stabilize currency values in the global exchange market
- d) Facilitate direct currency conversion between different countries

Q.49) Which one of the following is the probable impact of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) keeping the repo rate unchanged?

- a) Immediate increase in home loan equated monthly installments' (EMIs)
- b) Decrease in the interest rates on fixed deposits
- c) Stability in the equated monthly installments (EMIs) for existing loans
- d) Sudden decrease in the cost of borrowing for banks

Q.50) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) 'Retail Direct Scheme'?

- a) Facilitate direct investment in private corporate bonds by individual investors
- b) Enable individual investors to directly invest in Government Securities without intermediaries
- c) Provide a platform for trading in international securities
- d) Offer a new digital currency for retail transactions

Q.51) With reference to Sovereign Green Bonds, consider the following statements:

1. They are generally issued at a lower interest rate compared to traditional bonds.
2. These are issued by the private companies focused on sustainability initiatives.
3. They contribute to the development and standardization of green finance practices.

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.52) Which one of the following represents the total market value of financial assets managed by a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)?

- a) Total Liabilities
- b) Net Profit
- c) Assets Under Management (AUM)
- d) Shareholder Equity

Environment

Q.53) Consider the following statements:

1. Cicadas are insects known for their spinning silk cocoons.
2. Cicada insects are predominantly found in tropical climates, including deserts, grasslands, and forests.
3. In India, the cicada inhabits the dense forests of the Garo Hills.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.54) With reference to the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. The river Tungabhadra separates the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary into two parts.
2. Indian gour and giant squirrel are the keystone species in the sanctuary.

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.55) The ozone hole is most severe over Antarctica, partly due to the formation of polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs). In which one of the following ways does PSCs contribute to ozone depletion?

- a) They absorb Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, preventing it from breaking down ozone-depleting substances.
- b) They provide a surface for chemical reactions that break down ozone molecules.
- c) They reflect sunlight back into space, reducing the temperature in the stratosphere.
- d) They trap Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the lower atmosphere, preventing them from reaching the stratosphere.

Q.56) Which one of the following is the primary objective of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement?

- a) Establish a global free trade zone for environmentally friendly products.
- b) Set binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction for all countries.
- c) Create a framework for voluntary climate change action plans by individual nations.
- d) Impose financial penalties on countries exceeding their carbon emission limits.

Q.57) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve'?

- a) It is the second-largest tiger reserve in India by area.
- b) It is located entirely within the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- c) It has the largest area designated as critical tiger habitat in India.
- d) The primary vegetation type found in the reserve is tropical rainforest.

Q.58) Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear energy presently constitutes only 1.6% of India's energy mix.
2. Solar energy installations in India have taken over the energy demand that was previously fulfilled by coal-fired power plants.

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.59) When analyzing the feeding habits of carnivorous species, which one of the following principles suggests that their ability to consume prey is restricted by the size of their mouth openings in relation to the size of the prey?

- a) Resource partitioning
- b) Predator-prey coevolution
- c) Gause's principle
- d) Gape limitation hypothesis

Science & Technology

Q.60) Consider the following statements:

1. Jupiter has the most moons in the Solar System.
2. Callisto is one of Jupiter's largest moons.
3. Callisto is primarily composed of water ice, rocky materials, sulphur dioxide, and some organic compounds.

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.61) Consider the following statements:

1. PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATIion of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) radio telescope will study the universe from the moon's far side.
2. Optical telescopes collect radio waves with the shortest wavelengths, while radio telescopes collect visible light at longer wavelengths.
3. The cosmic microwave background (CMB) is the leftover radiation from the Big Bang that fills the entire universe.
4. The early universe, underwent a period of the Dark Ages, which is characterized by the presence of the only star known as Methuselah star.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.62) Consider the following statements:

1. The human brain is divided into two hemispheres.
2. In most individuals, the left hemisphere of the brain is dominant for language, while the right hemisphere is dominant for visual attention tasks.

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.63) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The median age for cancer diagnosis in India is lower than in the U.S.

Statement-II: India has a higher cancer screening rates compared to the U.S.

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.64) With reference to the Agni-Prime Ballistic Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
2. The missile adds to India's nuclear triad, which already consists of aircraft, submarines, and ballistic missiles with nuclear capability.
3. It uses a modern navigation system for increased accuracy.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.65) Consider the following statements:

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) has opposed antibiotics for both growth promotion and preventative use in poultry.
2. Escherichia coli (E. coli) can be spread via contaminated meat and other food products.

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.66) Consider the following statements:

1. Industrial alcohol is alcohol that is not meant for human consumption.
2. Currently, excise duty applies only on petroleum and liquor.

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.67) Consider the following statements:

1. Kidney is the largest organ of the human body.
2. Melanin is the pigment responsible for skin color.
3. The adaptation of skin color, particularly lighter skin at higher latitudes, is linked to the body's need to produce vitamin D under lower ultraviolet (UV) exposure.

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.68) Which one of the following techniques is used to investigate the three-dimensional structure of chromosomes in the nucleus?

- a) Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- b) Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)
- c) Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)
- d) Chromosome conformation capture (3C)

Q.69) Consider the following statements:

1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are responsible for over 60% of all deaths in India.
2. According to the 2011 Census, urban slums make up over 17% of India's metropolitan areas.
3. Health equity aims to provide every individual with an equal opportunity to reach their highest health potential, irrespective of their circumstances.
4. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India experience lower child mortality and higher immunisation rates.

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.70) Consider the following statements:

1. A semiconductor has properties between a conductor and an insulator.
2. In its purest form, a semiconductor is a very good conductor of electricity.
3. Electrical properties of semiconductor can be changed by adding small amounts of dopants.

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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture and Ancient History

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award in India, presented for exceptional service or performance in any field. It recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the country in various disciplines such as art, literature, science, public service, and sports.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2.

3. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Tibeto-Burman family is a subgroup of the larger Sino-Tibetan language family. The Kuki-Zo languages are part of the Kuki-Chin-Naga subgroup within the Tibeto-Burman family. Meitei language, also known as Manipuri, is another member of the Tibeto-Burman family. Both Kuki-Zo and Meitei languages are spoken primarily in the northeastern region of India, including the states of Manipur and Nagaland, as well as in some neighboring areas of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

4. Correct Answer is (B)

- Rakhigarhi, located in the modern-day Indian state of Haryana, is one of the largest and most significant sites of the Indus Valley Civilization. Recent archaeological research and discoveries at Rakhigarhi have indicated that the site is larger in size compared to many other sites of the civilization, providing valuable insights into the complexity of the Indus Valley Civilization's urban planning and organization. Excavations have revealed that the ancient city of Rakhigarhi was significantly larger than other major Indus Valley cities, including Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. This indicates a potentially more extensive and complex urban society.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Modern Indian History

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Vaikom Satyagraha is considered significant because it highlighted the issue of caste discrimination in Kerala. Although this Satyagraha was not led by Mahatma Gandhi, it was inspired by the principles of non-violent civil disobedience that he championed. The movement aimed to end discrimination against lower-caste Hindus by granting them access to public roads around the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple in the princely state of Travancore. The protestors, under the guidance of prominent leaders such as T. K. Madhavan, K. Kelappan, K. P. Kesava Menon, and George Joseph, along with E. V. Ramasamy Periyar, employed peaceful means of resistance like marches, picketing, and demonstrations.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Geography

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- The benefit of a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to consumers is that it ensures the product comes from a specific region known for its quality. A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. This tag helps consumers trust the authenticity and quality of the product, as it is linked to the unique characteristics and traditional methods associated with the specific geographical region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Katchatheevu Island is located in the Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating India and Sri Lanka. Katchatheevu Island is not suitable for permanent settlement due to the absence of a reliable source of drinking water. The island is small and uninhabited, with a size of approximately 285 acres. In 1974, India and Sri Lanka signed a maritime agreement that ceded Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka. The agreement aimed to resolve long-standing territorial disputes and fishery-related issues between the two countries. However, the agreement has been a

source of controversy, particularly among the Indian fishing community in Tamil Nadu, who claim traditional fishing rights in the waters surrounding the island.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Venezuela, officially known as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, is a country located on the northern coast of South America. It is bordered by Brazil, Colombia, and Guyana, and it has a coastline along the Caribbean Sea to the north. The capital and largest city of Venezuela is Caracas. The official language is Spanish. The country is known for its diverse landscapes, including the Andes mountains, vast grasslands, and the Amazon rainforest. Some of its notable landmarks include Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, the Caribbean islands of Margarita and Los Roques, and the diverse wildlife found in the Orinoco Delta.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct as variations in the Pacific Ocean's temperature and wind patterns due to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon can affect weather patterns globally.
- Statement-II is correct as the Pacific Ocean covers almost a third of the Earth, supporting the vast influence it can have on climate and weather patterns around the world.
- Hence, both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has specific criteria for declaring a heat wave in different regions of the country. In the plains, a heat wave is declared when the maximum temperature reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius, while in hilly regions, it is declared when the maximum temperature reaches at least 30 degrees Celsius. The IMD can also declare a heat wave if the actual maximum temperature crosses 45 degrees C, and a 'severe heat wave' if it crosses 47 degrees C.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The wet bulb temperature is the lowest temperature to which air can be cooled by the evaporation of water into the air. It is a measure of the moisture levels in the atmosphere and takes into account both temperature and relative humidity, providing a more accurate representation of the actual felt temperature, especially during humid conditions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. According to official data, the domestic steel sector accounts for 12% of India's greenhouse gas emissions with an emission intensity of 2.55 tonne of CO₂ per tonne of crude steel produced, compared with the global average of 1.9 tonnes of CO₂. This is mainly due to the energy-intensive nature of steel production processes, which often rely on fossil fuels. Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), or sponge iron, is a specific type of iron produced through a direct reduction process, which involves converting iron ore into solid-state iron without melting it. This process typically uses natural gas or coal as a reducing agent, making DRI an essential intermediate product in the steelmaking industry, especially in regions with limited access to high-quality iron ore or coking coal. DRI produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional blast furnace methods, especially when using natural gas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Volcanic vortex rings form primarily due to the interaction of ejected volcanic material and gases with the atmosphere during explosive eruptions. The rings are primarily driven by the dynamics of the gas release and its interaction with the surrounding air.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Mount Etna is known for producing volcanic vortex rings. The volcano has been referred to as "Lady of the Rings" due to its ability to emit these rare and visually striking formations. Stratovolcanoes, characterized by their steep, conical shape and periodic explosive eruptions, are known for producing impressive volcanic vortex rings due to the rapid ejection of gas and volcanic material during explosive eruptions. However, it's important to note that other types of volcanoes can also generate vortex rings under specific conditions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Port of Baltimore is located on the Patapsco River. The port, situated in Baltimore, Maryland, is an important seaport and commercial hub for the region. While it is connected to other waterways, such as the Chesapeake Bay, the port's primary location is along the Patapsco River, which provides access to the Atlantic Ocean. The Port of Baltimore is the ninth largest U.S. port by overall trade volume.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Polity

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is responsible for regulating civil aviation security at airports in India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. BCAS lays down aviation security standards in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Annex 17 and other relevant guidelines. Air traffic control does not fall within the purview of BCAS. It is primarily responsible for aviation security, including the development and implementation of security policies, procedures, and guidelines. Air traffic control is managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), which is a separate entity responsible for the management and control of air traffic within Indian airspace.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology is not used in the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems to print the paper record of each vote. Instead, VVPAT machines are connected to electronic voting machines (EVMs) and generate a printed slip containing the voter's chosen candidate, the corresponding party symbol, and a unique serial number. The primary purpose of a VVPAT slip is to help voters verify that their vote has been correctly recorded and to maintain a transparent and verifiable paper record of each vote cast. The slip ensures the transparency and credibility of the voting process, rather than verifying the authenticity of the polling booth.
- Statement 3 is correct. In the event of discrepancies between the electronic voting machine (EVM) results and VVPAT slips, the VVPAT slips are used for manual counting and verification. The VVPAT system enables election officials to perform a recount of the paper trail in case of disputes or concerns regarding the accuracy of EVMs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution aims to promote the interests of tribal communities in some regions of Northeast India. By including Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule, it would provide legal safeguards for traditional practices and land rights, ensuring the preservation of Ladakhi culture and protecting local communities' control over their land and resources. This would also offer the Ladakhi people greater autonomy in decision-making processes that affect their lives, which is essential for preserving their unique cultural identity and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner is six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The Chief Election Commissioner must be an independent individual and cannot be affiliated with any political party. This is to ensure the neutrality and impartiality of the Election Commission in conducting free and fair elections.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in a manner similar to the removal of a Supreme Court judge. The process involves a motion in Parliament, supported by a special majority of both Houses, and the President's assent.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Election Commission of India has the power to transfer civil servants and police officers during the election period to ensure the smooth and unbiased conduct of elections. This power is granted under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, which entrusts the Election Commission with the responsibility of conducting free and fair elections.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Living wills have been legal in India since 2018 when the Supreme Court of India created a process to allow terminally-ill patients, with no hope of a cure, to withhold or withdraw treatment and die with dignity.
- Statement 2 is correct. As of now, there is no established protocol for authenticating living wills through digital health records by the National Health Authority in India. The current procedure involves signing living wills in the presence of two witnesses, getting them attested before a notary or a gazetted officer, and handing them over to a hospital. The implementation of living wills still faces some challenges and requires more support from State governments and the healthcare system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Vice President of India, who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, administers the oath to the newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha. This has been the convention practiced. However, as per the Constitution, it is the President or anyone appointed by him. This is in accordance with Article 99 of the Indian Constitution, which deals with the procedure for administering oaths or affirmations to members of Parliament.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The NPPA, established in 1997, is an Indian regulatory agency that works under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Its primary responsibility is to monitor and control the prices of pharmaceutical drugs, as well as ensure the availability of affordable medicines in the market. The NPPA annually revises the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). NPPA is allowed to direct a price hike of over 10% for the drugs and devices listed on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). All medicines under the NLEM are subject to price regulation.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The scheduled medicines included in Schedule-I of the Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO), 2013 are essential medicines.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Article 20(3) of the Indian Constitution protects individuals accused of an offense from self-incrimination by stating that no person shall be compelled to be a witness against themselves. This protection extends to both oral testimony and the production of incriminating documents or materials. A confession made under fear of harsher punishment from police is considered invalid under Article 20(3). This aligns with the landmark decision in Nandini Satpathy vs P.L. Dani. The Supreme Court expanded the understanding of Article 20(3) to cover not only physical threats but also psychological pressure and intimidation. A confession made under fear of receiving harsher punishment directly violates this right and would be considered inadmissible in court.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. A party is recognised as a 'national' or 'state' party under the provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 (Symbols Order) by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Election Commission of India recognizes political parties as national or state parties based on their performance in elections and their presence in various states. The Symbols Order outlines the criteria for such recognition and regulates the allotment of symbols to parties. One of the major benefits of being a recognized party (national or state) is having a reserved symbol. This means the symbol is exclusively allocated to that party, and no other candidate can use it. This provides consistency and helps voters easily identify the party.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. For registered but unrecognised political parties, one of the free symbols is allotted as a common symbol during an election if that party contests in two Lok Sabha constituencies or in 5% of seats to the Assembly of a State as the case may be.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (B)

- 1 and 4 are correctly matched.
- Zero Hour allows Members of Parliament to raise matters of urgent public importance without prior notice.
- Half-an-Hour Discussions in parliamentary proceedings are meant for discussing a matter of sufficient public importance that has been the subject of a recent question, where the answer given

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requires further elucidation on a matter of fact. It involves a formal motion to discuss a specific matter of public importance for a limited time, typically lasting up to half an hour.

- Calling Attention is used by Members of Parliament to call the attention of a Minister to a specific matter of urgent public importance, but it does not involve an in-depth discussion. This procedure allows the member to call the attention of the government to specific issues that require immediate consideration and response.
- Special Mentions are used by members to draw attention to specific grievances or issues faced by their constituents or matters of urgent public importance. Unlike Zero Hour submissions, Special Mentions are more formalized and require members to submit their issues in writing in advance. There is no follow-up action on matters raised as Special Mentions, and it is not obligatory on the part of the Government to respond formally or informally to those matters.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Universal health coverage (UHC) is defined as ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship. UHC involves coverage with good health services across the full sectors of essential health services, as well as financial risk protection, aiming for coverage to be for everyone.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Constitution of India does not expressly guarantee a fundamental right to health, various provisions under the Constitution provide a basis for the right to health. The Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly Articles 38, 39, 42, 43, and 47, put the obligation on the state to ensure the effective realization of the right to health. Additionally, Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty, has been interpreted by the judiciary to include the right to health as inherent to a life with dignity.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

26. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) mandates the government to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary goal of ABPS is to facilitate the direct disbursement of government benefits and subsidies to beneficiaries' bank accounts, ensuring the money reaches the intended recipients. While ABPS might indirectly help track some data related to scheme participation, it's not designed for comprehensive employment data tracking.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (D)

- The 'One Vehicle One FASTag' initiative was launched by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to promote the use of FASTags for electronic toll collection and improve the efficiency of toll collection on national highways. This initiative aims to ensure that each vehicle is linked to a single FASTag, preventing instances of multiple FASTags being used for a single vehicle and contributing to a smoother and more streamlined toll collection process.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

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28. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the statistics, the demand for work under MGNREGS is more than the pre-pandemic level and on a steady rise.
- Statement 2 is correct. Employment under MGNREGS is generated primarily as a social safety net and as a last resort when no other employment opportunities are available or paying better wages. MGNREGS ensures a guaranteed minimum wage to rural households for unskilled manual work, which helps address poverty and income insecurity in rural areas. It acts as an employer of last resort and does not aim to compete with more lucrative employment options.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019, also known as the ALMM Order, encourages domestic manufacturing of solar panels. The order mandates that solar cells and modules used in government projects, government-assisted projects, projects under government schemes and programs, open access, and net-metering projects must be sourced from manufacturers listed in the ALMM. One of the major advantages of being listed as an 'approved' manufacturing facility under the Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019 is the eligibility to compete for government tenders, including the recently announced PM solar rooftop scheme.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Under, the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, the birth and death database may be used to update the National Population Register, electoral rolls, Aadhaar number, ration card, passport, driving licence, property registration, and such other databases as may be notified. According to the Act, Registrar General of India (RGI) shall maintain the database of registered births and deaths at the national level and it is obligatory upon the Chief Registrars and the Registrars to share the data of registered births and deaths to such a database.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The digital birth certificates issued under the Act will become a single document to prove the date of birth for various services, including admission to educational institutions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Index & Reports

31. Correct Answer is (A)

- The State of the Global Climate report is an annual publication released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation in atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology, and geophysics.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023, conducted by the civil society organization Pratham, reveals significant challenges in the foundational education of rural students aged 14 to 18 years. More than half of the surveyed students struggled with basic mathematics, a competency expected to be acquired by Classes 3 and 4. Approximately 25% of

students in this age group were unable to read a Class 2 level text in their vernacular language. Only a small fraction (5.6%) of the surveyed students had pursued vocational training or related courses.

- Statement 3 is incorrect. The survey observed an increasing trend in dropout rates with age. While 3.9% of 14-year-olds were not attending school, this percentage rose sharply to 32.6% among 18-year-olds.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

International Relations/Organizations

33. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), also known as the Limited Test Ban Treaty or the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, is an international agreement that prohibits nuclear weapons tests or any other nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water. Nehru's advocacy for nuclear disarmament played a role in the establishment of the PTBT. The treaty was signed in 1963 by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom, along with India and Nehru's efforts for nuclear disarmament contributed to the treaty's creation.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The PTBT has not directly led to a significant improvement in relations between the US and Russia. While the treaty has been a milestone in nonproliferation efforts and has contributed to reducing radioactive particles in the atmosphere, it has not been a direct factor in improving relations between the US and Russia.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

34. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The United States-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) is a collaborative framework established by the United States and India to enhance cooperation in developing fields of technology, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Nuclear Technology Development is not one of the primary focus areas under the iCET. The initiative primarily targets cooperation in critical and emerging technologies such as AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication. The iCET initiative is not led by the Ministry of External Affairs in India and the Department of State in the USA. It involves high-level officials from various departments, including the National Security Councils of both countries, the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant agencies, to coordinate and advance cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category is determined by the Indian government to protect the rights and welfare of Indian citizens traveling abroad for employment purposes, particularly to countries where labor laws and protections may not be as stringent. This requirement ensures that Indian citizens have the necessary clearance and support from the government before taking up employment opportunities in designated ECR countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (C)

- All three entities—Individuals, Businesses, and Governments—can become targets of US sanctions. US sanctions can be imposed on a wide range of entities to further foreign policy and national

security objectives. These sanctions can target individuals, such as key political figures or persons engaged in malign activities; businesses, including companies involved in sanctionable activities or sectors; and governments, particularly those deemed to be hostile or engaging in actions that threaten US interests.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an intergovernmental body that works within the United Nations system to promote and protect human rights worldwide. It addresses human rights violations, makes recommendations, and provides technical assistance to governments. The UNHRC works with various mechanisms, including Special Procedures, to monitor and investigate human rights situations in specific countries or thematic issues. Special Procedures involve independent human rights experts who address concerns through country visits, communications with governments and other stakeholders, and thematic reports on specific human rights issues. One of the key functions of the UNHRC is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which assesses the human rights situations in all 193 UN member states. The UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The UNHRC has a rotating membership of 47 states elected by the UN General Assembly. These member states serve three-year terms and are chosen based on regional representation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

38. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The OIC's primary focus is on promoting unity, solidarity, and collaboration among its member states in various areas, including economic, social, cultural, and scientific fields. The OIC does not have an explicit focus on creating political and military alliances. The OIC Charter respects the diversity of its member states. While it aims to protect Islamic values, it does not mandate strict adherence to Sharia Law across all members. Membership in the OIC is open to countries with a significant Muslim population, not based on geographic proximity to the Arabian Peninsula. There are 57 member states, spread across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and even South America.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

39. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. AUKUS, a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, was established in 2021 to address China's increasing power in the Indo-Pacific region and strengthen security cooperation among the member countries. The pact has two main pillars. The first involves delivering nuclear-powered attack submarines to Australia. The second, known as "Pillar Two," focuses on joint development of advanced technologies such as quantum computing, undersea capabilities, hypersonics, artificial intelligence, and cyber technology.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Economy

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission used six criteria when designing the tax transfer formula. These criteria included: population (15%), area (15%), income distance (45%), demographic transition

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(12.5%), forest and ecology (10%) and tax effort (2.5%). The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted by the Government of India in November 2017 under the leadership of Nand Kishore Singh, with the objective of giving recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

41. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Recent trends suggest that personal loans have overtaken other types of lending, making up the largest portion of banks' credit portfolios. The personal loan portfolio of banks saw significant growth, reaching Rs 52.7 lakh crore and now accounts for a third of total bank credit.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) proposed by the RBI is primarily focused on combating the proliferation of illegal lending apps and promoting transparency and accountability in digital lending.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

42. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a widely used indicator to measure the outlook of businesses and analyze potential economic trends. Based on monthly surveys of purchasing managers in various industries, the PMI offers an overview of the prevailing economic conditions, potential future developments, and the overall health of the manufacturing, services, and construction sectors.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

43. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, 1935, in Calcutta as a joint stock company under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The RBI is often referred to as the "banker's bank" because it functions as the banker for commercial banks in India, maintaining their accounts, regulating their operations, and setting key interest rates such as the repo rate, reverse repo rate, and marginal standing facility rate. These rates influence the cost of funds for banks and, consequently, the interest rates banks charge for loans.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The RBI is not directly tasked with providing agricultural subsidies and grants to farmers for crop cultivation into their accounts. The responsibility for providing agricultural subsidies lies with the central and state governments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Tax evasion and tax avoidance are not distinguished by the type of tax they focus on. Tax evasion refers to illegal practices where individuals or entities deliberately misrepresent their income or financial information to reduce their tax liability. On the other hand, tax avoidance involves exploiting legal loopholes or using creative accounting methods to minimize the amount of tax owed. Both tax evasion and tax avoidance can apply to various types of taxes, including income tax, sales tax, or property tax.
- Statement 2 is correct. As of now, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) does not cover electricity and petroleum products. While GST has consolidated multiple indirect taxes, some items are still outside its purview. Alcohol for human consumption, as well as petroleum products such as diesel, petrol, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel, are kept out of GST. Additionally, electricity is also not covered

under GST, as these items have significant revenue implications for both the central and state governments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Price-to-Earnings (PE) ratio is a financial metric used to evaluate a company's stock price relative to its earnings per share. It is calculated by dividing the company's current market capitalization (or market value) by its annual earnings (or net income). In simpler terms, the PE ratio indicates how much investors are willing to pay for a company's shares for each unit of earnings. A higher PE ratio suggests that investors are paying more for the company's earnings, which could indicate higher expectations for future growth.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

46. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India's seafood exports have increased in recent years. In 2022-23, India's seafood exports stood at \$8.09 billion. India has emerged as one of the world's largest shrimp exporters and its share in the U.S. market has risen from 21%, or \$1.3 billion, to 40% in 2022-23. The United States is a major importer of Indian shrimp. India is a net exporter of seafood. India is the world's fourth-largest seafood exporter, third-largest fish producer, and second-largest aquaculture producer.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Andhra Pradesh alone account for almost 70% of India's shrimp output. About 70% of the roughly eight million jobs in this sector are held by women. This includes around two lakhs working in hatcheries and aquaculture farms, with the rest employed in processing and freezing units.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

47. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. In India, the Union government holds primary responsibility for raising taxes. The Constitution empowers the central government to levy taxes on income (except agricultural income), customs duties, excise duties on goods (other than alcoholic beverages and narcotics), and GST. State governments are primarily responsible for spending on subjects under the State List and Concurrent List, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and social welfare, leading to a greater share of overall government spending.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The RBI's classification of developmental expenditures focuses on social services, economic services, and certain components of rural development. These expenditures contribute to the social and economic development of the country. Interest payments, pensions, and subsidies typically fall under the non-developmental category. Over the last two decades, there has been a significant increase in the developmental and social service expenditures by State governments. Conversely, the Union government's social and developmental spending has remained relatively stable. The Union government allocates more funds to defence, transport, urban development, and energy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

48. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The largest export destination of bulk drugs from India is the US, followed by Brazil, Bangladesh, Turkey, China, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Vietnam, and Egypt. India is also

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among the top five suppliers of bulk drugs to many developing countries, like, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Vietnam, Egypt, Iran, and Pakistan. China is a larger supplier, but India is also a substantial exporter.

- Statement 2 is correct. India has one of the most advanced pharmaceutical industries among developing countries, being the third largest in the world in volume terms and the 13th largest in value. However, it is critically dependent on China for supplies of bulk drugs and drug intermediates, with China accounting for about two-thirds of the total imports.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

49. Correct Answer is (B)

- The main purpose of Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD) is to speculate on changes in currency exchange rates. ETCDs are financial instruments traded on stock exchanges that allow investors to gain exposure to currency movements without directly trading in the foreign exchange market. These derivatives enable investors and traders to speculate on the future direction of currency exchange rates and potentially profit from such movements. Additionally, ETCDs can also be used for hedging purposes to mitigate the risk associated with currency fluctuations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

50. Correct Answer is (C)

- When the RBI keeps the repo rate unchanged, it signifies that the central bank is maintaining its current stance on monetary policy. This decision can lead to stability in interest rates for existing loans, resulting in no immediate changes to the EMIs that borrowers are currently paying. Borrowers continue to pay the same EMIs as before, providing them with stability in their repayment obligations. If the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increases the repo rate, banks may raise their lending rates, which can lead to an increase in the interest rate on floating-rate loans. This, in turn, can result in higher EMIs for borrowers, as the cost of borrowing increases. However, for loans with a fixed interest rate, the interest rate remains constant throughout the loan tenure, regardless of changes in the market interest rates or the repo rate.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

51. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary objective of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Retail Direct Scheme is to enable individual investors to directly invest in Government Securities without intermediaries. The Retail Direct Scheme was introduced to provide a platform for individual investors to directly access and invest in Government Securities (G-Secs), including treasury bills and government bonds. By allowing direct participation, the scheme aims to broaden the investor base and enhance retail participation in the government securities market, while also providing a safe and secure investment avenue for individuals.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

52. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Sovereign Green Bonds are typically issued at lower interest rates compared to traditional bonds due to their association with environmental and sustainability projects, which often attract socially responsible investors and institutions. Sovereign Green Bonds play a significant role in developing and standardizing green finance practices by establishing a framework for financing sustainable and environmental projects, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture initiatives.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. Sovereign Green Bonds are issued by governments or government-backed entities, not private companies. The term "Sovereign" implies a government issuer. Private companies can issue their own green bonds, but those are referred to as Corporate Green Bonds.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

53. Correct Answer is (C)

- Assets Under Management refers to the total market value of the financial assets that an NBFC manages on behalf of its clients or investors. AUM is a key metric for assessing the size and success of an NBFC, as it indicates the company's ability to attract and manage client investments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Environment

54. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Cicadas do not spin silk cocoons; instead, they are known for their distinctive sound production and their unique life cycles.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Cicadas can be found in various tropical climates, including deserts, grasslands, and forests. They inhabit different regions worldwide, from temperate to tropical climates, with a higher diversity in tropical regions. The cicada inhabits the dense forests of the Garo Hills in Meghalaya, India. This was recently highlighted by the discovery of a new species of cicada, the Butterfly Cicada, which is localized in the Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts, preferring thick forests and native vegetation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The perennial river Dayam Vagu flows through the sanctuary, separating the wildlife sanctuary into two parts. The river Godavari also passes through the sanctuary.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is home to several keystone species, and among them are the Indian gaur and giant squirrel. These species play critical roles in maintaining the ecosystem and are essential for conserving the biodiversity of the region.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

56. Correct Answer is (B)

- PSCs form during the extreme cold conditions in the polar regions, particularly in Antarctica. These clouds contain ice crystals that provide a surface for the chemical reactions that convert inert chlorine-containing compounds, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), into more reactive forms. The reactive forms of chlorine can then catalyze the breakdown of ozone molecules, contributing to the ozone hole over Antarctica.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

57. Correct Answer is (C)

- The primary objective of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement is to provide a framework for individual nations to outline their voluntary climate change action plans. NDCs include each country's specific targets, policies, and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

58. Correct Answer is (C)

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- Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is the largest tiger reserve in India, and it also has the largest area designated as "Critical Tiger Habitat" (CTH). This designation is crucial for the long-term conservation of tigers and their habitats. The primary vegetation type found in the reserve is tropical dry deciduous forest. Although the NSTR is located mainly within the state of Andhra Pradesh, it also extends into the neighboring states of Telangana and Karnataka.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Nuclear energy presently constitutes only a small portion of India's energy mix, accounting for around 1.6%. This is because India's energy sector is largely dominated by coal, oil, and natural gas.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Solar energy installations in India have not taken over the energy demand previously fulfilled by coal-fired power plants. Currently, figures from the Central Electricity Authority say solar energy accounts for 16% of India's installed generation capacity and coal 49%.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

60. Correct Answer is (D)

- The principle that suggests the ability of carnivorous species to consume prey is restricted by the size of their mouth openings in relation to the size of the prey is Gape limitation hypothesis. The Gape limitation hypothesis states that the size of a predator's mouth, or "gape," limits the size of prey they can consume. This hypothesis has implications for understanding feeding habits, prey selection, and niche partitioning among carnivorous species. According to this hypothesis, predators with smaller gape sizes will target smaller prey, while those with larger gape sizes can consume a broader range of prey sizes. Gape limitation can lead to evolutionary pressures on both predators and prey. Prey may evolve larger sizes or faster speeds to escape predators with smaller gape sizes. Conversely, predators may develop larger mouths or different hunting strategies to overcome gape limitations and access a broader range of prey.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Science & Technology

61. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Saturn, with 146 moons, has the most moons of any planet in our solar system. Saturn's moons range in size, with some larger than the planet Mercury.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Callisto is one of the four Galilean moons of Jupiter (along with Io, Europa, and Ganymede). It's the second largest of Jupiter's moons and the third largest moon in the Solar System. Callisto is primarily composed of water ice, rocky materials, sulphur dioxide, and some organic compounds.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

62. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) radio telescope is a proposed Indian telescope planned to study the universe from the far side of the moon. It aims to study the formation and evolution of stars and galaxies during the universe's earliest periods. The cosmic microwave background (CMB) is the leftover radiation from the Big Bang that fills the entire universe. The CMB is a faint, uniform glow seen in all directions that serves as evidence for the Big Bang.

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- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. Optical telescopes collect visible light at longer wavelengths and radio telescopes collect radio waves with the shortest wavelengths. The Dark Ages occurred before the formation of any stars. The Methuselah star is one of the oldest known stars, but it formed much later, after the Dark Ages ended. During the Dark Ages, the universe was filled with neutral hydrogen gas that blocked the transmission of visible light, leading to an absence of observable stars.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

63. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The human brain is divided into two hemispheres, the left hemisphere and the right hemisphere. These two hemispheres are connected by a bundle of nerve fibers called the corpus callosum, which enables communication between them. In the majority of individuals, the left hemisphere of the brain is dominant for language-related tasks, such as language comprehension and speech production. Whereas, the right hemisphere is typically dominant for visual attention tasks and spatial processing, as well as other functions like facial recognition and understanding emotional cues.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

64. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement I is correct. As per a recent report, the median age for cancer diagnosis in India is lower than that in the U.S., U.K., and China. For instance, the average age of diagnosis for breast cancer in India is 52, compared to 63 in the U.S. and the U.K. For lung cancer, the median age in India is 59, while it is around 70 in the West.
- Statement II is incorrect. India has lower cancer screening rates compared to the U.S. This is due to several factors, including lack of awareness, limited access to healthcare facilities, and financial constraints. While the screening rate for breast cancer is between 74% to 82% in the U.S., only 1.9% are screened in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

65. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Agni-Prime Ballistic Missile is a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM), not an Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Its range is estimated to be between 1,000 to 2,000 kilometers.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Agni-Prime missile adds to India's nuclear triad, which includes land-based missiles, aircraft, and submarines capable of delivering nuclear warheads. It strengthens India's strategic capabilities and contributes to the country's deterrence capabilities. The Agni-Prime missile is equipped with a modern navigation system that enhances its accuracy, allowing it to strike targets with greater precision. This advanced technology helps make Agni-Prime an essential addition to India's missile arsenal.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

66. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The WHO has advised against the use of antibiotics for growth promotion and preventative purposes in the poultry industry due to the potential development of antimicrobial resistance. They recommend that antibiotics should only be used to treat sick animals or control confirmed infectious diseases in accordance with veterinary supervision. The overuse of antibiotics on farms around the world has led to the spread of drug-resistant food-borne pathogens, including Salmonella, Escherichia coli, and Campylobacter, which can be spread via contaminated meat and other food products.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

67. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Industrial alcohol, also known as denatured alcohol or methylated spirits, is ethanol that has additives to make it non-potable or unsuitable for human consumption. It is primarily used in industrial applications, such as solvents, fuel, and as an ingredient in the production of various chemicals and products. Currently, excise duty applies only on petroleum and liquor. After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), many types of excise duty were subsumed, but excise duty continues to apply to petroleum and alcoholic beverages that are not covered by GST.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

68. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The skin is the largest organ in the human body in terms of both surface area and weight. The liver is the second largest organ. The kidneys, though important for filtering waste and maintaining fluid balance, are not the largest organs in the body.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Melanin is a natural pigment produced by cells called melanocytes, which are found in the skin, hair, and eyes. The amount and distribution of melanin determine an individual's skin color, with higher concentrations resulting in darker skin tones. Skin color adaptation is influenced by several factors, including the body's requirement for vitamin D synthesis. In regions with lower UV radiation, such as higher latitudes, lighter skin allows for more efficient absorption of sunlight to produce vitamin D. Conversely, in areas with higher UV radiation, darker skin provides natural protection against the harmful effects of excessive sun exposure.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

69. Correct Answer is (D)

- The technique used to investigate the three-dimensional structure of chromosomes in the nucleus is chromosome conformation capture (3C). Chromosome conformation capture (3C) is a molecular biology technique used to analyze the spatial organization of chromatin in a cell's nucleus. It allows researchers to identify the physical interactions between different genomic regions, providing insights into the three-dimensional structure of chromosomes. 3C works by cross-linking DNA segments that are in close proximity, followed by fragmentation, ligation, and high-throughput sequencing of these cross-linked segments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

70. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases contribute to a significant proportion of mortality in India. According to the World Health Organization, NCDs account for around 60% of total deaths in the country. The 2011 Census of India reported that approximately 17% of the urban population in India lived in slums. Health equity focuses on ensuring fair and equal access to healthcare and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of social, economic, or demographic factors. It emphasizes the importance of addressing disparities to promote overall health and wellbeing.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. In India, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) generally experience higher child mortality rates and lower immunization coverage compared to other population groups. Studies show that social determinants, including caste, have a significant impact on health outcomes and access to healthcare services.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

71. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. A semiconductor has properties between a conductor and an insulator. A semiconductor is a material that has electrical conductivity value falling between that of a conductor, such as copper, and an insulator, such as glass. Its resistivity generally falls as its temperature rises. Dopants are impurities intentionally added to a semiconductor material to modify its electrical properties. By introducing controlled amounts of dopants, the conductivity and other properties of the semiconductor can be altered to suit various applications, such as transistors, diodes, and solar cells.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In its purest form, a semiconductor is a very weak conductor of electricity.

Source: [The Hindu](#)