

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

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*For UPSC CSE Prelims*

**[3<sup>rd</sup> Week] April, 2024**

## 10 PM Compilation April [Third Week] 2024

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## Art & Culture

**Q.1) Which one of the following is unique about the "Shompen tribe's" lifestyle compared to other tribal communities in India?**

- a) They are primarily hunter-gatherers.
- b) They practice settled agriculture.
- c) They are nomadic herders.
- d) They live in urban areas.

**Q.2) The 'Kashan style' is associated with which one of the following?**

- a) Modern furniture design
- b) Persian rugs
- c) Indian miniature paintings
- d) Ancient Egyptian pottery

## Geography

**Q.3) A large meander bend in a floodplain is about to be cut off by the river's erosive action. This process will most likely create:**

- a) An oxbow lake
- b) A levee
- c) A delta
- d) An alluvial fan

**Q.4) Which one of the following best describes the characteristic of 'torrential rains'?**

- a) Consistent rainfall throughout the day
- b) Gradual increase in rainfall intensity over time
- c) Sudden and significant accumulation of precipitation
- d) Periods of rain alternating with dry spells

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. A lunar eclipse can be seen from anywhere on Earth, while a solar eclipse can only be seen from a limited part of the Earth.
2. A total lunar eclipse last longer than a total solar eclipse because the moon moves faster than the Earth's shadow.

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

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

**Q.6) The term "monsoon shock" refers to:**

- a) A sudden drop in temperature during the monsoon season
- b) Unexpected variations in monsoon rainfall causing adverse impacts
- c) Increased humidity levels during the monsoon season
- d) Strong winds accompanying monsoon rains

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

1. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the definition of a heatwave depends on the physiography of regions.
2. A heatwave's severity is determined by its departure from normal temperature.
3. Heat Action Plans (HAPs) are strategies designed to reduce the negative effects of heatwaves.

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

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

**Q.8) The 'Taiwan Strait' is a strategically important waterway due to:**

- a) Abundant natural resources
- b) Heavy commercial shipping traffic
- c) Lack of significant military presence
- d) Presence of unique marine ecosystems

**Q.9) Which one of the following types of volcanoes is characterized by alternating layers of lava flows, ash, and volcanic rocks?**

- a) Stratovolcano
- b) Cinder cone volcano
- c) Shield volcano
- d) Caldera

**Q.10) Consider the following statements:**

1. The demographic dividend means the chance for more economic growth when there are more people of working age compared to those who are not working age.
2. Countries with a high dependency ratio usually experience demographic dividend due to increased government spending on social welfare programs.

**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) In which one of the following ways, the particles used in cloud seeding promote precipitation?**

- a) They absorb heat, causing the air to rise and condense into water droplets.
- b) They act as ice nuclei, providing surfaces for water vapor to condense and freeze, forming snowflakes or hail.
- c) They attract lightning strikes, which trigger rainfall.
- d) They change the electrical properties of clouds, influencing precipitation patterns.

**Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the recently found fossils of 'Vasuki Indicus snake':**

1. The snake likely existed in Middle Eocene period.
2. It is a member of the extinct Colubridae snake family.
3. It likely had a cylindrical body suggesting a strong and powerful build.

**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.13) Which one of the following bodies of water surrounds Hainan Province in China?**

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

**Q.14) Consider the following statements:**

1. India has access to only 4% of the world's freshwater resources.
2. India is the largest user of groundwater globally.
3. Water is a key component of the world's clean energy transition.
4. Rivers are the primary source of soil moisture.

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

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

**Q.15) Consider the following statements:**

1. Taiwan was formed at the convergence of the Philippine and Eurasian plates.
2. According to the theory of plate tectonics, the lithosphere is divided into 15 major plates that constantly move relative to each other.
3. The occurrence of foreshocks is a reliable method for predicting the timing of a main earthquake.
4. Magnetic fields in the Earth's core are the primary mechanism responsible for the movement of tectonic plates that leads to earthquakes.

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

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

**Q.16) Consider the following pairs:**

**Glacial Lake Types-----Formation Process**

1. Moraine-dammed Lake-----Formed by the melting of glaciers blocking valleys.
2. Erosional lake-----Created by the accumulation of debris carried by glaciers.
3. Ice-dammed Lake-----Occurs when water is trapped behind a natural dam of rocks and sediment.

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Q.17) The 'English Channel' separates which of the following two countries?**

- a) France and Spain
- b) England and Ireland
- c) England and France
- d) Wales and Scotland

## Polity

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

1. In India, the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was first introduced on a trial basis in Kerala.
2. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used in elections in Germany.
3. The issue of invalid votes, common with paper ballots, has been eradicated by EVMs, streamlining the counting process.

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

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

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

1. The 'Just Transition Framework' is a concept which ensures that the costs and benefits of the transition towards low-carbon economy should be shared equitably.
2. The right against climate change is legally binding, as acknowledged by the Supreme Court.

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

1. A quasi-judicial commission is a judicial body that operates within the traditional court system.
2. A quasi-judicial commission provide a more informal and accessible dispute resolution process over traditional courts.
3. The powers of a quasi-judicial commission are usually limited to a specific area of expertise.
4. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) is a quasi-judicial commission.

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

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

**Q.21) Consider the following statements:**

1. A film trailer is an agreement enforceable by law.
2. A producer of a film cannot be held liable for unfair trade practice if the contents of the promo/trailer do not feature in the actual movie.

**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. Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination based on disability.
2. India has ratified UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which emphasizes that persons with disabilities should enjoy rights on an equal basis with others.

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

1. Star campaigners can be designated "leaders of a political party" who campaign on behalf of their party's candidates.
2. Recognised national or state political parties can appoint a maximum of 20-star campaigners.
3. Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) allows star campaigners to campaign without the costs being added to a candidate's election expenditure.

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

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

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

1. Any food hazardous to public health poses a danger to the fundamental right to life.
2. The Food Safety and Standards (Safe food and balanced diets for children in school) Regulations, 2020, restricts the sale of high in fats, salts and sugars (HFSS) foods in school canteens, or within 50 metres of the school campus.
3. Presence of artificial sweeteners is one of the important factors considered when calculating the Indian Nutrition Rating (INR) score of a food item.

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

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

## Acts & Policies

**Q.25) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, persons with disabilities account for 5-8% of the population.
2. Rules under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWDA), 2016 require that all Information and Communications Technology (ICT) goods and services to be accessible in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
3. The Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 2019 lacks any dedicated rights for consumers with disabilities.

**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.26) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. It aims at bridging the gap between demand and supply in India's healthcare sector and improving the doctor-patient ratio.
2. PMSSY focuses on achieving its goals through expanding the network of primary health centers.
3. Increasing the number of private medical practitioners in rural areas is one of the objectives of PMSSY.

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

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



**Q.27) With reference to the National Framework of Early Childhood Stimulation 2024, which of the following statements are correct?**

1. The framework is designed to guide early childhood development from birth to three years.
2. The curriculum outlined in the framework aligns with the National Education Policy, 2020.
3. The framework provides detailed month-by-month activities for parents, anganwadi staff, and ASHA workers.
4. The framework allows integrating technology responsibly into early childhood education to promote digital literacy.

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

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

**Q.28) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme designed to ensure "Housing for All".
2. It aims to involve the private sector to bridge the gap in public investments for social housing.
3. The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) component of PMAY provides direct cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries.
4. Under the Beneficiary-led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY, the government's role is limited to cost-sharing with beneficiaries.

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

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

## International Relations/Organizations

**Q.29) The Government of India, in collaboration with international organizations, has launched the Trees Outside of Forests India (TOFI) initiative. Which of the following states are involved in the implementation of the TOFI program?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh
- b) Punjab, Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana
- c) Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand
- d) Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh

**Q.30) Which one of the following is NOT a key focus of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) work?**

- a) Trade policy analysis and recommendations
- b) Promoting investment flows and technology transfer to developing countries
- c) Assisting developing countries in commodity trade negotiations
- d) Providing legal aid in international trade disputes

**Q.31) Consider the following statements:**

1. Look East Policy prioritized relations with ASEAN nations, while Act East Policy includes a wider range of East Asian countries.
2. The South China Sea is crucial for regional security and the global maritime order.
3. India promotes a rules-based international maritime order, with a particular emphasis on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

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

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

**Q.32) Consider the following statements:**

1. According to International Criminal Law, targeted killings refer to purposefully and systematically assassinating people seen as enemies by a country.
2. Article 51 of the UN Charter provides for the right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations.

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

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

**Q.33) With reference to the Arab League Initiative 2002 (Arab Peace Initiative), consider the following statements:**

1. It was primarily concerned with resolving the conflict between Israel and Iran.
2. Complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories was a key condition of the Arab League Initiative.

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

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

**Q.34) Consider the following statements:**

1. A two-thirds majority vote in the UN General Assembly and no veto in the Security Council is required for a state to be granted full-member status at the United Nations.
2. The Economic and Social Council is primarily responsible for the initial recommendation of a state for UN membership.
3. If a permanent member of the UN Security Council vetoes the membership application of a state, then the application is rejected and cannot be reconsidered.
4. In order to become a UN member, the state must have a democratic form of government.

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

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

**Q.35) With reference to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, consider the following statements:**

1. It aims to power a transition away from our current linear and extractive economy and towards a circular system which supports people's right to a safe and healthy environment.
2. It advocates for policies that support incineration technologies in the Asia Pacific.

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

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

**Q.36) A type of international agreement, that encourages cross-border investments by reducing the tax burden on international businesses, is known as:**

- a) Free Trade Agreement
- b) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- c) Bilateral Investment Treaty
- d) Mutual Recognition Agreement

## Economy

**Q.37) Consider the following statements:**

1. Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) are government debts specifically aimed at funding projects that facilitate transition to a low carbon economy.
2. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are eligible to invest in India's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).
3. SGrBs offer higher interest rates compared to conventional G-Secs.
4. Greenium is the term used to describe the process of converting traditional bonds into green bonds.

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

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

**Q.38) In the context of Imported Inflation, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. Imported inflation is caused by excessive government spending on domestic infrastructure projects, leading to higher demand for imported goods.
2. A decline in the value of a country's currency is also a factor behind imported inflation.

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

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

**Q.39) Consider the following statements:**

1. Public Stockholding Programs (PSH) encourages unsustainable agricultural practices that harm the environment and degrade natural resources.
2. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is intended to guarantee a minimum income for farmers and incentivize them to produce essential food grains.
3. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture allows developing countries, including India, to subsidize their farmers up to 10% of the value of their agricultural production.

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

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

**Q.40) Which one of the following economic indicators is negatively impacted by a trade deficit?**

- a) Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- b) Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- d) Unemployment rate

**Q.41) Consider the following statements with respect to the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):**

1. It is a component of GDP that shows how much new value added in an economy is invested rather than consumed.
2. GFCF is crucial because it directly contributes to the production capacity of an economy, influencing both economic growth and living standards.
3. Purchases of stocks and bonds are included in GFCF.
4. In national accounting, GFCF is considered as a form of investment expenditure.

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

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

**Q.42) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** The current gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) in India is below 0.7% of GDP.

**Statement-II:** There is lack of required private sector investment in research and development (R&D) in India.

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

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

**Q.43) Consider the following statements:**

1. Disinflation refers to a situation where specific goods and services decrease in price while others increase.
2. Disinflation is a reduction in the rate of inflation, while deflation is a decrease in the overall price level.
3. Disinflation increases purchasing power for consumers.

**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.44) Consider the following:**

1. Capital Gains Tax
2. Goods and Services Tax (GST)
3. Securities Transaction Tax (STT)
4. Excise duty

**How many of the above are included in the 'direct taxes' in India?**

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

**Q.45) If the Reserve Bank of India adopts a tight monetary policy, which one of the following is the likely immediate impact on household net financial savings?**

- a) Increase due to higher interest rates on savings
- b) Decrease due to higher borrowing costs
- c) No change, as monetary policy does not affect savings
- d) Increase due to higher disposable income

**Q.46) Which one of the following is the primary objective of an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)?**

- a) Invest in real estate projects and generate rental income.
- b) Pool investor funds and provide a stable return through infrastructure projects.
- c) Offer tax benefits to companies investing in infrastructure development.
- d) Directly finance and manage construction of new infrastructure projects.

**Q.47) Consider the following statements:**

1. India's economic growth has resulted in significant advancements in human development.
2. The twin objectives of high economic growth and reduction of inequality can only be achieved with improvements in human development and poverty reduction.

**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 tools is most likely be used by a central bank to implement a disinflationary monetary policy?**

- a) Lowering the cash reserve requirement ratio (CRR).
- b) Increasing the interest rate (repo rate).
- c) Purchasing government bonds in the open market.
- d) Printing more money to directly inject liquidity.

**Q.49) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Indian government's "Make in India" initiative aims to attract foreign enterprises by improving the Ease of Doing Business index rankings and offering schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI).
- 2. The "Lewis two-sector model" suggests that for a country to specialize in a specific export, it must have a lower opportunity cost to produce the good than other nations.

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

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

## Environment

**Q.50) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. All terrestrial animals use tools to hunt for food or drink water.
- 2. Some fish species use tools to catch their prey.
- 3. Some species of sea urchins serve as agents of reef erosion by excavating deep burrows within the reef structure.

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

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

**Q.51) Which one of the following is the primary factor that leads to 'coral bleaching' by disrupting the symbiotic relationship between corals and their algae, ultimately causing the expulsion of algae and bleaching of coral reefs?**

- a) Overfishing of coral reefs
- b) Pollution from industrial runoff
- c) Increased sea surface temperatures
- d) Acidification of ocean waters



**Q.52) With reference to the Green Credit Programme (GCP), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative that encourages organizations and individuals to invest in afforestation projects on degraded forest lands to earn green credits.
2. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is responsible for overseeing the program.
3. Green credits earned through GCP form the part of the Energy Conservation Act of 2001.
4. The credit earned can be used by companies to meet corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements.

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

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

**Q.53) Consider the following statements:**

1. Agroforestry is a farming method where trees or shrubs are grown alongside crops or livestock.
2. Planting trees at very high densities is one of the most important factors for ensuring the success of an agroforestry system.
3. Agroforestry is considered a sustainable land management practice because it can contribute to soil health and biodiversity in the long term.
4. Choosing the right species for the right place and the right reason is elemental for agroforestry.

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

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

**Q.54) With reference to the Leaf Litter Frog (*Haddadus binotatus*), consider the following statements:**

1. These frogs scream to defend themselves against predators.
2. They are classified as "Endangered" on the IUCN List of Threatened Species.

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

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

**Q.55) Consider the following statements:**

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has the power to handle cases related to only civil environmental disputes.
2. The maximum tenure of the Chairperson and other members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is 3 years.
3. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a Constitutional body.
4. The Chairperson of the NGT is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

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

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

**Q.56) Consider the following statements with respect to the plant Ashwagandha:**

1. Ashwagandha is an evergreen shrub found in parts of India, Africa, and the Middle East.
2. Ashwagandha has been used as a medicinal herb in Ayurvedic medicine for thousands of years.

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

1. Nicobar Megapodes are classified as perching birds.
2. Temperate forest is dominant in the Galathea Bay Wildlife 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.58) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, solar and wind park development is currently subject to Environmental and Social Impact Assessments.
2. There is no established mechanism in India to ensure fair compensation for small and medium landowners leasing their land for renewable energy projects.

**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) Which one of the following terms is used to describe the practice of combining solar energy generation with traditional farming on the same land, allowing for dual land use and improved resource efficiency?**

- a) Agrivoltaics
- b) Agroforestry
- c) Agrobiotechnology
- d) Agroecology

**Q.60) Consider the following statements:**

1. India has achieved its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets of achieving 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
2. One of the core principles of the 'One Health initiative' is to promote the use of alternative medicine practices.

**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.61) With reference to the Nilgiri Tahr, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. Silent Valley National Park is known for having the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri Tahr.
2. The Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to northern part of the Western Ghats.
3. Habitat loss and poaching are the major threats to the Nilgiri Tahr population.

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

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

**Q.62) Consider the following statements:**

1. According to the government's new policy, the import duty on Completely Built Unit (CBU) electric vehicles (EVs) will be substantially increased to safeguard the interests of domestic EV manufacturers.
2. Despite significant growth in the two- and three-wheeler segments, passenger vehicles have only seen a marginal contribution to the EV market.

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

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

## Science & Technology

**Q.63) Which one of the following is the primary purpose of "Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)", seen in the news recently?**

- a) Determine the cost-effectiveness of a treatment
- b) Evaluate the efficacy and safety of a treatment or intervention
- c) Assess the long-term side effects of a treatment
- d) Provide a historical overview of medical treatments

**Q.64) Which one of the following is the name of the engine technology used in the BrahMos missile?**

- a) Ramjet engine
- b) Turbofan engine
- c) Nuclear jet engine
- d) Pulse Detonation Engine (PDE)

**Q.65) Consider the following statements with respect to the avian influenza:**

1. The avian influenza virus is known to be transmissible to humans.
2. Mosquito bite is the primary mode of transmission for avian influenza in birds.
3. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic avian influenza strain.

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

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

**Q.66) Consider the following statements:**

1. Genomic surveillance is crucial in understanding the evolutionary dynamics of viruses and their ability to adapt to different hosts.
2. Monkeypox (mpox) is an RNA virus.
3. Mpox can expand or contract its genome through gene duplication, mutation accumulation, or gene deletion.

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

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

**Q.67) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, administrative allocation is the only method of allocating spectrum.
2. Spectrum allocation in India is a regulated process.

**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.68) Post-stroke depression (PSD) is a common complication after a stroke. Which one of the following statements is the most correct statement about PSD?**

- a) It is a temporary feeling of sadness that resolves on its own within a few weeks.
- b) It is a severe mental health condition requiring immediate hospitalization.
- c) It is a distinct clinical condition with specific symptoms that can be effectively treated.
- d) Only strokes affecting the right hemisphere of the brain can cause PSD.

**Q.69) With reference to the 3-D printing, consider the following statements:**

1. 3D-printed high-precision metal parts are used in various industries such as automobiles, aerospace, and defence.
2. 3D printing allows the production of metal parts with traditional tooling or fixturing setups.

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

1. Viruses that cannot transmit effectively are less of a concern for public health.
2. The primary mode of Zika virus transmission is through the bodily fluids such as saliva and semen.
3. Extracellular vesicles are small, fat-enclosed structures that transport substances within and outside cells.

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

## Answers & Explanations

### Art & Culture

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

- The Shompen tribe, primarily inhabiting the Great Nicobar Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory, maintains a unique lifestyle compared to many other tribal communities in India. They are primarily hunter-gatherers, relying on hunting, fishing, and collecting forest resources for their livelihood. It is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the country. Recently, for the first time, members of the Shompen, took part in the election process by casting their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

- The Kashan style is associated with Persian rugs, which are renowned for their beauty, craftsmanship, and intricate designs. Kashan rugs typically feature a central medallion pattern, floral motifs, and intricate details, with a palette dominated by rich reds and blues. They are made from high-quality wool or silk, and the exceptional weaving techniques result in durable and luxurious pieces. Kashan style, which originated in Iran, has also influenced the craftsmanship of Kashmiri carpets in the Kashmir region of India. The Kashmiri artisans adopted and adapted the techniques and designs from Kashan, creating a unique blend of Persian and Indian influences in their carpets.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Geography

### 3. Correct Answer is (A)

- As the river erodes the outer banks of the meander, it eventually cuts through the narrow neck of the loop, forming a new, straighter channel. The abandoned meander loop is then isolated from the main river, and water may become trapped within it, creating an oxbow lake. Over time, oxbow lakes may gradually fill with sediment or become colonized by vegetation, eventually transforming into wetlands or other types of habitats.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Torrential rains are characterized by heavy, intense downpours with high precipitation rates in a short period. They are often associated with severe weather events like thunderstorms, tropical storms, or hurricanes, and can lead to flash flooding, landslides, or other hazardous conditions due to the rapid accumulation of water.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. During a lunar eclipse, the Earth casts its shadow on the moon, which can be observed from the entire half of Earth facing the moon at that time. On the other hand, a solar eclipse is only visible from a narrow path on Earth's surface where the moon's shadow falls, as the moon blocks the sun's light.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A total lunar eclipse lasts longer than a total solar eclipse because the Earth's shadow is much larger than the moon, allowing the moon to take a longer time to pass through it. Additionally, during a lunar eclipse, the Moon moves into and out of the Earth's shadow relatively slowly, resulting in a longer duration of totality compared to a solar eclipse.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Monsoon shock describes the phenomenon where significant and unexpected changes in monsoon rainfall patterns lead to various negative consequences. These may include agricultural losses, flooding, infrastructure damage, and economic disruptions, among other impacts.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. According to the IMD, the definition of a heatwave depends on the physiography of regions. The IMD will declare a heatwave if the maximum temperature recorded at a station is 40 degrees Celsius or more in the plains, 37 degrees Celsius or more in the coast, and 30 degrees Celsius or more in the hills. A heatwave's severity is determined by its departure from normal temperature. There is a 'normal heatwave' when the departure is by 4.5-6.4 degrees Celsius and a 'severe heatwave' if the departure is greater. HAPs are policy documents that outline measures to be taken by government agencies, civil society organizations, and individuals to reduce the adverse effects of heatwaves on public health and other sectors.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



**8. Correct Answer is (B)**

- The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometer-wide body of water separating mainland China from Taiwan. It is a crucial route for commercial shipping, connecting the South China Sea and the East China Sea. The strait forms an essential part of the maritime transport network in East Asia, with a significant portion of global trade passing through it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**9. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Stratovolcanoes, also known as composite volcanoes, are conical-shaped structures formed by layers of solidified lava, ash, and volcanic rocks. These layers accumulate over time due to successive eruptions, giving stratovolcanoes their characteristic layered appearance.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

- Statement 1 is correct. The demographic dividend refers to the economic growth potential that arises from changes in a population's age structure, particularly when the share of the working-age population is larger than the non-working-age share of the population. This condition creates an opportunity for economic growth as there are more people able to work and contribute to the economy.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A high dependency ratio, which indicates a larger proportion of non-working-age individuals compared to the working-age population, does not typically lead to a demographic dividend. Instead, a demographic dividend is more likely to occur when the dependency ratio is lower, meaning there are fewer dependents and more working-age individuals who can contribute to economic growth. High dependency ratios can actually place a greater economic burden on the working-age population, potentially requiring increased government spending on social welfare programs, which is not directly indicative of a demographic dividend.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**11. Correct Answer is (B)**

- In cloud seeding, particles like silver iodide or dry ice are introduced into clouds to promote precipitation. These particles serve as nuclei, providing surfaces for water vapor to condense and freeze. Once these ice crystals grow large enough, they fall as precipitation, either in the form of snowflakes or hail.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**12. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Vasuki Indicus is believed to have lived around 47 million years ago, which corresponds to the Middle Eocene period. As per the findings of the fossils, the snake likely had a cylindrical body suggesting a strong and powerful build.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Vasuki Indicus belonged to the extinct Madtsoiidae snake family.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**13. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Hainan Province is the southernmost province of China and is located on Hainan Island, which is separated from the mainland by the Qiongzhou Strait. The South China Sea surrounds Hainan Island, which is a significant maritime region in Southeast Asia and is bordered by several countries, including China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**14. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India houses 18% of the world's population on 2.4% of the earth's surface area and has just 4% of global freshwater resources. India is the largest user of groundwater in the world, accounting for about 25% of the global groundwater extraction. Groundwater is a crucial resource for irrigation, drinking water, and industrial use in the country. Water plays a significant role in the clean energy transition, as it is used in various renewable energy technologies such as hydropower, and some geothermal, solar, and bioenergy systems. Additionally, green hydrogen, produced through electrolysis using water and renewable energy, is seen as a promising carbon-free fuel source.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Precipitation is the primary source of soil moisture and water stored in vegetation (green water) and the water available in rivers and aquifers (blue water).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**15. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Taiwan was formed at the convergence of the Philippine and Eurasian plates, making it a highly seismic region. Plate tectonics is the theory that explains the Earth's surface is made up of several plates that move relative to each other. There are about 15 major tectonic plates.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. The occurrence of foreshocks is not a reliable method for predicting the timing of a main earthquake. Foreshocks sometimes precede larger earthquakes, but their occurrence is not a consistent indicator for accurate predictions. Magnetic fields in the Earth's core are not the primary mechanism responsible for the movement of tectonic plates that leads to earthquakes. The movement of tectonic plates is mainly driven by a process known as convection currents in the Earth's mantle. These currents cause hot, semi-liquid rock in the mantle to rise and cooler material to sink, causing the plates to move and interact with each other.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**16. Correct Answer is (D)**

- Glacial lakes form in various ways. They can be carved by glaciers, dammed by glacial debris, or even form on top of glaciers themselves. Meltwater from glaciers is the primary source of water for these lakes. Glacial lakes are often found in mountainous regions and can be quite deep and cold due to their origin. Some of the types of glacial lakes are:
- Moraine-dammed Lake: These lakes form when glaciers retreat, leaving behind piles of rocks and debris called moraines. If the moraine deposits block a valley, it creates a natural dam. Meltwater from the receding glacier or surrounding snowpack accumulates behind this dam, filling the basin and forming a lake.
- Erosional lake: Formed in depressions or basins created by glacial erosion. These depressions might be the result of glacial scour or other glacial processes that shape the landscape.
- Ice-dammed Lake: These lakes form when a glacier or glacial ice dams a river or valley. Unlike moraine-dammed lakes, here the ice itself acts as the dam. This can happen when a glacier advances or when large chunks of ice break off and lodge in a waterway. The dammed water accumulates behind the ice, forming a temporary lake. Ice-dammed lakes are less common and short-lived because the ice dam can melt relatively quickly, potentially causing sudden floods if it breaches.
- Cirque Lake (Tarn): Small Mountain lakes located in cirques, which are steep-walled amphitheater-shaped landforms formed at the mouth of a valley glacier.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**17. Correct Answer is (C)**

- The English Channel is a narrow body of water that forms a natural border between England (part of the United Kingdom) and France. It connects the southern portion of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**Polity**

**18. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. EVMs were first used on a trial basis in the Paravur Assembly constituency in Kerala in 1982. EVMs have eliminated the category of "invalid votes" that were a problem with paper ballots, as they allow only one button to be pressed to register a vote, ruling out manual errors prevalent during the paper ballot days.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Germany does not use electronic voting machines in its elections. In 2009, the German Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the use of electronic voting machines was unconstitutional, citing concerns over the transparency and verifiability of the voting process. Since then, Germany has primarily relied on paper ballots for its elections.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**19. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. The Just Transition Framework is designed to ensure that the transition towards a low-carbon economy is fair and inclusive, aiming to share the costs and benefits of this transition equitably among all stakeholders. This concept has been developed to secure workers' rights and livelihoods as economies shift away from fossil fuels towards more sustainable forms of energy. It emphasizes social interventions and is supported by various international and national policies and frameworks.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Supreme Court of India has recognized the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change, aligning it with the constitutional rights to life and equality under Articles 14 and 21, this recognition does not make the right legally binding per se. The Court's acknowledgment serves as a significant legal precedent and influences the broader discourse on environmental and climate justice. However, the operative part of the judgment does not explicitly state that this right is legally binding, and its enforceability depends on further legal developments and the implementation of relevant policies and legislation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**20. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statement 1 is incorrect. A quasi-judicial commission is an entity with powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law, but it operates outside the traditional court system. It is not a judicial body in the traditional sense.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. Quasi-judicial commissions are designed to offer alternative dispute resolution methods, which are typically more accessible and less formal than traditional courts. This allows for a more efficient and streamlined process for resolving specific types of disputes. Quasi-judicial commissions are generally established to address specific areas of law or particular types of disputes. Their powers are limited to their area of expertise, and they cannot rule on matters outside their jurisdiction. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

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(NCDRC) is a quasi-judicial commission which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Film trailers are not considered legal agreements. They are meant to generate interest and don't guarantee specific content in the final film.
- Statement 2 is correct. Currently, there's no legal obligation for a trailer to perfectly reflect the final film. Hence, a producer of a film cannot be held liable for unfair trade practice if the contents of the promo do not feature in the actual movie.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 15 of the Indian Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on disability. It specifically mentions religion, race, caste, sex, and place of birth as the grounds on which discrimination is prohibited. In India, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, provides comprehensive protection against discrimination based on disability and has brought India closer to aligning with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Protection against discrimination based on disability is a statutory right in India not a constitutional right.
- Statement 2 is correct. India has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which emphasizes that persons with disabilities should enjoy rights on an equal basis with others. India ratified the convention on October 1, 2007.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Star campaigners are designated "leaders of a political party" who campaign on behalf of their party's candidates during elections. Moreover, star campaigners are not necessarily just "leaders" of a political party. They can also be prominent figures who campaign for the party's candidates. This can include film actors, athletes, or other influential personalities. Section 77 of the RP Act exempts expenses incurred on star campaigners from being added to the individual candidate's election expenditure. This allows parties more flexibility in spending during campaigns. Star campaigners' expenses are excluded from a candidate's election expenditure only if they engage in general campaigning for the party without directly seeking votes for specific candidates or sharing the dais with them.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Recognized political parties, both national and state, can appoint up to 40-star campaigners while, Registered unrecognized political parties are allowed to appoint up to 20-star campaigners.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Supreme Court of India has ruled that the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India includes the right to safe food, free from contaminants that could be hazardous to health. The Food Safety and Standards (Safe food and balanced diets for children in school) Regulations, 2020, restricts the sale of high in fats, salts and sugars (HFSS) foods in school canteens, or within 50 metres of the school campus. This is part of the efforts to ensure that children have access to safe and balanced diets while at school.



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- Statement 3 is incorrect. The INR focuses on evaluating the overall nutritional profile of food products based on factors like energy, sugars, saturated fat, sodium, and the presence of fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and millets. The Indian Nutrition Rating (INR) system is a front-of-pack labeling initiative designed to help consumers make informed decisions about the nutritional quality of packaged foods. It assigns a rating from ½ star (least healthy) to 5 stars (healthiest) based on the overall nutritional profile of the food item.
- However, while the presence of artificial sweeteners may indirectly impact the nutritional profile of a product, there is no specific mention of it being a direct factor when calculating the INR score.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### Acts & Policies

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

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. According to various sources, including the 2011 Census and the World Bank, it is estimated that persons with disabilities make up between 5-8% of India's population. The RPWDA has provisions that mandate the accessibility of ICT goods and services, including websites, applications, and other digital platforms, according to the guidelines set by the BIS. These guidelines aim to ensure that persons with disabilities can access and use these technologies effectively. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, focuses primarily on the protection of consumers' interests in general and does not specifically address the rights of consumers with disabilities.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

- Statement 1 is correct. The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was announced in 2003 with the goal of bridging the gap between demand and supply in India's healthcare sector and improving the doctor-patient ratio.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. PMSSY focuses on achieving its goals through establishing new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and upgrading existing government medical colleges. PMSSY doesn't directly target increasing the number of private medical practitioners. Its focus is on strengthening public healthcare infrastructure and education.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The National Framework of Early Childhood Stimulation, 2024, titled "Navchetana," is designed to guide early childhood development from birth to three years. This framework emphasizes the importance of starting a child's learning process from month zero. The curriculum outlined in the framework is activity-based and aligns with the National Education Policy, 2020. The activities focus on stimulating all senses, especially sight and touch, to help children reach developmental milestones and foster early language, literacy, and numeracy skills. The framework provides detailed month-by-month activities for parents, anganwadi staff, and ASHA workers.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. The framework focuses on responsive caregiving and play, not integrating technology.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

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- Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Indian government in 2015 with the objective of providing "Housing for All". PMAY includes the involvement of the private sector to address the housing needs, particularly through the in-situ rehabilitation of slum dwellers with private developers' participation. In the BLC component of PMAY, the government provides financial assistance, but the role is primarily limited to cost-sharing, with the bulk of investment often coming from the beneficiaries themselves.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The CLSS under PMAY does not provide direct cash transfers; instead, it offers an interest subsidy on home loans taken by eligible beneficiaries, which is credited upfront to the loan accounts, reducing the effective housing loan and Equated Monthly Installment (EMI).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### International Relations/Organizations

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

- The Trees Outside of Forests India (TOFI) program is a joint initiative between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) of the Government of India. It is implemented by a consortium led by CIFOR-ICRAF and spans from 2021 to 2026. The program's primary goal is to increase the area under trees outside of traditional forest areas while improving livelihoods and ecosystem services in the seven participating states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent intergovernmental body established in 1964 as a part of the United Nations Secretariat. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has a membership of 195 member states. UNCTAD's primary mission is to promote the integration of developing countries into the global economy and to help them overcome the challenges they face in the realm of trade and development. The organization focuses on various core areas such as trade, investment, technology, entrepreneurship, finance, and sustainable development. While UNCTAD does provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries on various aspects of international trade, including resolving trade disputes, it does not directly provide legal aid in trade disputes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Look East Policy prioritized relations with ASEAN nations, focusing on economic integration, while the Act East Policy includes a wider range of East Asian countries and extends to security cooperation, reflecting a broader geographical scope. The South China Sea is crucial for regional security and the global maritime order, affecting principles like freedom of navigation and overflight, which are vital for trade and energy transportation routes for India and other global players. India actively promotes a rules-based international maritime order and places particular emphasis on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), advocating for adherence to international maritime laws.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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



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- Statement 1 is incorrect. There is no clear, legal definition in international law of targeted killings. Further, International Criminal Law does not explicitly define targeted killings in those terms.
- Statement 2 is correct. Article 51 of the UN Charter recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a UN member state. This right is recognized until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security, and any measures taken in self-defense must be reported to the Security Council. It is essential to note that any use of force in self-defense must be proportional and in accordance with other international law principles.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 33. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Arab Peace Initiative was specifically focused on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It aimed to establish an independent Palestinian state and resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees.
- Statement 2 is correct. One of the core demands of the initiative was the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967. This includes the Golan Heights, West Bank, and Gaza Strip.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 34. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. A two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly and no veto from a permanent member of the Security Council are required for a state to achieve full membership.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. The Security Council is primarily responsible for the initial recommendation of a state for UN membership, not the Economic and Social Council. While a veto from a permanent member can block an application, it doesn't guarantee permanent rejection. The application can be resubmitted later. There's no requirement for a democratic government for UN membership. The UN Charter focuses on peace-loving states and their ability to fulfill the obligations of membership.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 35. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. GAIA Asia Pacific is part of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, a network of organizations and individuals working towards a more sustainable and just approach to waste management. Their goal is to promote zero waste strategies and a circular economy, moving away from linear and extractive systems that contribute to pollution and environmental degradation. They also support people's right to a safe and healthy environment.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. GAIA Asia Pacific does not support incineration technologies, as incineration contributes to air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and other negative environmental impacts. Instead, GAIA promotes waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and other alternatives to incineration that align with the principles of a circular economy and environmental justice.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 36. Correct Answer is (B)

- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) are specifically designed to prevent the same income from being taxed by two or more jurisdictions. This is achieved by allocating the taxing rights between the source country (where the income is earned) and the residence country (where the

income recipient is based). By reducing the tax burden, these agreements encourage cross-border investments and economic cooperation between countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Economy

### 37. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. SGrBs are issued to raise money for green infrastructure and initiatives that lower the economy's carbon footprint, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed eligible foreign investors, including FIIs, to invest in SGrBs.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. SGrBs typically offer lower interest rates than conventional G-Secs. "Greenium" refers to the lower yield (or higher price) that investors are willing to accept for green bonds compared to conventional bonds due to the environmental benefits of the projects funded by green bonds. Greenium refers to the difference in interest rates or yields between green bonds and conventional government securities (G-Secs).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 38. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Excessive government spending on domestic infrastructure projects may lead to increased demand for domestic goods and services rather than imported goods. This could result in higher domestic inflation but not necessarily imported inflation. Imported inflation occurs when the cost of imported goods and services increases, leading to a rise in the overall price level within a country. Imported inflation is a type of cost-push inflation that occurs when rising costs of imported inputs lead to higher production costs for businesses, resulting in inflation in the prices of final goods and services.
- Statement 2 is correct. When a country's currency loses value against other currencies, imports become more expensive because the same amount of domestic currency now buys fewer foreign goods and services. This can lead to higher domestic prices for imported products, contributing to imported inflation. Increases in interest rates in Western countries can lead to depreciation of developing countries' currencies against Western currencies, raising import costs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 39. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Public Stockholding Programs (PSH) are not inherently encouraging unsustainable agricultural practices. They are designed to support farmers' livelihoods, ensure food security, and promote rural development. While there can be concerns about the environmental impact of certain agricultural practices, PSH itself is not aimed at promoting unsustainable methods.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a policy tool used by the Government of India to insure farmers against any sharp fall in farm prices. It guarantees a minimum price for their produce, thus providing income security and incentivizing the production of essential food grains. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture allows developing countries to provide domestic support, including subsidies, up to de minimis levels, which are 10% of the value of their agricultural production for most developing countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 40. Correct Answer is (A)

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- A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports, which can lead to a negative impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is because GDP is calculated as the sum of a nation's domestic production and its net exports (exports minus imports). When imports are greater than exports, the net exports figure is negative, which can reduce the overall GDP.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 41. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) is a component of GDP that reflects the value of acquisitions of new or existing fixed assets by the business sector, governments, and households, minus disposals of fixed assets. It indicates the amount of resources invested in fixed assets rather than consumed. GFCF is crucial as it contributes to the production capacity of an economy, which in turn influences economic growth and living standards. It measures the additions to the capital stock of buildings, equipment, and inventories, i.e., additions to the capacity to produce more goods and income in the future. In national accounting, GFCF is considered a form of investment expenditure. It includes outlays on additions to the fixed assets of the economy plus net changes in the level of inventories, indicating investment in the productive capacity of the economy.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Purchases of stocks and bonds are not included in GFCF. GFCF measures investment in physical assets and does not include financial assets such as stocks and bonds. It is concerned with the value of net additions to fixed assets, excluding financial assets.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 42. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I: According to World Bank data, India's gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) has been around 0.7% of GDP in recent years, which is a low number compared to many developed and developing economies.
- Statement II: Private sector investment in R&D is crucial for innovation and technological advancement. In India, a significant portion of R&D funding comes from the government sector, while private sector participation remains relatively low. This lack of private investment contributes to the overall low national expenditure on R&D.
- Therefore, Statement II explains the reason behind the situation described in Statement I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 43. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Disinflation refers to a decrease in the rate of inflation, meaning that the overall increase in prices of goods and services is slowing down. It does not specifically refer to certain goods and services decreasing in price while others increase.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Disinflation occurs when the rate of inflation slows down, but prices are still rising, albeit at a slower pace. Deflation, on the other hand, happens when the overall price level decreases. Disinflation can lead to increased purchasing power for consumers because their money goes slightly further as the rate of price increase slows down. However, it's important to note that disinflation isn't always a positive development. In some cases, it might indicate a weakening economy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 44. Correct Answer is (B)

- Direct taxes are:

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- Capital Gains Tax - This is a direct tax on the profit that is realized from the sale of a non-inventory asset that was greater in value than the purchase price.
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) - This is a direct tax levied on the value of securities (such as stocks) transacted through a recognized stock exchange.
- GST and excise duty are indirect taxes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 45. Correct Answer is (B)

- A tight monetary policy leads to higher interest rates, increasing the cost of borrowing. As borrowing costs rise, households may find it more expensive to finance purchases or investments through credit, leading to a reduction in net financial savings.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 46. Correct Answer is (B)

- InvITs are designed to enable direct investment from individual and institutional investors into infrastructure projects, providing them with a steady income through dividend distribution. They pool funds from various investors and invest in income-generating infrastructure projects, offering stability and predictability for investors seeking long-term investments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 47. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Human Development Report (HDR) 2023-2024 ranked India 134 out of 193 countries. India is now the fifth largest economy but it still ranks lower than Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in human development. Its economic growth has not translated into growth in human development.
- Statement 2 is correct. Achieving high economic growth and reducing inequality are interconnected goals that require a focus on improving human development and reducing poverty. By investing in education, healthcare, and job opportunities, a country can enhance the capabilities and productivity of its population, driving economic growth while addressing inequalities. A more inclusive and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities can lead to sustainable development and an improved quality of life for all citizens.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 48. Correct Answer is (B)

- Raising interest rates (like the repo rate) makes borrowing more expensive for banks and, in turn, consumers and businesses. This increase leads to a reduction in spending and investment, thus decreasing inflationary pressures.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 49. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The "Make in India" initiative is designed to attract foreign investments and enhance India's manufacturing sector. It includes improving the Ease of Doing Business to attract foreign enterprises and offering schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) to boost domestic manufacturing and exports.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Lewis two-sector model suggests that workers from the agricultural sector, who are often underproductive, should transition to the modern or manufacturing sector, where there is greater scope for productive work. Whereas, the Ricardian theory of comparative

advantage states that for a country to specialize in a specific export, it must have a lower opportunity cost to produce the good than other nations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Environment

### 50. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Not all terrestrial animals use tools to hunt for food or drink water. While some animals, such as primates, otters, and birds, have been observed using tools, many terrestrial animals rely on their physical attributes, cooperative hunting strategies, or other specialized behaviors to obtain food and water without the use of tools.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Several species of fish have been documented using tools to hunt and crack open shellfish, extract food that is out of reach, or clear an area for nesting. Sea urchins, such as the burrowing sea urchin (*Echinostrephus molaris*), have been noted for their role in reef erosion by digging deep burrows into the structure of a reef, which can weaken its overall framework.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 51. Correct Answer is (C)

- Corals live in a symbiotic relationship with tiny algae known as zooxanthellae, which provide them with color and food through photosynthesis. When sea surface temperatures rise, the heat stress causes the breakdown of this relationship. The corals expel the algae, leading to a loss of color (bleaching) and depriving the corals of their primary source of nutrients.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 52. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The GCP aims to promote afforestation efforts and compensate participants with green credits. The ICFRE, an autonomous council under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is responsible for implementing the GCP. Green credits earned can be used to compensate for forest land diversion or to fulfill environmental, social, and corporate responsibility obligations.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Green credits are a separate program from the Energy Conservation Act of 2001. While they both promote environmental benefits, they function independently.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 53. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Agroforestry involves the integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to create environmental, economic, and social benefits. This method is widely recognized and practiced globally, combining agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, sustainable, and healthy land-use systems. Agroforestry is considered a sustainable land management practice as it enhances biodiversity, improves soil structure and fertility, and contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem. Selecting the appropriate species for specific locations and purposes is critical in agroforestry to ensure that the trees contribute positively to the system without causing undue competition for resources with crops or livestock.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Planting trees at very high densities is not necessarily a crucial factor for the success of agroforestry systems. Instead, the strategic selection and placement of trees play a more significant role in ensuring the productivity and sustainability of these systems.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



**54. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. Leaf litter frogs (*Haddadus binotatus*) are known to emit ultrasonic screams when attacked by predators. These screams are too high-pitched for humans to hear, but serve as a defense mechanism against potential threats like bats, rodents, and small primates.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, *Haddadus binotatus* is classified as "Least Concern" (LC).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**55. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to the environment is involved, including the enforcement of any legal rights related to the environment. It does not handle criminal cases. The Chairperson of the NGT is appointed by the Central Government of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, as per the provisions of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The maximum tenure of the Chairperson and other members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is 5 years. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is not a Constitutional body; it is a statutory body established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**56. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Ashwagandha is an evergreen shrub native to regions of India, Africa, and the Middle East. It thrives in arid and semi-arid climates and can be cultivated in these areas for medicinal or commercial purposes. Ashwagandha's scientific name is *Withania somnifera*, and it has been utilized as a key medicinal herb in Ayurveda, the traditional Indian system of medicine, for thousands of years. Ashwagandha is known for its adaptogenic properties, helping the body manage stress, anxiety, and fatigue, among other health benefits.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

**57. Correct Answer is (D)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Nicobar Megapodes (IUCN status: Vulnerable) are not classified as perching birds. They belong to the family Megapodiidae, which includes ground-dwelling birds that are adapted to running rather than perching. These birds are known for their unique nesting behavior, which involves building large mounds of earth and vegetation to incubate their eggs using the heat generated from decomposition. They are endemic to Nicobar Islands. The Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the island of Great Nicobar in the Nicobar Islands, which have a tropical climate. The dominant vegetation in this region is tropical rainforest.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**58. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, solar and wind park development is currently exempt from Environmental and Social Impact Assessments. Solar and wind energy projects are not explicitly listed in the mandatory categories requiring Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) under the central EIA Notification 2006. However, some projects may still require EIA, depending upon the impact of the project but officially they are exempted.
- Statement 2 is correct. There is no established mechanism to ensure fair compensation for small and medium landowners leasing their land for renewable energy projects in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**59. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Agrivoltaics is a term used to describe the combination of solar energy generation with traditional farming on the same land. This approach allows for dual land use, where crops are grown underneath or between solar panels, leading to improved resource efficiency and potential benefits for both agriculture and energy production.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**60. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. India has achieved its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, with 44% of its capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources as of January 2024. It has also achieved another Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target, of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35% from 2005 level, well ahead of the target year of 2030.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The One Health initiative focuses on collaboration between different sectors of medicine and science, not promoting alternative medicine practices. Its core principle is recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**61. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Eravikulam National Park has the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri Tahr. The Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats. Nilgiri Tahr is an ungulate that is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western and Eastern Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in southern India. It is the only species in the genus Nilgiritragus. It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu. The IUCN status of the Nilgiri Tahr is Endangered.
- Statement 3 is correct. The major threats to the Nilgiri Tahr population are habitat loss mainly due to overgrazing of domestic livestock and the spread of invasive plants, illegal hunting, and climate change.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**62. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The government's new policy actually reduces the import duty on CBU electric vehicles. The import duty has been cut from 70%-100% to 15% for EVs valued at \$35,000 or more. However, this reduced duty is conditional; it applies to carmakers who commit to setting up local manufacturing units within three years. The policy aims to strike a balance between promoting domestic EV production and attracting foreign investment in the sector.
- Statement 2 is correct. The data from the sources indicate that while there has been significant growth in the two- and three-wheeler segments, the contribution of passenger vehicles to the overall EV market remains relatively low (2.2%).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**Science & Technology**

**63. Correct Answer is (B)**

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- Randomized Controlled Trials are considered the gold standard in clinical research for evaluating the effectiveness and safety of a particular treatment or intervention. In an RCT, participants are randomly assigned to either receive the treatment being studied or a control treatment (usually the standard treatment or a placebo). The outcomes of the participants in both groups are then compared to assess the efficacy and safety of the new treatment or intervention.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 64. Correct Answer is (A)

- The BrahMos missile uses a ramjet engine, which is a type of air-breathing jet engine that compresses the incoming air using the forward motion of the engine itself. The engine provides high speed and efficiency, allowing the BrahMos missile to travel at supersonic speeds, typically between Mach 2.5 to 2.8. Moreover, there have been discussions and plans to develop a newer version of the BrahMos missile, known as BrahMos-II or BrahMos Mark II, which is intended to utilize a scramjet engine.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 65. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Avian influenza viruses, such as H5N1 and H7N9, have been known to infect humans, primarily through direct or indirect contact with infected birds or contaminated environments. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic avian influenza strain that has caused significant outbreaks in poultry and has infected humans with a high mortality rate.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary mode of transmission for avian influenza in birds is not through mosquito bites. It is typically spread through direct contact with infected birds, their droppings, or secretions from their noses, mouths, or eyes. It can also spread indirectly through contaminated surfaces.

Sources: [The Hindu](#)

### 66. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Genomic surveillance plays a vital role in tracking the genetic changes and evolutionary patterns of viruses, allowing researchers to identify emerging strains, monitor transmission dynamics, and detect potential adaptations to new hosts. By studying viral genomes, scientists can develop strategies for prevention, control, and treatment. Like other viruses, mpox can undergo genetic changes through various mechanisms, such as gene duplication, mutation accumulation, or gene deletion. These changes can result in variations in the virus's genome, potentially affecting its virulence, host range, or transmission dynamics. Understanding these genomic changes is essential for monitoring the evolution of mpox and other viruses and developing effective strategies to control their spread.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Monkeypox (mpox) is a DNA virus, not an RNA virus. It belongs to the Poxviridae family and the Orthopoxvirus genus, which includes other poxviruses such as smallpox (variola virus) and cowpox virus. Mpox has a double-stranded DNA genome.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 67. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, spectrum allocation is not only done through administrative allocation. Auctions have become the primary method for allocating spectrum for mobile services. The 2012 2G spectrum case judgment by the Supreme Court held that the allocation of spectrum, being a scarce natural resource, must be done through auctions. However, the government

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considers administrative allocation of spectrum to ensure it is available for public interest functions such as security, safety, and disaster preparedness, where auctions may not be optimal.

- Statement 2 is correct. Spectrum allocation in India is a regulated process overseen by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). This ensures fair and efficient use of this limited resource.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 68. Correct Answer is (C)

- Post-stroke depression is a common and serious complication following a stroke. It is a distinct clinical condition with a specific set of symptoms, including sadness, loss of interest in activities, changes in appetite, and difficulty concentrating, among others. Early recognition and proper treatment of PSD can significantly improve the quality of life for stroke survivors. Treatment may involve medications, psychotherapy, or a combination of both.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 69. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. 3D-printed high-precision metal parts are used in various industries, including automobiles, aerospace, and defense. These industries benefit from the ability to produce complex geometries, lightweight components, and functional prototypes using 3D printing technologies.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. 3D printing enables the production of metal parts without the need for traditional tooling or fixturing setups. This is one of the key advantages of 3D printing, as it allows for the creation of complex parts without the additional costs and time associated with creating custom tooling.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 70. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Viruses that cannot transmit effectively pose a lower threat to public health as they can't easily spread and infect large populations. Extracellular vesicles are small, fat-enclosed structures that transport substances within and outside cells. These vesicles are rich in PS proteins and are found in high concentrations in saliva and semen, but not in blood. They compete with viruses for the PS receptors, effectively blocking the viruses from infecting cells.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary mode of Zika virus transmission is not through bodily fluids like saliva and semen. While Zika can be present in these fluids, it's spread mainly by mosquito bites.

Source: [The Hindu](#)