

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

[4th Week] March, 2024

10 PM Compilation March [Fourth Week] 2024

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Art & Culture

Q.1) With reference to Mohiniyattam dance, consider the following statements:

1. It is primarily known for its vigorous and angular movements, emphasizing strength and power in its performance.
2. The dancers always wear masks during their performances to depict various characters.
3. It is accompanied by classical Carnatic music, featuring melodic ragas and rhythmic beats.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) 1958 regulates the preservation of monuments and archaeological sites of national importance.
2. When a monument is delisted from the list of protected sites maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the government obtains the authority to demolish the property and take ownership of the land.

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

Geography

Q.3) Which one of the following oceans borders Somalia to the east?

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

Q.4) Consider the following pairs:

GI tagged Rice-----Location

1. Mushk Budij-----Kashmir
2. Ambemohar-----West Bengal
3. Seeraga Samba----- Tamil Nadu
4. Radhuni Pagol-----Manipur

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

Polity

Q.5) In the context of Strategic Litigation against Public Participation (SLAPP), seen in the news recently, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) It aims to facilitate constructive engagement and dialogue within the public sphere.
- b) These are legal tactics used to intimidate or silence critics, activists, or individuals engaged in public discourse.
- c) It primarily targets criminal activities and aim to prosecute wrongdoers.
- d) These are initiated by defendants to protect their interests and rights in public debates and discussions.

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Unlike the states and national government in India, some city mayors hold both legislative and executive power within the city administration.
- 2. The Constitution state that the superintendence, direction, and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to panchayats and urban local governments shall be vested in State Election Commissions (SECs).
- 3. In case of dissolution of the elected council of a Municipality, the election should be held before the expiration of a period of three months from the date of its dissolution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Consider the following statements with respect to the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT):

- 1. It is responsible for hearing appeals against orders issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India, and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- 2. A SAT bench must consist of ten members.
- 3. Currently, SAT has only one functional bench located in Mumbai.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 22 of the Constitution makes it mandatory for preventive detention laws to form advisory boards consisting of persons qualified to be High Court judges.
2. Advisory boards, under the various laws, have to review detention orders every three months to see whether there was sufficient cause for detention.
3. Law and order issues have a wider impact, affecting the community at large or even the entire country compared to the issues of public order.
4. The state's failure to effectively manage law and order should not automatically lead to the use of preventive detention measures.

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.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Indian States and Union Territories can impose an internet shutdown only in case of a "public emergency" or in the interest of "public safety".
2. The Indian Telegraph Act defines the criteria for determining what constitutes as an emergency or safety issue in the case of internet shutdowns.
3. Jammu and Kashmir saw the highest number of internet shutdowns in the last decade.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) The primary objective of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program is to:

- a) Promote political campaigning for specific candidates
- b) Increase voter turnout and informed participation
- c) Limit the influence of money in elections
- d) Settle disputes arising during elections

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Accessibility for individuals with disabilities in utilizing places and services is a fundamental right protected under Article 22 of the Indian Constitution.
2. Despite the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act in place, many Indian films continue to be inaccessible to disabled viewers.

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

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The party obtaining funds from electoral bonds could use them for various purposes, such as setting up offices.
2. The electoral bonds had to be encashed within 15 days of purchase.
3. Electoral bonds were similar to government bonds in terms of paying interest.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Acts & Policies

Q.13) The 'Agnipath scheme' fundamentally changes the recruitment process in the Indian Armed Forces by:

- a) Focusing on long-term service for all recruits
- b) Introducing a short-term service tenure followed by selective retention
- c) Prioritizing recruitment from border regions
- d) Increasing the retirement age for commissioned officers

Q.14) Consider the following statements with respect to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA):

1. Ongoing border disputes with neighboring countries can make a state or central government declare an area a 'disturbed area', enabling the implementation of AFSPA.
2. AFSPA grants power to armed forces to use force, even to the extent of causing death, for maintaining public order.

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

Index & Reports

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social and economic justice by setting international labour standards.
2. As per the India Employment Report 2024, released recently by the ILO, the share of regular jobs in India has significantly increased since 2018.

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

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

Q.16) Which of the following organizations have jointly published the 'Food Waste Index Report 2024'?

- a) World Food Programme and the World Bank
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP)
- c) World Health Organization (WHO) and World Trade Organization (WTO)
- d) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and Oxfam

International Relations/Organizations

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Countries have exclusive rights to exploit resources up to 200 nautical miles from their coastlines, including the underlying seabed.
- 2. One of the functions of the International Seabed Authority (ISBA) is to enforce national regulations on seabed mining within individual country's jurisdictions.
- 3. Currently, no country has commercially extracted resources from open oceans.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

- 1. UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to serve 'Palestine refugees.'
- 2. United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is involved in political negotiations in the war affected areas.

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) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India ranks third among sailor-supplying nations in the world.
- 2. India complies with international standards and regulations set by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection.
- 3. The Ukraine war has increased the demand for Indian seafarers.

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.20) The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is also known as:

- a) World Court
- b) Global Tribunal
- c) Justice Council
- d) International Law Commission

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. UN General Assembly resolutions usually offer recommendations, reflecting the collective stance of UN members on specific matters, while UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions are perceived as more prescriptive and binding.
2. Enforcement options of the UNSC resolutions is limited if the targeted country refuses to comply.

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

Economy

Q.22) If a country successfully reduces its current account deficit, it is likely to experience:

- a) Increased reliance on foreign borrowing
- b) Decreased domestic investment
- c) Improved stability of its currency
- d) Higher rates of inflation

Q.23) Consider the following statements:

1. Investment facilitation for development (IFD) agreement under the WTO, aims to create legally binding provisions to facilitate investment flows.
2. Plurilateral agreement (PA) bind those WTO member countries that accept them and do not create rights or impose obligations on the remaining members.
3. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) is a mechanism that allows host states to bring legal claims against foreign investors if they believe their investments are being treated unfairly or if their rights are being violated by the investor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.24) Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) differ from traditional mutual funds by:

- a) Investing in a wider range of asset classes
- b) Having lower fees and operating expenses
- c) Offering higher liquidity to investors
- d) Being subject to stricter regulations

Q.25) Which one of the following best defines net foreign direct investment (FDI)?

- a) Total foreign investment in a country
- b) Difference between inflows and outflows of foreign direct investment
- c) Total domestic investment in a country
- d) Difference between imports and exports of goods and services

Q.26) Consider the following:

- 1. Electricity
- 2. Steel
- 3. Refinery products
- 4. Pharmaceuticals

How many of the above are considered as the 'Core Sectors' of the Indian economy?

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

Q.27) Which one of the following is a potential negative consequence of a persistently 'high fiscal deficit'?

- a) Increased investment opportunities for private businesses.
- b) Crowding out of private investment due to higher interest rates.
- c) Faster economic growth in the short term.
- d) Reduced tax burden on citizens.

Q.28) With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India, how many of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It manages the foreign exchange reserves of the country.
- 2. It also advises the government on budgetary allocations.
- 3. It has been constituted under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.29) If a country receives a significant amount of remittances from its citizens working abroad, which one of the following accounts would this transaction primarily affect?

- a) Current account
- b) Capital account
- c) Financial account
- d) Reserve account

Environment

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. Black carbon is the dark, sooty material emitted alongside other pollutants when biomass and fossil fuels are not fully combusted.
2. Diesel vehicles in India is the top emitter black carbon.
3. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to provide free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to households below the poverty line.

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

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

Q.31) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The building sector, being a substantial energy consumer, contributes over 33% to India's electricity usage, leading to environmental deterioration and climate change.

Statement-II: According to Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS), using plastic bottles for insulation is a recommended practice to reduce energy consumption in the building sector.

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.32) With reference to wetlands, consider the following statements:

1. All wetlands directly serve as sources of freshwater suitable for drinking.
2. Mangroves are a type of wetland found in tropical and subtropical coastlines.
3. Mesophytes are the plant species that are adapted to survive in the wetland.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The government is pushing to increase consumption of natural gas in India.

Statement-II: Natural gas is less polluting than conventional hydrocarbons like crude oil and coal, and is usually cheaper than oil.

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

Science & Technology

Q.34) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the ISRO's Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) program?

- a) To train students for specific technical roles in the space industry
- b) To raise awareness about the benefits of space exploration for the public
- c) To provide in-depth knowledge of complex space science concepts
- d) To generate interest and potential careers in space science among students

Q.35) With reference to Sickle Cell Disease (SCD), which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Autoimmune disorder is the primary cause of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).
- 2. India ranks third in SCD births globally.
- 3. Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) mainly affects the white blood cells.
- 4. Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) technology can be used for treating SCD.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.36) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Natural language processing (NLP), a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI), enables computers to understand and interpret human language in a manner similar to human understanding.
- 2. AI tools, using extensive datasets, summarize diverse information sources like clinical notes, patient discussions, and genetic data for clinicians, saving time and facilitating a thorough understanding of patient history.

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.37) With reference to the Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (K-ICC), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. It is a centralized, technology-based solution designed to provide informed decision-making support to India's agricultural sector.
- 2. It allows visualisation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based soil carbon mapping and soil health card data for a particular district together at one place.

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

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Q.38) Consider the following statements:

1. Magnetofossils are the fossilised remains of magnetic particles.
2. Magnetofossils are created by magnetotactic bacteria, also known as magnetobacteria.
3. Magnetotactic bacteria are mostly prokaryotic organisms.

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.39) Consider the following statements with respect to the Indian Medical Association (IMA):

1. It aims to promote and advance medical and allied sciences in all their different branches and to promote the improvement of public health and medical education in India.
2. It is also responsible for managing government hospitals across the country.

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

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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture

1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Mohiniyattam is characterized by graceful, fluid movements and gentle, swaying body movements. It does not emphasize vigorous and angular movements, which are more commonly associated with other classical Indian dance forms such as Kathakali or Kuchipudi. Dancers in Mohiniyattam do not wear masks. They rely on evocative facial expressions and hand gestures (mudras) to depict various characters and emotions.
- Statement 3 is correct. Mohiniyattam is traditionally accompanied by classical Carnatic music with its unique emphasis on melodic ragas and rhythmic patterns (talas).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act (AMASR Act) of 1958 is a legislation that regulates the preservation and conservation of monuments, archaeological sites, and remains of national importance in India. The Act grants the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) the authority to maintain, protect, and promote these sites.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. When a monument or site is delisted from the list of protected sites maintained by the ASI, it no longer falls under the purview of the AMASR Act and loses the legal protection offered by the Act. However, this does not automatically grant the government the authority to demolish the property or take ownership of the land.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Geography

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Somalia, located in the eastern part of Africa, is bordered to the east by the Indian Ocean. Its coastline stretches along the Gulf of Aden to the north and the Somali Sea to the east.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

4. Correct Answer is (B)

- 1 and 3 are correctly matched.
- Ambemohar: It is a short grain rice grown in Maharashtra. It is popular for its quick-cooking characteristic and its beautiful aroma that is reminiscent of mango blossoms. Mulshi Ambemohar rice is especially famous in the state as an age-old traditional rice that was highly favoured by the Peshwa rulers.
- Radhuni Pagol: It is a fragrant rice whose name literally translates to 'making the cook go mad', Radhuni Pagol is a culinary favourite in West Bengal but is little-known outside the state. It is easily digestible. This rice is the perfect companion for decadent gravies such as chingri malai curry and kosha mangsho.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Strategic Litigation against Public Participation (SLAPP) are legal tactics used to intimidate or silence critics, activists, or individuals engaged in public discourse. These litigations are often filed by powerful entities, such as corporations or influential individuals, to stifle criticism, debate, or public engagement on matters of public interest. These lawsuits are usually meritless and aimed at draining

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the target's financial resources, time, and energy to discourage them from voicing their opinions or exercising their right to free speech and public participation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. In some municipalities in India, the mayor usually leads both the elected council (legislative) and the administrative functions of the city government. Unlike the clear separation of powers seen in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, there is generally no distinct division between the legislature and executive branches at the municipal level. The Constitution of India mandates that the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections for panchayats and urban local governments fall under the jurisdiction of State Election Commissions (SECs). This provision ensures a degree of independence for local elections and helps maintain a fair democratic process.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. In case of dissolution of the elected council of a Municipality, the election should be held before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) is responsible for hearing appeals against orders issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). SAT plays a crucial role in the regulatory framework of India's securities market and financial sector. The Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) has one bench that sits in Mumbai and its jurisdiction extends to the whole country.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A SAT Bench must consist of three members that includes a presiding officer and a technical member. According to current norms, at least one judicial member is required to pronounce a final order.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

8. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Article 22 of the Constitution of India make it mandatory for preventive detention laws to establish advisory boards, comprising persons qualified to be High Court judges. These advisory boards serve as an additional safeguard against the misuse of preventive detention powers. One of the primary functions of these advisory boards is to review detention orders every three months to determine whether there was sufficient cause for the detention. This ensures that there is a periodic evaluation of the necessity of the detention. As per the recent SC ruling, the use of preventive detention should not be the default response to a state's inability to manage law and order effectively. Other measures and remedies within the criminal justice system should be explored before resorting to preventive detention.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Law and order issues typically have a more localized impact, while public order issues have a broader impact affecting the community or the entire country.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Indian States and Union Territories can impose an internet shutdown only in case of a "public emergency" or in the interest of "public safety." The legal basis for internet shutdowns in India comes from the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency

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or Public Safety) Rules, 2017, issued under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885. Jammu and Kashmir has experienced the highest number of internet shutdowns at 433 — in the last 12 years. The longest blackout in 2023 took place in Manipur from May to December, amid ethnic clashes.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Indian Telegraph Act does not clearly define the criteria for determining what constitutes a public emergency or safety issue in the case of internet shutdowns. The terms "public emergency" and "public safety" are not explicitly defined, leaving room for interpretation by authorities.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary objective of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) program is to increase voter turnout and informed participation. SVEEP is a flagship program of the Election Commission of India (ECI) designed to educate citizens, enhance voter participation, and strengthen the democratic processes in India. It aims to bridge the gap in voter participation due to various socio-economic, cultural, and demographic factors by providing voter education and promoting a participative democracy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Accessibility for individuals with disabilities in utilizing places and services is not protected under Article 22 of the Indian Constitution. Instead, it is implicitly safeguarded under Article 19 and Article 15(2) of the Indian Constitution, along with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which emphasizes non-discrimination and inclusion for persons with disabilities.
- Statement 2 is correct. Despite the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act in place, many Indian films continue to be inaccessible to disabled viewers. While the RPWD Act mandates accessibility in various aspects of life, including transportation, education, and public services, its implementation in the entertainment industry remains inadequate. This inaccessibility primarily affects individuals with visual or hearing impairments, as many films lack features like audio descriptions, subtitling, or sign language interpretation, making it difficult for them to enjoy and understand the content fully.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The party obtaining funds from electoral bonds can use them for various purposes, such as setting up offices, as these bonds are intended to provide funding for political parties. Electoral bonds provide a means to collect funds from donors and can be used to cover various expenses, including campaign-related costs, administrative overheads, and other party-related activities. Electoral bonds had a validity of 15 days within which they had to be deposited by the receiving political party. This aimed to ensure that the flow of funds was timely and transparent.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Electoral bonds do not resemble government bonds in terms of paying interest. Unlike government bonds, electoral bonds do not offer interest payments to their purchasers or holders. They serve as a funding mechanism for political parties, where the bond amount is essentially a donation made to the party.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Agnipath scheme fundamentally alters the recruitment process in the Indian Armed Forces by introducing a short-term service tenure followed by selective retention. Under the Agnipath scheme, young recruits known as "Agniveers" are initially enlisted for a four-year service period. After completing this term, 25% of the Agniveers are selected for regular service, while the remaining 75% are retired from service and provided with a financial package and skill certificates to support their transition to civilian life. This approach aims to create a youthful and agile military force while addressing pension-related financial concerns.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is typically invoked in response to internal civil unrest, breakdown of law and order, or insurgency within India. It is not primarily associated with border disputes with neighboring countries.
- Statement 2 is correct. AFSPA grants power to the armed forces to use force, even to the extent of causing death, for maintaining public order in 'disturbed areas' as declared by the state or central government. However, this power is subject to certain provisions and conditions specified in the act.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Index & Reports

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency established in 1919, with the mandate to advance social and economic justice by setting international labor standards. Its primary goal is to promote decent work and improve working conditions globally, focusing on issues such as employment, social protection, labor rights, and social dialogue.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The India Employment Report 2024, released recently by the ILO in collaboration with the Institute for Human Development (IHD) highlights concerns about the poor quality of youth employment, stagnant or declining wages, and a higher proportion of unpaid family work among youth, indicating challenges in the employment scenario. The report highlights that the majority of workers, nearly 90%, remain engaged in informal work, with the share of regular work declining after 2018.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Food Waste Index Report 2024 is a joint publication by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). As per the report, in 2022, over a billion meals were wasted per day across the globe. Households are the most significant contributor to food waste (60%), followed by food services (28%) and retail (12%). The report emphasized the need to enhance data infrastructure to track progress toward meeting Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 of halving food waste by 2030, particularly in retail and food services.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

International Relations/Organizations

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), countries have exclusive rights to exploit resources within their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends up to 200 nautical miles from their coastlines. This includes the right to explore

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and exploit living and non-living resources, including the underlying seabed. Currently, no country has commercially extracted resources from open oceans or the international seabed area. While there have been exploration activities and research projects focused on deep-sea mining, large-scale commercial extraction has not yet been undertaken due to technological, environmental, and regulatory challenges.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The International Seabed Authority (ISBA) is responsible for governing and regulating the exploration and exploitation of marine minerals in the international seabed area, which lies beyond national jurisdictions. ISBA does not enforce national regulations within individual countries' jurisdictions, as each country is responsible for managing its own resources within its EEZ.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is mandated to protect refugees worldwide and provide essential assistance, but it does not specifically serve Palestine refugees. The UN General Assembly established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to carry out direct relief and works programs for Palestine refugees. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) is primarily focused on providing assistance, protection, and advocacy for Palestine refugees. It does not engage in political negotiations in the war-affected areas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India ranks third among sailor-supplying nations in the world, following the Philippines and China. Indian seafarers are known for their skills, expertise, and English proficiency, which makes them highly sought after in the global shipping industry. India has maintained its position on the International Maritime Organization's White List, which recognizes member states fully compliant with the STCW-95 Convention and Code. This also means that India complies with international standards and regulations set by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. The Ukraine war has increased the demand for Indian seafarers. With the disruption in the supply of seafarers from Russia and Ukraine due to the ongoing conflict, shipping companies have turned to countries like India to meet their staffing needs. This has led to a rise in demand for Indian seafarers globally.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

20. Correct Answer is (A)

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ), located in The Hague, Netherlands, is commonly known as the World Court. It is the primary judicial organ of the United Nations, established in 1946 to settle legal disputes submitted by states and provide advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. UN General Assembly resolutions are generally non-binding and serve as recommendations that reflect the collective stance of UN members on specific issues. They represent the opinions and positions of the international community and guide the actions of member states. On the other hand, UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions are considered more prescriptive and binding, as they have a stronger legal standing and can impose obligations on

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member states, particularly when it comes to matters of international peace and security. The enforcement options for UNSC resolutions are limited if the targeted country refuses to comply. The UNSC can authorize sanctions, peacekeeping operations, or even military action, but these measures often require cooperation from member states. If a targeted country defies a UNSC resolution, the council may have difficulty enforcing its decisions, as there are inherent limits to its power and authority within the international system. In such cases, the effectiveness of UNSC resolutions may rely on diplomatic pressure, international cooperation, or other indirect means to ensure compliance.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Economy

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- The current account deficit reflects the difference between a country's total value of imported goods, services, and investments and the value of its exported goods, services, and investments. When a country reduces its current account deficit, it means that the gap between its imports and exports is narrowing, leading to a more balanced trade situation. A reduced current account deficit can help stabilize the country's currency in several ways:
- **Less pressure on the currency:** A large current account deficit can put downward pressure on the currency as it indicates that the country is spending more on imports than it earns from exports. Reducing the deficit can ease this pressure and support the currency's value.
- **Improved investor confidence:** A lower current account deficit signals that the country's economic situation is improving, which can attract foreign investment. This increased demand for the country's currency can further strengthen it.
- **Reduced risk of a balance of payments crisis:** A large current account deficit can lead to a balance of payments crisis if the country struggles to finance its imports and service its external debt. Reducing the deficit can help mitigate this risk, contributing to currency stability.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Investment facilitation for development (IFD) under the World Trade Organization (WTO) is an initiative that aims to create legally binding provisions to facilitate investment flows, especially in developing countries. The agreement focuses on improving transparency, predictability, and efficiency in investment measures. A plurilateral agreement (PA) within the WTO is an agreement between a group of WTO member countries, not all members. Plurilateral agreements only bind those WTO member countries that accept them and do not create rights or impose obligations on the remaining members who have not accepted the agreement.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) is a mechanism that allows foreign investors to bring legal claims against host states if they believe their investments are being treated unfairly or if their rights are being violated by the host state. It is a legal provision commonly found in international investment agreements that grants investors the right to initiate arbitration proceedings against the host state. Currently, the process for resolving disputes at the WTO involves countries, not individual businesses.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) differ from traditional mutual funds in several ways, with one key difference being the wider range of asset classes in which AIFs can invest. These may include private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, real estate, infrastructure, and other alternative assets

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that are not typically accessible through traditional mutual funds. AIFs often employ more sophisticated investment strategies and have higher minimum investment requirements than traditional mutual funds. They are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Net foreign direct investment (FDI) is calculated by subtracting the value of outward (or outflows) FDI from the value of inward (or inflows) FDI. This provides an overall picture of whether a country is attracting more foreign investments than it is investing abroad, or vice versa. A positive net FDI indicates that a country receives more foreign investments than it invests overseas, while a negative net FDI means that a country invests more abroad than it receives in foreign investments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (C)

- In India, the eight core sectors, which are considered crucial for the country's economic development and are regularly monitored, are: Coal, Crude oil, Natural gas, Refinery products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, Electricity. Core sectors are crucial for economic growth and have a significant impact on other industries as well.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (B)

- Crowding out of private investment due to higher interest rates is the potential negative consequence of a persistently high fiscal deficit. When the government consistently runs a high fiscal deficit, it needs to borrow more money from the market to finance its spending. This increased borrowing puts upward pressure on interest rates because the government competes with private borrowers for available funds. As interest rates rise, borrowing becomes more expensive for businesses and individuals. Higher interest rates discourage private investment and consumption because the cost of financing projects, such as expanding businesses or purchasing homes, increases.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

28. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) does not manage the foreign exchange reserves of the country. The management of foreign exchange reserves is the responsibility of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), particularly its Department of External Investments and Operations. The MPC's primary function is to determine the policy interest rate (repo rate) to achieve the inflation target set by the RBI. It does not advise the government on budgetary allocations, which is a function of the Ministry of Finance and the Parliament.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has been constituted under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- If a country receives a significant amount of remittances from its citizens working abroad, this transaction would primarily affect the current account. The current account is a component of a country's balance of payments, which records a nation's transactions with the rest of the world. It

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mainly consists of trade in goods and services, income from foreign investments, and transfers, including remittances.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

30. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Black carbon is a dark, sooty material emitted when biomass and fossil fuels are not fully combusted. It is a short-lived climate pollutant that contributes to global warming and has adverse health effects on humans. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) is a scheme launched in 2016 that aims to provide free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections to households below the poverty line. The main objective of the scheme is to replace traditional cooking fuels such as firewood, coal, and dung with cleaner LPG, reducing indoor air pollution and improving the health of women and children.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to a 2016 study, the residential sector contributes 47% of India's total black carbon emissions. Industries contribute a further 22%, diesel vehicles 17%, open burning 12%, and other sources 2%.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

31. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. The building sector, being a substantial energy consumer, contributes over 33% to India's electricity usage, leading to environmental deterioration and climate change.
- Statement-II is incorrect. The use of plastic bottles for insulation is not a recommended practice in the Eco-Niwas Samhita (ENS). Instead, ENS promotes the use of eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and sustainable materials and practices in the building sector to minimize environmental impact and reduce energy consumption. The ENS introduces the concept of Residential Envelope Transmittance Value (RETV), a metric that measures heat transfer through a building's envelope. Lower RETV values result in cooler indoor environments and reduced energy consumption.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Wetlands do not directly provide freshwater sources of drinking water. They play a crucial role in the water cycle, water purification, and storage, but they are not a direct source of drinking water. Hydrophytes are the plant species that are adapted to survive in wetlands, exhibiting special adaptations to cope with waterlogged soils, varying water levels, and other specific conditions found in wetland ecosystems.
- Statement 2 is correct. Mangroves are a type of wetland found in tropical and subtropical coastlines. These unique ecosystems are characterized by their distinct tree species that tolerate saltwater, providing habitat for diverse marine life and offering numerous ecosystem services, such as coastal protection and carbon sequestration.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

33. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Indian government is pushing to increase the consumption of natural gas in the country due to its environmental and economic advantages. Natural gas burns cleaner than conventional hydrocarbons like crude oil and coal, resulting in lower greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, it is usually cheaper than oil on an energy-equivalent basis, making it an attractive option for various sectors, such as power generation, transportation, and industrial processes. Due to these benefits, the

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government is encouraging the adoption of natural gas as a key energy source by promoting the expansion of gas infrastructure, such as pipelines and regasification terminals, as well as by implementing favorable policies to increase domestic gas production and attract investments in the sector.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Science & Technology

34. Correct Answer is (D)

- The primary objective of the Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) program is to generate interest and potential careers in space science among students. The START program aims to encourage and educate undergraduate and postgraduate students in various aspects of space science and technology. Through this program, ISRO provides students with exposure to the various fields within space science, including astronomy, atmospheric science, and remote sensing. The program includes lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on experience, inspiring students to pursue careers in the space industry and contribute to India's progress in space exploration.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. India ranks third in SCD births globally, after Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. CRISPR technology, a powerful gene-editing tool, has shown promise in treating genetic disorders like SCD. Research has demonstrated that CRISPR can potentially be used to correct the genetic mutation responsible for SCD, offering a potential cure for the disease.
- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. SCD is not an autoimmune disorder but a genetic blood disorder caused by an abnormal form of hemoglobin, called hemoglobin S. It causes red blood cells to change shape, becoming crescent-shaped or sickle-shaped, which can cause blockages in blood flow and result in various health problems. SCD primarily affects red blood cells (erythrocytes) that contain the abnormal hemoglobin S.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a branch of Artificial Intelligence that focuses on enabling computers to comprehend, interpret, and manipulate human language. The goal of NLP is to facilitate seamless communication between humans and machines, allowing computers to process and analyze large amounts of natural language data. NLP techniques include sentiment analysis, named entity recognition, text classification, and machine translation, among others. AI tools, powered by extensive datasets, can effectively summarize diverse sources of information, such as clinical notes, patient discussions, and genetic data. This can help clinicians save time and gain a more comprehensive understanding of a patient's medical history, leading to better-informed diagnoses and treatment plans.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (K-ICC) is a centralized, technology-based solution designed to provide informed decision-making support to India's agricultural sector. It uses advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote

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sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect and process data. The K-ICC allows for the visualization of GIS-based soil carbon mapping and soil health card data for a particular district in one place. This enables better-informed decisions and targeted interventions to improve soil health and agricultural productivity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

38. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Magnetofossils are the fossilized remains of magnetic particles. These particles are formed within certain bacteria and other organisms, preserving a record of the Earth's magnetic field at the time of their formation. Magnetofossils are created by magnetotactic bacteria, which are also known as magnetobacteria. These bacteria synthesize intracellular magnetic particles called magnetosomes, which allow them to align and navigate along the Earth's magnetic field lines. Magnetotactic bacteria are mostly prokaryotic organisms. Prokaryotes are single-celled organisms that lack a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles, including bacteria and archaea.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) aims to promote and advance medical and allied sciences in all their different branches and to promote the improvement of public health and medical education in India. As the largest organization of doctors in India, IMA focuses on fostering the development of medical research, maintaining high ethical standards in the medical profession, and protecting the rights and interests of medical practitioners.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. IMA is not responsible for managing government hospitals across the country. The management of government hospitals is primarily the responsibility of the respective state governments and the central government, through their ministries or departments of health and family welfare.

Source: [The Hindu](#)