

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Monthly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

March, 2024

10 PM MCQs Compilation March 2024

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Art & Culture and Ancient History

Q.1) With reference to Morodharo, a Harappan-era fortified settlement, consider the following statements:

1. The settlement is located near Rakhigarhi in Haryana.
2. Burial cairns, which are mounds of stones to demarcate a boundary, are found here.

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.2) Paruveta Utsavam festival is celebrated in:

- a) Punjab
- b) Assam
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Kerala

Q.3) Consider the following tribes:

1. Shompen
2. Onges
3. Jarawas
4. Birjia

How many of the tribes mentioned above are indigenous to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

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

Q.4) In the context of the Indian Ancient History, 'Herjunka' refers to:

- a) A type of taxes on goods
- b) Land granted to religious institutions
- c) A type of cooperative organization
- d) Land tenure system

Q.5) With reference to Sant Ravidas, consider the following statements:

1. Sant Ravidas Jayanti is celebrated every year on Magh Purnima on full moon day of Magh month.
2. He is considered a prominent figure of the Bhakti Movement.
3. According to Sant Ravidas, the path to salvation lies in accumulating knowledge from scriptures.
4. He became a symbol of opposition to untouchability.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.6) Purple Fest 2024 was held recently at Rashtrapati Bhavan. It focuses on:

- a) Celebrating Indian culture and heritage
- b) Showcasing advancements in disability technology
- c) Raising awareness about mental health issues
- d) Raising awareness about different disabilities and their impact on people's lives

Q.7) The 'Gorsam Kora Festival' is mainly celebrated for:

- a) Celebrating a plentiful harvest period
- b) Commemorating a military victory
- c) Highlighting Buddhist cultural heritage
- d) Welcoming the spring season

Q.8) The 'Lisu tribe' resides in:

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Kerala

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to the "Manjusha Art":

- 1. The art form is made up of bamboo, jute, and paper.
- 2. Abstract geometric patterns are often depicted in Manjusha art.
- 3. The art form is completely based on the folklore of Bihula-Bishari.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following pairs:

Awards-----Specifications

- 1. Sangita Kalanidhi award-----Given for bringing several disciples to the concert platform
- 2. Sangita Kala Acharya awards-----The highest honour in Carnatic music.
- 3. Nritya Kalanidhi award-----Presented for one of the classical dances.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.11) Which of the following countries traditionally celebrate 'Nowruz'?

- a) Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan
- b) India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh
- c) China, Japan, and Korea
- d) Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan

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Q.12) 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.13) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Archaeologists have recently discovered a Harappan-era fortified settlement named Morodharo near Dholavira. It is a fortified settlement dating back to the Harappan-era. The settlement looks mature (2,600-1,900BCE) to late (1,900-1,300 BCE) Harappan.
- Statement 2 is correct. Burial cairns, which are mounds of stones to demarcate a boundary, are found here. Harappan pottery with perforated jar sherds, reserved slipware, and terracotta cakes were unearthed. All these items have a striking resemblance to those found in Dholavira. As per archaeologist, this site and Dholavira both were dependent on the sea. This suggests the presence of navigable waters near Rann of Kutch in ancient times.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Paruveta Utsavam is an annual mock hunting festival held at the Sri Narasimha Swamy temple in Ahobilam, Andhra Pradesh, India. The festival serves as a testament to communal harmony. During this time, the deity from the inner sanctum of the temple is carried to the 32 Chenchu tribal settlements surrounding Ahobilam for a period of 40 days. Participants observe 'Narasimha Deeksha' by wearing yellow robes, 'Tulasi Mala, and practicing celibacy. During the ceremony, tribal members shoot arrows at the deity's palanquin as a gesture of respect and protection. Paruveta Utsavam is celebrated by people of all castes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Shompen, Onge, and Jarawa tribes are native to the Andaman Islands. The Birjia tribe are a tribal community found mainly in the Indian state of Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand. **Tribe in News:** The Shompen are designated as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group within the list of Scheduled Tribe. They are one of the most isolated tribes on Earth. They are semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers, and their main sources of livelihood are hunting, gathering, fishing, and a little bit of horticultural activities in a rudimentary form. They speak their own language, which has many dialects. Members of one band do not understand the dialect of the other.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

- Badami Chalukyas levied taxes called Herjunka, Kirukula, Bilkode, and Pannaya. Herjunka was a tax on loads levied by the Chalukya dynasty. The Chalukya dynasty ruled large parts of southern and central India between the 6th and the 12th centuries. Pulakesi I established the Chalukya dynasty in 550. He took Vatapi (Badami in Bagalkot district, Karnataka) under his control and made it his capital. Historians refer to Pulakesi I and his descendants as the Chalukyas of Badami. It saw the evolution and proliferation of a new style of architecture known as Vesara, a combination of the South Indian and the North Indian building styles. Their coins had Nagari and Kannada legends. They minted coins with symbols of temples, lion or boar facing right, and the lotus. They initially followed Vedic Hinduism. Later, from the time of Vikramaditya I, the people took an inclination towards Shaivism, and sects like Pashupata, Kapalikas, and Kalamukhas emerged. They also patronised Jainism. Hiuen-Tsang mentioned the Chalukya army that had hundreds of elephants, which were intoxicated with liquor prior to the battle. Rashtrakuta inscriptions use the term Karnatabala to refer to their powerful armies. The empire was divided into Maharashtrakas (provinces), then into smaller Rashtrakas (Mandala), Vishaya (district), Bhoga (group of ten villages). Groups of mahajanas (learned brahmins) looked after agraharas. Agraharas were the place of higher learning.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (C)

- Sant Ravidas: He was a mystic poet saint of the Bhakti Movement from the 15th and 16th centuries, and founded the Ravidassia religion. He was a revered poet and a renowned philosopher. He was born in 1377 CE in Seer Govardhanpur in Uttar Pradesh. His place of birth is now known as Shri Guru Ravidass Janam Asthan. Despite belonging to a community whose initial occupation was in leatherwork, Ravidas shifted his focus to spiritual pursuits, spending much of his time on the banks of the Ganges. Throughout his life, he associated with Sufi saints, sadhus, and ascetics. Since his birth, Guru Ravidas devoted his life to advocating for human rights and equality. He is one of the most

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famous personalities of the nirguna sampradaya (sant parampara) and was one of the prominent leaders of the North Indian Bhakti movement. Sant Ravidas Jayanti or birthday anniversary is celebrated every year on Magh Purnima on full moon day of Magh month. On this special day, a ceremony of Nagar Kirtan procession is performed by people with the chants of mantras during Aarti.

- Statement 3 is incorrect. Sant Ravidas did not believe that the path to salvation lies in accumulating knowledge from scriptures. He focused on spiritual and social messages through his poetry to reform minds and promote boundless love towards God. He emphasized the importance of inner realization and experience over solely relying on scriptural knowledge. He advocated for equality and rejected the notion that one's birth determines their spiritual worth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (D)

- Purple Fest is an annual event organized by the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) in collaboration with various partners. The event aims to promote inclusion and raise awareness about different disabilities, their impact on people's lives, and the need for equal opportunities and rights for people with disabilities. It will showcase best practices in the disability field, focusing on enhancing accessibility and addressing implementation challenges in various disability schemes and programs. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India presented Purple Fest 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. It was a first-of-its-kind inclusive festival in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Gorsam Kora Festival is primarily celebrated to highlight the Buddhist cultural heritage of the region. It is held in Arunachal Pradesh's Zemithang Valley along the Nyanmjang Chu River. It is organized by Zemithang community in collaboration with civil authorities and supported by local Indian Army Units. It honours the shared Buddhist cultural heritage and celebrates the longstanding friendship between India and Bhutan. The festival featured various events, including cultural performances by local troupes and Indian army bands, as well as martial performances like Mallakhamb and Zanjh Pathaka.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Lisu tribes are inhabitants of Arunachal Pradesh. They are one of the minor tribal communities in the state and are known for their unique cultural practices and traditional knowledge systems. They primarily live in the districts of Longding, Tirap, Changlang, and Lohit in the eastern part of the state, close to the border with Myanmar. The Lisu (or Yobin) people of Arunachal Pradesh, India, have a unique tradition of naming their children based on birth order. They inhabit the Namdapha Tiger Reserve.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Manjusha art is an ancient and historically significant art form of Bhagalpur, Bihar. Manjusha art or Manjusha Kala is often referred to as Snake paintings by foreigners as swirling snakes in the art depict the central character in Bihula's tale of love and sacrifice. This art reflects the history of ancient Anga Mahajanapada. They are temple-shaped boxes comprising eight

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pillars. They are made of bamboo, jute, and paper. They also contain paintings of Hindu gods and goddesses and other characters. These boxes are used in Bishahari puja. In Manjusha Art Borders are very Important. It is a Line drawing Art and a Folk Art. It is a Scroll Painting and is completely based on the folklore of Bihula-Bishari. In Manjusha Art Characters are displayed as X letter of English Alphabets. Major Motifs of Manjusha Art – Snake, Champa Flower, Sun, Moon, Elephant, Turtle, Fish, Maina Bird, Kamal Flower, Kalash Pot, Arrow Bow, ShivLing, Tree etc. Major Characters of Manjusha Art – Lord Shiva, Mansa DeVi (Bishari), Bihula, Bala, Hanuman, Chandu Saudagar.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. Manjusha Art is primarily known for its figurative style. The art form focuses on depicting characters and stories from mythology and folklore, not abstract geometric patterns.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Only 3 is correctly matched.
- Sangita Kalanidhi award – It is the highest or one of the highest honours in the Carnatic music given by the Madars Music Academy.
- Sangita Kala Acharya awards – It is given for bringing several disciples to the concert platform. Two senior musicians/preceptors are given this award each year.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (A)

- Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan are among the countries that traditionally celebrate Nowruz. Nowruz, which means "new day" in Persian, is the Iranian New Year or Persian New Year, celebrated by various ethnic groups across the Middle East, Central Asia, and parts of South Asia. Other countries and regions where Nowruz is observed include Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Georgia, and parts of Turkey, Syria, Pakistan, India, and China. The celebration often begins on the spring equinox, usually falling on March 20 or 21, and marks the beginning of the new year in the Persian calendar.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. 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](#)

13. 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.

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- 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](#)

Modern Indian History

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Rani Chennamma led an armed rebellion against the British East India Company due to the violation of the trade agreement by the British East India Company.
2. Kittur Utsav is a three-day festival which celebrates the Queen Rani Chennamma's victory over East India's company in 1824.

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.2) Consider the following statements with reference to Kochrab Ashram:

1. It is the first ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi upon his return to India from South Africa in 1915.
2. Mahatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement from Kochrab Ashram.
3. The Ashram served as a communal living space promoting self-improvement and community service.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)
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Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Rani Chennamma was an Indian freedom fighter and Rani of the Kittur, a former princely state in Karnataka. She led the Kittur revolt of 1824, which stands as one of the earliest woman-led anti-colonial struggles against British rule in India. She initiated a rebellion

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against the British in 1824 after they declined to acknowledge her adopted son as the successor according to the 'doctrine of lapse'.

- Statement 2 is correct. Kittur Utsav is a three-day festival celebrated annually in Karnataka, India, to commemorate Rani Chennamma's fight against the British East India Company in 1824. Although she was initially successful, the British captured Kittur Fort in their third attempt in December 1824, resulting in Rani Chennamma's imprisonment and eventual death in 1829.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Kocharab ashram is located in Kocharab village, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is the first ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi upon his return to India from South Africa in 1915. It is also called as Satyagraha Ashram based on his ideas of achieving India's independence from British rule through peaceful methods. It is a colonial-style building with a white-washed façade. The ashram also served as the starting point for Gandhi's advocacy of khadi, equality for the poor, Hindi as the national language, self-reliance, and independence. It also served as a communal living space promoting self-improvement and community service.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Mahatma Gandhi started the Quit India Movement in 1942 from Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Geography

Q.1) Which one of the following statements is NOT correct regarding Vaitarna River?

- a) It originates in the Brahmagiri Hills of the Western Ghats.
- b) Tanya is its left bank tributary.
- c) It is the largest river in the Northern Konkan region.
- d) It is one of the west flowing rivers.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. It requires high temperature throughout the year ranging between 20°-35°C.
2. It requires heavy rainfall around 200 cm.
3. Deep, friable, well-drained soils are ideal for its growth.

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

- a) Millets
- b) Pulses
- c) Rubber
- d) Wheat

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Q.3) With reference to the Ponmudi hills, how many of the following statements are correct?

1. It is part of the Eastern Ghats Mountain range.
2. It is located in Telangana.
3. These hills are rich in biodiversity.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.4) Rip currents are:

- a) Powerful currents that flow away from the shore in the ocean.
- b) Strong currents that move parallel to the shoreline.
- c) Slow-moving currents that deposit sand on beaches.
- d) Underwater tunnels formed by wave erosion.

Q.5) With reference to the country Papua New Guinea, consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest island country in the world.
2. It is a constitutional monarchy and part of the Commonwealth.
3. Indonesia lies in its western side.

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.6) With reference to the Pigeon pea (Tur), consider the following statements:

1. It prefers well-draining, loamy to sandy soils for growth.
2. Cool and temperate climate with consistent rainfalls is most favorable for the cultivation of pigeon pea.
3. In India, around 80-90% of pigeon pea is intercropped.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Kiru Hydel Project is being developed over the –

- a) River Godavari
- b) River Narmada
- c) River Chenab
- d) River Kaveri

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Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Sweden is the largest country in terms of land area among the Nordic-Baltic countries.
2. All Nordic-Baltic countries are members of the European Union.
3. Poland is one of the Nordic-Baltic countries.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The Badwater Basin is located at Yellowstone National Park in the North America.
2. The Badwater Basin is known as the lowest point in North America.
3. Death Valley has extreme heat during summers and cool temperatures in winters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following countries:

1. Estonia
2. Latvia
3. Denmark

How many of the above countries are Nordic countries?

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

Q.11) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Flue Cured Tobacco':

1. It is primarily used for cigarette production.
2. It contains a higher sugar content.
3. It is yellow to orange in colour.
4. It requires minimal processing after harvest.

How many of the statements' given above are correct?

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

Q.12) Which one of the following Indian states does the 'Sharda River' NOT flow through?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Madhya Pradesh

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Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Kolleru Lake lies between deltas of Mahanadi River and Cauvery River.
2. Kolleru Lake is the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia.
3. Atapaka Bird Sanctuary serves as a habitat for various migratory bird species.

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.14) Jhum cultivation is a traditional practice prevalent in several northeastern Indian states. Which one of the following is the primary reason for the practice of burning vegetation before planting new crops?

- a) Clear land for cultivation efficiently.
- b) Release nutrients back into the soil.
- c) Control the spread of pests and diseases.
- d) Encourage the growth of specific plant varieties.

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Iron ore refers to naturally occurring rocks and minerals that contain enough iron to be economically extracted and processed.
2. Limonite, an iron oxide, has the highest iron content.
3. Iron ore serves as a crucial raw material for steel-making.
4. In recent years, China has become a major importer of Indian iron ore.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q. 6) With reference to the country Haiti, consider the following statements:

1. It is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.
2. Havana is its capital city.
3. The Dominican Republic borders Haiti on the eastern side of the island.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. The Holocene epoch is characterized by a relatively stable climate that supported the development of human civilization.
2. The Anthropocene epoch is distinct from the Holocene epoch because it emphasizes the absence of significant human impact on the environment.

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

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

Q.18) The 'Gulf of Tonkin' is a body of water located in:

- a) The Indian Ocean
- b) The South China Sea
- c) The Pacific Ocean
- d) The Caspian Sea

Q.19) Which one of the following is the largest lake in Nigeria?

- a) Lake Volta
- b) Lake Agulu
- c) Lake Oguta
- d) Lake Bosumtwi

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India is among the water stressed countries in the world.

Statement-II: India has only 11% of the total available freshwater resources in the world.

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.21) With reference to Critical Minerals, consider the following statements:

1. These are essential for manufacturing high-tech products like smartphones and electric vehicles.
2. Iron ore is considered as one of the critical minerals.
3. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) focuses on identifying and addressing issues related to critical minerals.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.22) Consider the following:

1. It is a kharif crop.
2. It requires temperature between 21 degrees Celsius and 30 degrees Celsius.
3. At least 200 frost free days is also necessary for the plant to mature.
4. Rainfall should range between 50-75 cm.

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

- a) Sesame
- b) Sugarcane
- c) Cotton
- d) Maize

Q.23) Which one of the following countries does NOT border the South China Sea?

- a) China
- b) Vietnam
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

Q.24) Which one of the following oceans borders Somalia to the east?

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

Q.25) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Vaitarna River: The Vaitarna river rises in the Sahyadri hill range in the Nasik district of Maharashtra State. It drains into the Arabian Sea near Mumbai. Left bank tributary-Tanya, Right bank tributaries- Pinjal, Dehraja, and Surya. It supplies much of Mumbai's drinking water. It is the largest river in the Northern Konkan region and drains Maharashtra's whole Palghar district. It is one of the west flowing rivers in the region North of Mumbai and South of the Tapi river. It is one of the most polluted rivers in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Rubber plant requires high temperature throughout the year – ranging between 20°-35°C or average monthly mean of 27°C. It requires heavy rainfall. The annual average rainfall of not less than 200 cm is optimum. Rubber tree thrives well when the distribution of rainfall is uniformly high all over the year. Deep, friable, well-drained soils are ideal for rubber cultivation They promote root development, and acidic soils are also suitable. Thailand is the leading Rubber producing country in the world. Thailand is followed by Indonesia and China at the second and third place respectively. India stands at fourth position in Rubber production. Traditional rubber-growing states comprising Kerala and Tamil Nadu account for 81% of production.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Ponmudi hills are also known as 'Golden Hill' or 'Golden Peak'. It is located in the state of Kerala. It is part of the Western Ghats Mountain range. The hills are a part of the Agasthyamalai landscape, at the southernmost tip of the Western Ghats. These hills are rich in biodiversity. Recently, the third species of damselfly has been discovered from this region. It is named Cliffside Bambootail (*Phylloneura rupestris*). It lays eggs in the moss beds over rock cliffs. It is endemic to the Western Ghats. It has been recorded only in the area between the Nilgiri Hills and Sharavathi Valley, north of the Palghat Gap.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

- Rip currents are strong currents that flow from the shore back to the open sea or lake. They form due to beach shapes and can happen in rocky or sandy beach areas. They may form in spaces between sandbars, piers, or sections of a reef. Rip currents are one of the most significant hazards for beachgoers and swimmers, as they can swiftly carry people out to sea. Rip currents do not pull swimmers underwater; rather, they pull swimmers away from the shore.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Papua New Guinea is an island country situated in the south-western Pacific. It is the world's third-largest island nation.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Papua New Guinea gained self-government on December 1, 1973, and became independent on September 16, 1975. It is a constitutional monarchy and part of the Commonwealth. The British monarch, represented by a governor-general, serves as the head of state,

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while the Prime Minister leads the government. It is a full-time member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Pacific Community, and the Pacific Islands Forum. Neighboring countries are: Indonesia to the west, Australia to the south, and the Solomon Islands to the south-east. It shares its land border only with Indonesia.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Pigeon pea prefers well-draining, loamy to sandy soils with a pH between 5.0 and 7.0 for optimal growth. This soil type allows for proper root development and helps prevent waterlogging, which can be detrimental to the plants. In India, around 80-90% of pigeon pea is intercropped, often with other crops like cereals, oilseeds, and other pulses. Intercropping helps improve soil fertility, reduces pest and disease incidence, and enhances overall productivity and income for farmers.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Pigeon pea thrives in warm, semi-arid, and sub-humid climates. It prefers temperatures between 20°C and 30°C and does not grow well in cool or temperate climates. Pigeon pea serves as a significant legume crop and a protein-rich food, mainly consumed as dal in India. In India, it is alternatively known as arhar and tur. It needs an annual rainfall of 600-650mm, along with moisture during the initial eight weeks and dry conditions during its flowering and pod development phase. It can be grown between 26°C to 30°C during the rainy season and 17°C to 22°C in the post-rainy season (November to March). It is highly sensitive to low radiation during pod development, so flowering in the monsoon or cloudy weather results in weak pod formation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Kiru Hydel Project is being developed over the Chenab River in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). It is a 624MW run-of-river project. Run-of-river project are hydroelectric systems that harvest the energy from flowing water to generate electricity in the absence of a large dam and reservoir. J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Union territories of Chandigarh & Delhi are the beneficiary states.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Sweden is the largest country by area in Northern Europe and the European Union, with 450,295 square kilometers.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Not all Nordic-Baltic countries are members of the European Union. For example, Norway and Iceland are part of the Nordic-Baltic region but are not EU members. Poland is not considered one of the Nordic-Baltic countries. It includes the governments of 8 countries of the north: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Badwater Basin is located in Death Valley National Park, which is situated in California and Nevada, United States.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Badwater Basin is known for being the lowest point in North America, with an elevation of 282 feet (86 meters) below sea level. Death Valley, where the Badwater Basin is located, experiences extreme heat during the summer months, with temperatures often exceeding 120°F (48.9°C). In contrast, winter temperatures in Death Valley can be relatively cool.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Denmark, along with Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Iceland, is part of the Nordic region. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are referred to as Baltic states. Except Iceland and Norway, all Nordic- Baltic countries, also known as Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) are the members of the European Union.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Flue-cured tobacco is a type of tobacco that is mainly used in the production of cigarettes. It is one of the most commonly grown tobacco varieties worldwide. It has a higher sugar content compared to other types of tobacco. This is because the curing process involves heating the leaves, which allows for the sugars in the leaves to caramelize and lock in a sweet flavor. The curing process of flue-cured tobacco turns the leaves a distinctive yellow to orange color. This color change is due to the heat applied during the curing process, which causes chemical reactions in the leaves and results in the characteristic color. In India, FCV tobacco is mainly produced in two states: a) Andhra Pradesh and b) Karnataka.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Flue-cured tobacco requires a significant amount of processing after harvest. The curing process, which involves heating the leaves in a controlled environment, is a critical step in preparing flue-cured tobacco for use in cigarettes. After curing, the leaves undergo further processing, such as aging and blending, before they are ready for use in the production of cigarettes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Sharda River, also called Kali River and Mahakali River, originates from Kalapani in the Himalayas, situated in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It flows through the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar before entering Nepal. It forms part of the border between India and Nepal, and eventually joins the Ghaghara River, a tributary of the Ganges River. Its tributaries are: Left-Chameliya, Ramgun in Nepal and Right-Kuthi, Dhauli, Gori, Sarju, Ladhiya rivers in Uttarakhand (India)

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Kolleru Lake lies between the deltas of the Godavari River and Krishna River.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia. Atapaka Bird Sanctuary, located at Kolleru Lake, serves as a habitat for various migratory bird species, including Grey Pelicans and Painted Storks.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Jhum cultivation, also known as slash-and-burn agriculture or shifting cultivation, is a traditional practice in northeastern India, as well as other parts of the world. The primary reason for burning existing vegetation before planting crops in the practice of Jhum cultivation is to release nutrients back into the soil. Weed and pest control and clearing the ground are also the benefit associated with burning. However, the primary reason behind burning is to release nutrients back into the soil.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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15. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Iron ore refers to naturally occurring rocks and minerals that contain enough iron to be economically extracted and processed. Around 98% of all mined iron ore is used in the steel production process. In recent years, China has been the largest importer of iron ore, with a significant portion of global iron ore exports going to the country due to its extensive steel production and infrastructure development. Over the past seven years, approximately 83% of Indian exports have been directed to China.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Magnetite and hematite are two common iron ores with higher iron content than limonite.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, with more than half of its population living below the poverty line and facing significant challenges related to access to basic services, natural disasters, and political instability. Its poverty rate is among the highest in the region, and the country often ranks low on various human development indices. The Dominican Republic borders Haiti on the eastern side of the island of Hispaniola. Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic, which is located to the east of Haiti.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Port-au-Prince is the capital city of Haiti. It is the largest city in Haiti and serves as its capital.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Holocene epoch is characterized by a relatively stable climate that supported the development of human civilization. The Holocene epoch started around 11,700 years ago and has witnessed the growth and expansion of human societies across the globe. During this time, the Earth's climate was relatively stable, which provided a favorable environment for agriculture, settlement, and other activities that facilitated the rise of civilizations.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Anthropocene epoch is distinct from the Holocene epoch not because it highlights the significant human impact on the Earth's systems. The Anthropocene concept argues that human activities, such as industrialization, deforestation, and large-scale agriculture, have become the dominant force shaping the planet's climate, geology, and ecosystems. This sets the Anthropocene apart from the Holocene, which is considered a period with relatively gradual changes in climate and life on Earth.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Gulf of Tonkin is a body of water situated in the northern part of the South China Sea. It is bordered by China in the northwest, Vietnam in the west and southwest, and Hainan Island (a province of China) to the east. The Gulf of Tonkin has strategic and economic significance due to its location, fisheries, and potential hydrocarbon resources.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (C)

- Oguta Lake is the largest natural lake in Nigeria, located in the state of Imo in the southeast. It is a "finger lake" formed by damming the lower Njaba River with alluvium. The lake's catchment area

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includes the drainage area of the Njaba River, and part of the river Niger floodplain in the region south of Onitsha.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. India is among the water-stressed countries in the world. Water stress refers to a situation where the demand for water exceeds the available supply, leading to issues such as scarcity, droughts, and inadequate access to clean water. India's water stress is caused by factors like its large population, rapid urbanization, inefficient water management practices, and climate change impacts.
- Statement-II is incorrect. India accounts for 18% of the world's population and about 4% of the world's fresh water resources.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Critical Minerals are essential for the production of high-tech products, including smartphones, electric vehicles, and renewable energy technologies. They have unique properties that make them crucial for various applications.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Iron ore is not typically considered a critical mineral. While iron is important for various industrial and construction applications, critical minerals usually refer to rare earth elements, precious metals, and other materials that are less abundant and more difficult to access. Examples of critical minerals include lithium, cobalt, rare earth elements, and platinum group metals. The International Energy Agency (IEA) focuses on identifying and addressing issues related to critical minerals. The IEA recognizes the importance of critical minerals in the transition to clean energy and the need to ensure their sustainable and secure supply.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- Cotton is an important fiber crop grown in India, primarily as a Kharif crop. It thrives in warm and humid conditions and has specific climatic requirements:
- Cotton is grown as a Kharif crop in India, with sowing typically done in the months of April-May, and harvesting occurring between September-November.
- It requires temperatures ranging between 21°C and 30°C for optimal growth.
- Cotton plants need around 200 frost-free days to mature and produce good quality fiber.
- Rainfall during the growing season should ideally range between 50-75 cm, as excessive rainfall can adversely affect the quality of the fiber.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (D)

- The South China Sea is a marginal sea located in Southeast Asia, bordered by several countries. The countries that border the South China Sea include: China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. 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](#)

25. 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

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Laws and regulations based on gender bias are regarded as unconstitutional.
2. Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to issue decrees or orders deemed necessary to achieve complete justice in any pending cause or matter within its jurisdiction.

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.2) Pandaram lands refers to:

- a) Agricultural land
- b) Form of land ownership
- c) Land given on lease by the government
- d) Land present near water bodies

Q.3) With reference to the Right to Information, consider the following statements:

1. The right to information is the right which ensures that the public become 'citizens' rather than becoming 'subjects' in a democratic state by having access to the flow of information regarding the functioning of the different arms of the government.
2. The Right to information has been mentioned explicitly as a fundamental right under the Article 19 (1) (a).

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.4) Which one of the following is the significance of the Sixth Schedule in the context of Indian governance?

- It grants special autonomy to tribal areas and protects their customary laws and practices.
- It establishes a system of dual citizenship for residents of tribal areas.
- It provides reservation in educational institutions and government jobs for tribal communities.
- It outlines the process for the creation of new states and Union Territories.

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

- Gram Sabha is the smallest and the only permanent unit in the Panchayati Raj system.
- Block Panchayat holds elections for the Panchayat Samiti council seats.
- Tax collection by panchayats has decreased in recent years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

- Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are required to pay taxes on their income derived from house property, and capital gains.
- The Chief Executive Officer of the political party bears the responsibility for filing the income tax return.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

- The term First Information Report (FIR) is not specified in the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- A copy of every General Diary (GD) of the police station is forwarded to the higher-ranking officers and the relevant Judicial Magistrate.
- General Diary (GD) is an internal police record which is not required to be provided to the complainant.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.8) With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- The CAG is appointed by the President of India.
- The primary function of the CAG of India is manage the national budget.
- The CAG is accountable to the Cabinet.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Q.9) Which one of the following statements best defines the term 'Liberal Democracy'?

- It refers to a mixed economy with both public and private ownership, extensive welfare programs, and a commitment to reducing social and economic inequalities through democratic means.
- It refers to a political system where there are regular elections, but the electoral process is heavily manipulated or controlled by the ruling authorities to maintain their grip on power.
- It refers to a political system where the powers of the government are limited by constitutional principles and institutions, and there is a separation of powers among different branches of government.
- It refers to a political system where the executive branch is unified with the legislative branch.

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct (2002) discourage judges from making comments that could influence a case and require them to disqualify themselves if they cannot decide a matter impartially.
- The Third Schedule in the Indian Constitution exempts judges from making oaths or affirmations as they are already appointed to uphold the Constitution and discharge their duties impartially.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

- State governments are empowered to modify the President's list of Scheduled Castes (SCs) if they find it necessary based on local demographics, social dynamics, and specific community needs.
- Under the ruling of Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, the Supreme Court declared that sub-classifications within socially and educationally backward classes for government services were permissible.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

- Election Commission, Public Service Commission, and Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) are required to perform their constitutional duties without any interference from the government.
- The CAG and the chairman/members of the Union Public Service Commission can take up any other employment with Central or State governments after resigning from office.
- A judge of a Supreme Court after ceasing to hold office cannot appear as a lawyer before any court or authority in India.
- The Indian Constitution does not impose restrictions on individuals who have served in independent constitutional positions from joining political parties.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- All four

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Q.13) The primary function of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is to:

- Manage and allocate spectrum resources for telecom services.
- Operate and maintain government-owned telecom infrastructure.
- Directly provide telecom services to consumers.
- Regulate the telecommunications sector in India.

Q.14) With reference to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

- These are rules that only govern the conduct of civil servants during election periods.
- The Election Commission of India is responsible for enforcing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.15) Consider the following statements with respect to the Competition Commission of India (CCI):

- It has been established under Competition Act, 2002.
- It can impose penalties on businesses found to be engaged in the violation of tax laws.
- It regulates the prices set by businesses.

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

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

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

- The Constitution envisages the Election Commission (ECI) as an independent body that is responsible for conducting free and fair elections.
- Under the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, a four-member Selection Committee is responsible for selecting ECs for the appointment.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

- Non-Personal Data (NPD) constitutes the primary kind of citizen data obtained by the government, which possesses the potential of serving as a 'public good'.
- Non-Personal Data Protection and Utilization Act (NPDPUA) 2023, regulates the use of NPD in India.

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

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

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Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for the allotment of symbols to the political parties.
2. In any electoral constituency across India, a candidate representing a National Party may be assigned an alternative symbol instead of the party symbol.

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. Under the Constitution, the terms of both state Assemblies and Lok Sabha is for five years from the first sitting of the House.
2. The term of the state assembly may be extended by Parliament when there is a proclamation of Emergency.

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 judge retires from the High Court at the age of 62 years.
2. According to the Constitution of India, a judge must observe a cooling-off period of up to two years after the retirement, before joining any political party.

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

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

Q.21) With reference to the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), consider the following statements:

1. It is like a rulebook for political parties and leaders during elections in India.
2. During the period of 'election silence' under the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), campaigning is prohibited.

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.22) The primary responsibility of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India is to:

- a) Manage airport operations and air traffic control.
- b) Oversee the safety and security of civil aviation.
- c) Promote competition among airlines within the domestic market.
- d) Handle customer complaints regarding airline services.

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Q.23) In the context of Strategic Litigation against Public Participation (SLAPP), seen in the news recently, which one of the following statements is correct?

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

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

- Unlike the states and national government in India, some city mayors hold both legislative and executive power within the city administration.
- 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).
- 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?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.25) Consider the following statements with respect to the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT):

- 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.
- A SAT bench must consist of ten members.
- Currently, SAT has only one functional bench located in Mumbai.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.26) Consider the following statements:

- 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.
- Advisory boards, under the various laws, have to review detention orders every three months to see whether there was sufficient cause for detention.
- 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.
- 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?

- 1, 2 and 3 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 1, 2 and 4 only
- 1, 3 and 4 only

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Q.27) 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.28) 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.29) 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.30) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 and 2 are correct. As per the SC, Laws and regulations founded on gender bias are unconstitutional. Article 142 grants the Supreme Court discretionary authority. Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to issue decrees or orders deemed necessary to achieve complete justice in any pending cause or matter within its jurisdiction.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Pandaram lands refer to a form of land ownership. The term "Pandaram" is derived from the Malayalam words "panda" (property) and "aram" (rent). Over 60% of the land in Lakshadweep, falls under the Pandaram lands. This land covers parts of Androth, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Minicoy, and Agatti islands, as well as six uninhabited islands.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The right to information is the right which ensures that the public become 'citizens' rather than becoming 'subjects' in a democratic state, by having unhindered access to the flow of information regarding the functioning of the different arms of the government- legislature, executive and judiciary.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Right to information has not been mentioned explicitly as a fundamental right in the constitution. SC has held Right to Information (RTI) to be a derivative of Article 19 (1) (a) which grants the freedom of speech and expression. RTI is also linked to the Indian constitution's Right to Life and Personal Liberty (Article 21).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution contains provisions related to the Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The primary objective of this

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schedule is to provide a degree of autonomy and self-governance to tribal communities while safeguarding their customary laws, practices, and traditions. The Sixth Schedule establishes Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) for these tribal areas, which have powers to make laws, manage land, and regulate traditional practices. These ADCs have the authority to legislate on various subjects, including land rights, forest management, and customary laws, which helps protect and preserve the unique cultural and social identity of tribal communities.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Gram Sabha is the smallest and the only permanent unit in the Panchayati Raj system. It is a village assembly consisting of all adult residents of a village or a group of villages. The Gram Sabha serves as the foundation of the Panchayati Raj system and plays a crucial role in decision-making, planning, and implementation of various development programs at the village level. Tax collection by panchayats decreased from ₹3,12,075 lakh in 2018-19 to ₹2,71,386 lakh in 2021-2022.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Block Panchayats do not hold elections for the Panchayat Samiti council seats. Rather, the block council consists of all of the Sarpanchas and the Upa Sarpanchas from each Gram Panchayat along with members of the legislative assembly (MLA), members of parliament (MPs), associate members (like a representative from a cooperative society) and members from the Zilla Parishad who are a part of the block. The Gram Panchayat members nominate their Sarpanch and Upa Sarpanch amongst their ranks, which extend to the selection of the chairperson and vice-chairperson as well. The Executive Officer (EO) is the head of the administration section of the Panchayat Samiti.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Political parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are not required to pay taxes on their income, including income derived from house property, and capital gains. Under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, political parties are given 100% tax exemption.
- Statement 2 is correct. Although political parties are exempted from paying taxes, they are still required to file their income tax returns. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer of the political party to file the return of income and also to sign and verify the same.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The term FIR is not specified in the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) of 1973, or any other legislation. However, within police regulations or rules, information documented under Section 154 of the CrPC is referred to as the First Information Report (FIR). General Diary (GD) is an internal police record, and there is no legal requirement to provide a copy of the GD to the complainant. However, the complainant or the victim has the right to receive a copy of the First Information Report (FIR) as per Section 154(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. General Diary (GD) is an internal record maintained by the police, and it is not mandatory to forward a copy of every GD entry to higher-ranking officers or the Judicial Magistrate. The GD is primarily used for internal communication, recording daily events, and tracking the progress of investigations.

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Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to Article 148 of the Indian Constitution, the CAG is appointed by the President of India for a term of 6 years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The primary function of the CAG is to audit the accounts of the Union and State governments, government-owned companies, and other entities that receive financial assistance from the government. The CAG's responsibility is to ensure that public funds are used efficiently and for the intended purposes. The CAG of India is accountable to the Parliament.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Liberal democracy is a form of government that emphasizes individual rights, liberties, and the rule of law. It is characterized by a system of checks and balances among different branches of government, such as the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, to prevent any single branch from becoming too powerful. This separation of powers ensures that no individual or group can wield absolute authority, thus protecting citizens' rights and promoting democratic values. Regular, free, and fair elections are another key feature of liberal democracies, allowing citizens to vote for their representatives in government and ensuring accountability. Additionally, liberal democracies uphold fundamental rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, which are often enshrined in a constitution.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct were adopted in 2002 as a set of ethical standards for judges, aiming to promote judicial integrity, impartiality, and independence. The principles emphasize that judges should avoid making statements or comments that could potentially influence the outcome of a case or prejudice the parties involved. Additionally, judges are expected to recuse themselves from cases where they cannot make an impartial decision due to potential conflicts of interest or personal biases.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Like other officials enumerated in the Third Schedule of the Indian Constitution, judges are constitutionally mandated to take an oath or affirmation. This oath includes a pledge to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law, to work without fear or favor, and to discharge duties impartially. The Third Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the oaths or affirmations that various constitutional functionaries, including judges, must take before assuming their respective offices.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. State governments do not have the authority to modify the President's list of Scheduled Castes. The classification of SCs is a central subject, and only the Parliament or the President has the power to make changes to the list of SCs, as per Article 341 of the Constitution. Under the Constitution of India, the President, in consultation with the Governor of the state concerned, has the power to specify the list of Scheduled Castes for each state.
- Statement 2 is correct. In the Indra Sawhney vs Union of India (1992) case, the Supreme Court upheld the concept of sub-classification within the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for the purpose of providing reservations in government services. The Court recognized that there are varying degrees

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of backwardness within the OBC category and that sub-classification would help ensure that the benefits of reservations reach the most deserving individuals and groups.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. The Election Commission, Public Service Commissions, and the CAG are constitutional bodies designed to function independently. This independence is crucial to ensure their impartiality and avoid undue influence from the government in power. According to the Constitution of India, a judge of the Supreme Court is not allowed to practice as a lawyer before any court or authority in India after ceasing to hold office. This restriction helps maintain the independence and impartiality of the judiciary. The Indian Constitution does not explicitly impose restrictions on individuals who have served in independent constitutional positions from joining political parties.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The CAG and the chairman/members of the Union Public Service Commission cannot take up any other employment with Central or State governments after resigning from office.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (D)

- The primary function of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is to regulate the telecommunications sector in India. TRAI is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, and other regulations in the sector. Its role includes protecting consumer interests, promoting fair competition, and facilitating the growth of the telecommunications industry in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The MCC is not only focused on the conduct of civil servants during election periods. It is primarily a set of guidelines for political parties, candidates, and their supporters to ensure free and fair elections.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for enforcing the Model Code of Conduct during elections. The ECI monitors and implements the MCC, and it has the authority to issue warnings or take action against violators to maintain the integrity of the electoral process.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The CCI was established under the Competition Act, 2002 to promote competition and prevent practices that have an adverse effect on competition in India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The CCI's primary responsibility is to enforce the Competition Act, 2002, which focuses on preventing anti-competitive practices and promoting fair competition in the market. It does not have the authority to impose penalties on businesses for violating tax laws. The CCI does not directly regulate the prices set by businesses. Its main role is to ensure that businesses do not engage in anti-competitive practices, such as price-fixing, bid-rigging, or abuse of a dominant position, which may harm consumers or other businesses.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

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16. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Constitution envisions the Election Commission of India (ECI) as an independent body responsible for conducting free and fair elections. Article 324 of the Constitution establishes the ECI, consisting of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two other Election Commissioners, to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Under the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, a three-member Selection Committee comprising the Prime Minister, Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha (or leader of the single largest opposition party) will select Election Commissioners for the appointment. A Search Committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary will suggest five names to the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee may consider any person other than those suggested by the Search Committee.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Non-Personal Data (NPD) is a primary kind of citizen data obtained by the government, which has the potential to serve as a 'public good' when utilized effectively for policy-making, service delivery, and other purposes that benefit society.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Unlike Personal Data, there is an absence of regulation for NPD. As of date, efforts have been made at the executive level to construct governance policies for the same. This means NPD in India as of now is unregulated.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Election Commission of India (ECI) is responsible for the allotment of symbols to political parties. The ECI assigns symbols to both recognized national and state parties as well as registered but unrecognized parties.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In any electoral constituency across India, a candidate representing a National Party is typically assigned the party symbol. A candidate fielded by a National Party in any election constituency across India must select and will be assigned the symbol exclusively reserved for that party, without any alternative symbol allocation.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

19. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Under the Constitution, the terms of both state Assemblies and Lok Sabha is for five years from the first sitting of the House. The term of the state assembly may be extended by Parliament when there is a proclamation of Emergency. However, the extension cannot exceed one year at a time and once the Proclamation has ceased to operate, the extension cannot be given beyond a period of six months, in any case.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. A judge in India retires from the High Court at the age of 62 years, as per the Constitution of India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. There is no such constitutional provision mandating a cooling-off period for retired judges before they can join a political party. However, there are ethical considerations and potential conflicts of interest that are debated when retired judges enter politics.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) can be considered a rulebook for political parties and leaders during elections in India. It aims to ensure free and fair elections, maintain a level playing field for all parties, and prevent any unethical or unfair practices. The MCC stipulates that when the "time of election silence" begins (usually 48 hours before the polling date), no campaigning activities are permitted. This allows for a cooling-off period before voters' head to the polls, giving them time to make informed decisions without being influenced by last-minute campaigning efforts.

Source: [DNA](#)

22. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary responsibility of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India is to oversee the safety and security of civil aviation. DGCA is the regulatory body for civil aviation in India, responsible for ensuring the safety, security, and efficiency of air transport.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

23. 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 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](#)

24. 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](#)

25. 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.

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- 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](#)

26. 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](#)

27. 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 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](#)

28. 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](#)

29. 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.

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- 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, subtitles, or sign language interpretation, making it difficult for them to enjoy and understand the content fully.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. 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

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. It will offer courses in sectors which are high in demand.
2. It will harness the potential of demographic dividends to promote rural development and advance socio-economic growth.
3. It will limit migration of Indian workers to other countries by providing financial assistance for starting small businesses.

Which of the above statements are correct with respect to the Skill India Centre, recently inaugurated by the government?

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

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Q.2) With reference to the National Livestock Mission (NLM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a scheme designed to enhance both the quantity and quality of livestock production systems.
2. National Dairy Development Board is responsible for implementing the National Livestock Mission (NLM).

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

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

Q.3) Which one of the following is the objective Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)?

- a) Developing infrastructure projects in bordering areas.
- b) Providing financial aid to border communities.
- c) Managing flood risks and protecting border areas.
- d) Resettlement of populations displaced by floods.

Q.4) The Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme is launched to:

- a) Provide scholarships to meritorious students for higher education.
- b) Promote research and development in universities and colleges.
- c) Improve the quality of education in primary and secondary schools.
- d) Enhance access, equity, and excellence in higher education.

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to the Agnipath Scheme:

1. It is aimed at recruiting young individuals for direct entry into the officer cadre of the military.
2. All recruits are hired only for a four-year period.

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) With reference to the Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to attract foreign direct investment in India.
2. It also facilitates the merger and acquisition of existing businesses.
3. Non-profit organizations working in the social development sector are one of its beneficiaries.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Island on the Air (IOTA) Expedition Programme was seen in the news recently, is associated with:

- a) Competition in radio communication speed contests
- b) Connecting amateur radio operators with stations on islands worldwide
- c) Developing new technologies for long-distance radio communication
- d) Raising awareness about environmental issues on islands through radio communications.

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Q.8) With reference to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), consider the following statements:

1. Under the Act, the Central Government is granted extensive authority to designate organizations as terrorist entities.
2. The law only applies to Indian citizens and only if the offenses take place within the territory of India.

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

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

Q.9) Which one of the following is the objective of the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat Mission?

- a) Increase school enrollment rates
- b) Improve overall academic performance in all subjects
- c) Equip children with essential reading, comprehension, and basic math skills
- d) Reduce dropout rates in primary education

Q.10) Consider the following statements with respect to the 'One Station, One Product' (OSOP) scheme:

1. The scheme aims to promote large-scale manufacturing units near railway stations.
2. Generic soft drinks are included in the OSOP scheme.
3. The scheme has been launched with a vision to promote "Buy Local, Support Local".

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.11) With reference to the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, how many of the following statements are correct?

1. The final decision on applications will be taken by the district committee headed by the Superintendent, Department of Post, in each State.
2. The implementation of the Act in the states is subject to approval by the state government.
3. The primary method for filing citizenship applications under CAA is by submitting applications through the designated local representatives.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.12) With reference to the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG), consider the following statements:

1. These are the annual national level multidisciplinary grassroots games in India.
2. The Khelo India Youth Games is open to all age groups.
3. The Khelo India Youth Games are organized by a consortium of private sports organizations.

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

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

Q.13) With reference to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Under Individual Forest Rights (IFR) of the FRA the right to protect and conserve the community forest has been granted to the individuals residing for generations within the forest.
2. The primary purpose of recognizing Community Forest Rights (CFR) under the FRA is to empower forest-dwelling communities to manage their traditional resources.

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.14) Consider the following statements:

1. Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 sets March 24, 1971 to determine eligibility for Indian citizenship in Assam.
2. The recent rules for the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 grants citizenship to specific communities by removing requirements for passports from their home countries or Indian visas.
3. The Assam Accord of 1985 aimed at addressing the issue of illegal immigration into Assam, protecting the cultural, social, and economic identity of the local people, and ensuring their political rights.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) With reference to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), consider the following statements:

1. It eliminates human interface in vendor registration, order placement and payment processing, to a great extent.
2. The government has made it mandatory for sellers to display the 'country of origin' on products to be sold on GeM portal.
3. It limits the entry of foreign bidders into the Indian market.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.16) Consider the following pairs:

Operations-----Objectives

1. Operation Dost----- Evacuating Indians and other foreign nationals from drought hit Nigeria.
2. Operation Ganga-----Airlifting Indian citizens, mainly students, from Ukraine during the Russian invasion.
3. Operation Indravati-----Evacuating Indian nationals from Haiti.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.17) 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.18) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Recently, the government inaugurated the first Skill India Centre (SIC) of the country in Sambalpur, Odisha. **Objectives:** It aims to empower youth with industry-relevant skills and democratize access to quality education and establish a level-playing field for the aspiring youth. The centre will offer courses in sectors which are high in demand. It will revolutionize the skilling landscape in India by offering enhanced accessibility, personalized learning experiences, and improved career guidance to learners. It will enable learners to acquire relevant skills and stay updated with industry trends. It will harness the potential of demographic dividends to promote rural development, nurture local entrepreneurship and advance socio-economic growth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The National Livestock Mission (NLM) aims to improve the availability of livestock products (like meat, milk, eggs) as well as increase the quality of livestock through breed development, better feed and fodder availability, and enhanced animal health services.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The National Livestock Mission (NLM) is implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

- The FMBAP is a scheme implemented by the Government of India to provide reasonable protection against floods and erosion in critical flood-prone areas, including border regions. The Scheme has two components: - 1) Flood Management Programme (FMP)- This includes work related to flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development and anti-sea erosion. 2) River Management and Border Areas (RMBA) component-This includes flood control and anti-erosion works on common border rivers with neighbouring countries, including hydrological observations and flood forecasting. The Scheme "FMBAP" has been framed by merging the components of two continuing XII Plan schemes titled "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" and "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA)".

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) scheme is launched to enhance access, equity, and excellence in higher education. This scheme aims at investing in infrastructural and academic development of higher education institutions to enhance access, equity, and excellence in higher education. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, launched by the Ministry of Education. It is in consonance with the objective of National Education Policy.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Agnipath Scheme is aimed at recruiting young individuals as soldiers, airmen, and sailors (personnel below the officer rank) in the Indian Armed Forces, not for direct entry into the officer cadre.

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- Statement 2 is correct. Under the Agnipath Scheme, recruits, known as Agniveers, are hired for a four-year period. After completing the four-year tenure, 25% of the Agniveers will be selected to continue their service in the Armed Forces, while the remaining 75% will be discharged with a financial package and potential opportunities for employment in other sectors.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana aims to provide individuals with comprehensive entrepreneurship training, creating job providers instead of job seekers. This initiative emphasizes the reskilling and upskilling of employees to boost their competitiveness and adaptability in an age of disruptive technology. It will provide extensive entrepreneurship training for 22 weeks, integrating theoretical understanding with practical experience through hands-on learning. The Government of India has collaborated with Flipkart to provide training to street vendors and small shopkeepers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Islands on the Air (IOTA) expedition program is an initiative aimed at promoting contacts between amateur radio operators (ham radio) and stations located on islands around the world. Amateur radio is a popular hobby involving the use of radio frequency spectrum for non-commercial purposes. HAM radio operators communicate using designated radio frequencies, engaging in diverse activities like contests, emergency communication support, experimentation, technical learning, and community engagement.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The UAPA allows the Central Government to designate an organization as a terrorist organization if it believes that the organization is involved in terrorism. The government can also add or remove organizations from the list of terrorist organizations as needed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The UAPA applies to both Indian citizens and foreign nationals, and its jurisdiction is not limited to offenses committed within the territory of India. The Act also applies to offenses committed outside India by Indian citizens, individuals residing in India, or companies incorporated in India, as well as offenses committed on Indian ships and aircraft registered in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- The NIPUN Bharat Mission was launched by the Indian government to ensure that every child in the country attains foundational literacy and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, with a target to achieve this goal by 2026-27. The mission focuses on developing reading, writing, and basic math skills among children, as these competencies are considered essential for their overall academic success and future prospects.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The OSOP scheme is designed to give visibility and a marketplace to locally produced, often small-scale, and indigenous products. It's about showcasing regional specialities. The concept of 'One Station One Product' was announced by the government in the Union

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Budget 2022-23. The scheme aims to build each railway station as a promotional hub and showcasing local and indigenous manufacturing products. The products under the OSOP scheme includes – Food items (Seasonal or Processed or semi processed foods), Handicrafts, Artefacts, Textiles, Handlooms, Traditional Garments, Local agricultural produce, Local toys, Leather products, Local Gems and Jewellery. The OSOP scheme was launched with a vision to promote 'Vocal for Local'. This would help the local manufacturers to sell their product and will create additional income opportunities for the marginalised sections of society.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The final decision on applications will be taken by the empowered committee headed by the Director (Census Operations) in each State, which will include officers from the Intelligence Bureau, the Post Master General, State or National Informatics Centre official, and a representative each from the Department of Home of the State government and the Divisional Railway Manager will be the invitees. The CAA 2019 is a central act, passed by the Indian Parliament, and does not require approval from individual state governments for its implementation. Citizenship is a subject under the Union List in the Indian Constitution, which means that the central government has exclusive power to legislate on this matter. Therefore, the implementation of the Act applies uniformly across all states in India. The primary method for filing CAA applications is through an online portal created for this purpose. There may be designated local representatives to assist with the process, but the main application is done online.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. KIYG is an annual national-level multidisciplinary grassroots sports event held in India, aimed at providing a platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and promote sports culture in the country.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. KIYG is specifically designed for young athletes in two categories: the Under-17 and Under-21 age groups. It is not open to all age groups. KIYG is a government initiative, organized by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the state governments and various national sports federations. It is not organized by private sports organizations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Under Individual Forest Rights (IFR) of the FRA, individuals are granted rights over specific forest land or habitat they have been residing in or cultivating. However, the right to protect and conserve the community forest is typically associated with Community Forest Rights (CFR), not Individual Forest Rights (IFR).
- Statement 2 is correct. The primary purpose of recognizing Community Forest Rights (CFR) under the FRA is to empower forest-dwelling communities to manage their traditional resources. By granting these rights, the FRA aims to enable communities to conserve and govern their customary forest resources in a sustainable manner.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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14. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 was a special provision inserted due to the Assam Accord. It establishes March 24, 1971, as the crucial date for determining citizenship eligibility in Assam. Recent rules associated with the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 aim to streamline citizenship for specific religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. One key change is the removal of the need for a passport from their home country or an Indian visa. Instead, "any document" that shows one of the parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents of the applicant were from one of these countries is sufficient to prove their nationality. Additionally, a certificate issued by an elected member of a local body can be a replacement for a visa. The Assam Accord of 1985 aimed at addressing the issue of illegal immigration into Assam, protecting the cultural, social, and economic identity of the local people, and ensuring their political rights. Section 6A of the Citizenship Act was introduced to give effect to the Assam Accord. It provides the framework to recognise migrants in Assam as Indian citizens or to expel them based on the date of their migration.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. GeM aims to significantly reduce human interaction in the processes. Its digital architecture automates vendor registration, the creation of product/service listings, order placement, and payment processing. This increased automation enhances transparency and efficiency. The Indian government has made it mandatory for sellers to display the 'country of origin' on products to be sold on the GeM portal. This move aimed to promote the 'Make in India' initiative and provide transparency to buyers regarding the origin of products they intend to purchase.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. GeM does not limit the entry of foreign bidders into the Indian market. Instead, it facilitates the participation of foreign bidders in government procurement, promoting competition and providing access to a larger pool of suppliers. However, foreign bidders need to comply with the relevant rules and regulations governing government procurement in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- 2 and 3 are correctly matched. Operation Dost (Operation Friend) was the search and rescue operation initiated by the Government of India to aid Syria and Turkey, after the 2023 Turkey–Syria earthquake devastated both countries on 6 February 2023. Recently, India has launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its citizens stranded in war-torn Haiti amid the intense fighting between the armed groups and the government.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

17. 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](#)

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18. 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

Q.1) The objective of 'T V Somanathan Committee' is:

- a) To conserve and protect the biodiversity of the Western Ghats.
- b) To streamline and finalize uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) norms across different sectors.
- c) To improve the agricultural sector and the welfare of farmers in India.
- d) To make recommendations for providing legal aid to the poor and disadvantaged.

Q.2) With reference to the World Happiness Report 2024, consider the following statements:

1. As per the report, none of the world's largest countries were among the happiest countries.
2. The report found that younger generations were happier than their older peers in most of the world's regions.
3. The ranking of India has improved from the last year in the index.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.3) 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.4) 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

Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)	3 - (a)	4 - (b)
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Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- T V Somanathan, who is the Finance Secretary of India, has chaired multiple committees to examine various aspects of the country's financial and economic systems. Some of the objectives of the committees include: Reviewing the National Pension System (NPS) for government employees and suggesting reforms to address the needs of the employees while maintaining fiscal prudence and Developing uniform Know Your Customer (KYC) norms across different sectors to streamline the process and make it more customer-friendly.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The World Happiness Report 2024 indicates that none of the world's largest countries, such as China, India, or the United States, are among the happiest countries. Smaller nations, particularly the Nordic countries like Finland, Denmark, Iceland, and Sweden, continue to dominate the top rankings. The report found that younger generations were happier than their older peers in some regions of the world, including Latin America, the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa. However, this trend does not apply universally to all regions.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. India's ranking in the World Happiness Report 2024 remained the same as the previous year, at 126th out of 143 countries. Despite having the world's second-largest elderly population, India's happiness ranking did not improve. The report highlights that older men, married individuals, and those with higher education levels in India reported higher life satisfaction.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

3. 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](#)

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4. 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

Q.1) In the context of Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH), which of the following statements are correct?

1. It aims to replace traditional healthcare systems with purely digital solutions.
2. The initiative is being led by the World Health Organization (WHO).
3. Digital Health includes a wide range of technologies and platforms aimed at improving access to healthcare, enhancing the quality of care.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP):

1. One of its objectives is to negotiate trade agreements between Asia-Pacific countries.
2. "Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report" is published by the UNESCAP.
3. It is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.3) With reference to the Raisina Dialogue, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, committed to addressing the most challenging issues facing the international community.
2. It is designed on the lines of Shangri-La Dialogue.
3. It is organized by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
4. Only South Asian countries are represented at the Raisina Dialogue.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.4) With reference to the India-Greece relations, consider the following statements:

1. India and Greece share common approach on UN reforms and the Cyprus issue.
2. Greece has ratified the Framework Agreement on the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. India and Greece are both members of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

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.5) With reference to the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international agreement that establishes a multilateral framework for collaboration across borders in the energy sector.
2. One of its focus areas is to establish a common energy pricing structure globally.
3. The ECT safeguards foreign investments in the energy sector.
4. It facilitates the transfer of energy-related technologies among member states.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) In relation to the World Trade Organization (WTO), consider the following statements regarding the 'G-33':

1. It emphasizes the need for special and differential treatment for developing countries in WTO agreements.
2. It supports the designation of certain agricultural products as "special products" for developing countries.
3. It promotes free trade and market liberalization in agriculture.

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 Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project:

1. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is being developed as part of the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal.
2. The main goal of the project is to demarcate boundary between both the 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

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Q.8) Which one of the following conducted the military exercise known as Steadfast Defender?

- a) European Union (EU)
- b) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- c) United Nations (UN)
- d) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Russian is one of the official languages of the African Union.
- 2. Peace and Security Council of the African Union is responsible for conflict prevention, management, and resolution.
- 3. The Africa Club aims to boost Africa's global financial influence by aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is primarily responsible for:

- a) Launching and operating astronomical observatories
- b) Funding research projects in astronomy
- c) Overseeing space exploration missions
- d) Establishing standards and classifications for astronomical objects

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Sweden, a Nordic country, has recently become a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Statement-II: NATO membership is open to all Nordic countries.

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.12) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The United States has replaced Russia as the primary defense supplier to India.
- 2. The United States is the world's largest arms exporter.
- 3. India remains the top global arms importer between 2019-23.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.13) Which of the following countries conducted naval drill named "Marine Security Belt 2024"?

- a) China, Iran, and Russia
- b) India, Russia and Israel
- c) Bangladesh, United States and Oman
- d) Australia, Japan and India

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Five Eyes (FVEY) alliance is a multilateral agreement focused on nuclear non-proliferation.
- 2. New Zealand is a member country of the Five Eyes (FVEY) alliance.
- 3. India and New Zealand share common views on Indo-Pacific security.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) India recently signed Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). In this context, consider the following statements:

- 1. Norway is the largest EFTA trading partner with India.
- 2. It is the first trade pact with a western nations' grouping that also includes provisions for non-trade issues.
- 3. One of the objectives of the TEPA is to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into India and create job opportunities.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.16) With reference to the United Nations, consider the following statements:

- 1. The primary purpose of a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly is to enforce international law.
- 2. The effectiveness of a UN resolution only depends on the number of countries that voted in favor of it.

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.17) Which one of the following is the significance of the "Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Friendship" signed in 1949 between India and Bhutan?

- a) It established full Bhutanese independence from British control.
- b) It formalized Bhutan's accession to the Indian Union.
- c) It guaranteed Bhutan's security and established close political ties with India.
- d) It delineated the entire India-Bhutan border.

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Q.18) The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is a regional economic organization established by former Soviet republics. Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of the EAEU?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Kyrgyzstan
- c) Belarus
- d) Tajikistan

Q.19) What does the term "Completely Built Unit" (CBU) refer to in the context of international trade?

- a) A partially assembled product requiring further work before use.
- b) Raw materials used in the manufacturing process.
- c) A finished product that is ready to use upon import.
- d) A product that is manufactured in one country and then exported in parts to another country for final assembly.

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. One of the objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is to resolve territorial disputes arising in the Indian Ocean.
2. IORA's apex body is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) which meets annually.
3. The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) is a regional security grouping focused on the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) With reference to the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) signed between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. As per the agreement, India can withdraw tariff concessions if investment targets aren't met by the EFTA countries.
2. The tariff concession, as per the agreement, applies to the gold imported from European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries to India.
3. India's exports to EFTA countries are expected to see a significant impact due to the agreement.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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Q.22) With reference to the Indo Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), how many of the following statements are correct?

1. It aims to establish a free trade agreement with strict tariff reductions among member countries.
2. 'Fair and Resilient Trade' is one of the pillars of the IPEF.
3. All countries participating in the IPEF have signed the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.23) The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is a specialized agency of:

- a) The World Bank
- b) The European Union
- c) The United Nations
- d) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Q.24) In the context of international law, which one of the following correctly distinguishes a UN resolution from a treaty?

- a) A UN resolution requires unanimous approval by all member states unlike a treaty.
- b) A treaty is legally binding, whereas a UN resolution is not binding.
- c) A treaty can only be initiated by the UN Security Council while a resolution can only be initiated in UN Secretariat.
- d) A UN resolution is ratified by the International Court of Justice, whereas a treaty requires approval from member parties to it.

Q.25) With reference to the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE), consider the following statements:

1. Its mission is to manage the global supply chain for hydrogen fuel.
2. India is one of the member countries of IPHE.
3. It also facilitates sharing information on policies, technology status, initiatives, and standards to promote the cost-effective transition to using fuel cells and hydrogen in the economy.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.26) Consider the following statements with respect to the 'UN Security Council':

1. It consists of 5 permanent member states and 10 non-permanent member states elected for 2-year terms.
2. The concept of "veto power" in the UN Security Council gives power only to the Secretary-General to veto resolutions.
3. Approving the admission of new member states to the United Nations is not a power of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

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.27) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum?

- a) Promote cultural exchange programs between member states.
- b) Foster collaboration and innovation amongst SCO member states' startups.
- c) Provide financial aid to struggling startups within the SCO.
- d) Establish trade agreements for specific industries within the SCO.

Q.28) With reference to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) that coordinates global telecommunications efforts.
2. It manages and allocates radio spectrum frequencies.

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.29) Consider the following statements:

1. Bhutan has joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. India is Bhutan's top trading partner and also the main source of investment.
3. The cooperation between India and Bhutan extends to digital projects like RuPay and BHIM, facilitating financial linkages between the two countries.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.30) 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.31) 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.32) 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.33) The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is also known as:

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

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Q.34) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The GIDH does not aim to replace traditional healthcare systems with purely digital solutions. Instead, it seeks to complement and enhance existing health systems by integrating digital technologies where appropriate and promoting a people-centered, ethical, and equitable approach to digital health.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. GIDH is being led by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with its partners. The GIDH aims to support countries in leveraging digital technologies to improve health outcomes, strengthen health systems, and achieve universal health coverage. Digital Health encompasses a wide range of technologies and platforms, such as telemedicine, mobile health applications, electronic health records, and artificial intelligence, all aimed at improving access to healthcare, enhancing the quality of care, and promoting health equity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. UNESCAP's primary objectives do not include negotiating trade agreements between Asia-Pacific countries. Instead, it focuses on promoting economic and social development, regional cooperation, and integration in the Asia-Pacific region. It provides technical assistance and capacity-building services to support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It's headquartered is at Bangkok, Thailand.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report is published by UNESCAP. This report provides an overview of the progress made by countries in the region towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlights key challenges and opportunities for further advancement. UNESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations, focusing specifically on the Asia-Pacific region. The other four regional commissions are the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, focusing on addressing the most pressing global issues. It is designed on the lines of the Shangri-La Dialogue. It was inaugurated in 2016. 2024 is the 9th Edition. Theme for 2024- Chaturanga: Conflict, Contest, Cooperate, Create.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. The Raisina Dialogue is organized by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The Raisina Dialogue typically invites participants from various countries and regions, not just South Asian countries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India and Greece share a common approach on many initiatives, including UN reforms and the Cyprus issue. Greece has ratified the Framework Agreement on the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA is an India-led initiative that aims to promote the use of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. India is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), while Greece is not.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) is an international agreement that establishes a multilateral framework for cross-border cooperation in the energy sector. The ECT safeguards foreign investments in the energy sector by offering protection against non-commercial risks such as expropriation, transfer restrictions, and unfair treatment. It facilitates the transfer of energy-related technologies among member states by promoting cooperation in energy efficiency, research, and development.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The ECT does not focus on establishing a common energy pricing structure globally. Instead, it aims to facilitate trade and investment in the energy sector by providing a stable and transparent legal framework.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. G-33 countries is a coalition of developing nations known as the "Friends of Special Products". The G-33 was formed in 2003 during the WTO negotiations known as the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). It originated as a response to the concerns of developing countries regarding the unequal playing field in agricultural trade negotiations. Despite the name, there are currently 47 member nations. Some of the main countries include India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, Philippines, Turkey, Tanzania, Kenya, and South Korea. A core focus of the G-33 is ensuring special and differential treatment (S&DT) provisions within the WTO agreements to support developing countries' economic needs. The "Special Products" (SP) mechanism is advocated by the G-33. It allows developing countries to designate strategically important agricultural items for less stringent tariff reductions and protection. Special products are those agricultural items that are crucial for food security, rural livelihoods, and rural development in developing countries.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The G-33 prioritizes safeguarding the interests of developing countries in agriculture over promoting free trade and market liberalization. While the WTO advocates for free trade principles, the G-33 emphasizes addressing specific concerns of developing countries in agriculture, which may require temporary safeguards or exemptions from complete market liberalization.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is a joint venture between India and Nepal, and it is being developed in accordance with the Mahakali Treaty signed between the two countries in 1996. The treaty aims to promote cooperation and collaboration in the development of the water resources of the Mahakali River, which forms part of the border between the two countries. The treaty recognizes the Mahakali River as a boundary river between the two countries.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary goal of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is to harness the water resources of the Mahakali River for multiple purposes, including hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, and flood control. The project is expected to benefit both countries by providing clean energy, improving food security, and enhancing water management.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Steadfast Defender is a NATO-led military exercise designed to test and improve the alliance's ability to defend its member nations against various threats. The exercise involves participation from NATO member states, as well as partner nations, and focuses on enhancing interoperability, coordination, and military readiness among the participating forces.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The African Union (AU) is a continental union consisting of 55 member states across Africa. It was established to promote unity, peace, and socioeconomic development among African nations. The AU's objectives include fostering political stability, economic integration,

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and addressing social issues such as poverty and conflict. The official languages of the African Union are: Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, Any other African language.

- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) is a key organ of the African Union responsible for promoting peace, security, and stability across the continent. Its main functions include conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts. Africa Club is an alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (which are African-owned and controlled). It was launched at the 37th African Union Summit. It aims to amplify Africa's influence in the global financial system by aligning its functions with the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063. It seeks to introduce innovative financial instruments, provide a venue for debt management discussions and foster collaborative effort to address the specific needs of African countries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (D)

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) is primarily responsible for establishing standards and classifications for astronomical objects. It is the global authority for naming celestial bodies, such as stars, planets, and asteroids, as well as their surface features. The IAU also sets standards for astronomical measurements and coordinates international collaboration in astronomy. It was founded in 1919. Its headquarters is in Paris, France. It also collaborates with scientific organizations globally.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement-I is correct. Sweden formally joined NATO on March 7, becoming the 32nd member of the alliance. This marks a significant shift in Sweden's foreign policy, as the country had maintained a stand of neutrality for decades after World War II.
- Statement-II is also correct. NATO membership is open to all European countries, including the Nordic countries, provided they meet the necessary criteria and follow the admission process outlined in the NATO treaty. NATO's open-door policy allows any European country to apply to join, but they must commit to defense spending of 2% of GDP. The policy is based on Article 10 of the Washington Treaty, which states that membership is open to any "European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area.
- However, Statement-II does not explain the Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the latest Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) data, Russia remains the primary defense supplier to India, accounting for 36% of its arms imports. However, its share in Indian imports has decreased to less than half for the first time since the 1960s.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The United States has been the world's largest arms exporter for several years, accounting for a significant share of global arms exports. SIPRI data indicates that India has been the world's largest importer of major arms for several years, including the period between 2019 and 2023. This is primarily due to India's efforts to modernize its armed forces and maintain its military capabilities in the context of regional security challenges.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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13. Correct Answer is (A)

- The "Marine Security Belt 2024" is a joint naval exercise conducted by China, Iran, and Russia. The exercise is aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing interoperability, and promoting regional security among the participating nations. The drills typically involve various naval operations, including anti-piracy, search and rescue, and maritime security exercises.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Five Eyes (FVEY) Alliance is an intelligence-sharing alliance between Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. New Zealand is a member of the Five Eyes (FVEY) Alliance, along with Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. India and New Zealand share common views on Indo-Pacific security, including a commitment to a rules-based order, respect for international law, and a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Switzerland is the largest EFTA trading partner with India, followed by Norway.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) is the first trade pact India has signed with a western nations' grouping. The agreement not only focuses on trade-related issues like tariffs and market access but also includes provisions for non-trade issues, such as intellectual property rights, labor, and environmental standards. One of the objectives of the TEPA is to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) into India and create job opportunities. The other objectives are: Boosting bilateral trade, Promoting cooperation, etc.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The primary purpose of a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) is to express the collective opinion or recommendations of the member states on international issues. UNGA resolutions are not legally binding in the same way that international treaties or rulings from the International Court of Justice are. The effectiveness of a UN resolution does not depend solely on the number of countries that voted in favor of it. Other factors, such as the political will of member states, the resolution's language and specificity, and the availability of resources for implementation, can also influence a resolution's impact. In some cases, a resolution may have limited effect even if it receives widespread support, particularly if powerful countries oppose it or fail to take action on it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Friendship, signed in 1949 between India and Bhutan, holds great significance as it guaranteed Bhutan's security and established close political ties with India. The treaty marked the beginning of a strong bilateral relationship and allowed Bhutan to maintain its independence while benefitting from India's support and assistance. This treaty affirmed perpetual peace and friendship between the two nations, outlined non-interference in each other's internal affairs, established free trade and extradition protocols, and made Bhutan a protected state without becoming a protectorate of India.

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Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (D)

- The EAEU is a free trade agreement that came into effect in 2015. Its main goals are to improve the competitiveness of its member states' economies, increase cooperation among them, and promote stable development to raise the standard of living in all member states. The EAEU's institutions include: Supreme Eurasian Economic Council, Eurasian Commission, and Court of the Eurasian Economic Union. The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has five member states: Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (C)

- In the context of international trade, the term "Completely Built Unit" (CBU) refers to a finished product that is ready to use upon import. A CBU is a fully assembled and operational product manufactured in one country and imported as a whole by another country. It doesn't require any additional assembly, testing, or finishing work, making it convenient for immediate use by consumers or businesses in the importing country.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary objectives of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) focus on promoting regional cooperation in various areas such as maritime safety and security, trade and investment, fisheries management, disaster risk management, tourism, and academic and cultural exchange. Resolving territorial disputes is not a stated objective of IORA.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The apex body of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is the Council of Foreign Ministers (COM), which meets annually to discuss and decide on IORA's overall direction, policy, and activities. The COM is responsible for reviewing the progress of IORA's objectives and providing guidance on its future work. The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) is a regional security grouping focused on the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). It aims to enhance cooperation in areas such as maritime security, counterterrorism, and disaster relief.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries includes a provision that allows India to withdraw tariff concessions if the expected investment targets are not met. This arrangement aims to ensure that the agreement promotes mutual growth and benefits for both parties. TEPA sets out a target of a \$100 billion investment into India from EFTA countries, and consequent one million jobs over a 15-year period. It also provides India the ability to withdraw its tariff concessions if such expected investment is not achieved.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The tariff concessions under the TEPA do not apply to gold imports from EFTA countries to India. The agreement primarily focuses on boosting trade in goods and services, intellectual property rights, and investment. Gold, which accounts for 80% of the merchandise imports from EFTA countries, as well as dairy, soya, coal and some sensitive agricultural products have been excluded from India's tariff concession list. India's exports to EFTA countries are unlikely to be significantly impacted because most products already face low or zero tariffs under the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status. For instance, approximately 98% of India's

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\$1.3 billion merchandise exports to Switzerland consist of industrial products with zero tariffs, while the remaining 2% are agricultural products with minimal trade values.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) does not aim to establish a traditional free trade agreement with strict tariff reductions among member countries. Instead, it focuses on setting standards and policies in various areas, including digital trade, supply chain resilience, clean energy, and labor rights, to promote a more level playing field and foster cooperation among member countries. Participation in IPEF is independent of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). CPTPP is a separate free trade agreement with different members. Some IPEF members are also in CPTPP, but not all.
- Statement 2 is correct. Fair and Resilient Trade is one of the pillars of the IPEF. This pillar aims to promote high-standard, inclusive, free, and fair-trade commitments that support a robust and resilient supply chain, as well as sustainable economic growth for all member countries. IPEF has four pillars: trade, supply-chain resilience, clean economy, and fair economy (tax and anti-corruption) under the economic initiative. Except for India and Malaysia, the rest of the countries have joined all four pillars.
- Note: India has recently decided to participate in one of the cooperative work programmes introduced under the 'clean energy pillar' of the IPEF.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (C)

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN). The WMO's primary purpose is to facilitate international cooperation in atmospheric sciences, climate, hydrology, and related disciplines, including the coordination of global weather and climate monitoring, research, and the standardization of meteorological measurements and terminology.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (B)

- A treaty is a formal, legally binding agreement between states or other international legal entities, governed by international law. Once ratified, states are obligated to adhere to the terms of a treaty. A UN resolution, on the other hand, is a formal expression of the opinion or will of the United Nations organs, such as the UN Security Council or General Assembly. While UN resolutions are not legally binding, they carry significant political weight and can influence state behavior. Member states are expected to follow the recommendations in these resolutions, but they are not legally obligated to do so.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. IPHE's primary goal is to facilitate and accelerate the transition to clean and efficient energy and mobility systems using hydrogen and fuel cell technologies across applications and sectors. It aims to promote and advance research, development, and deployment of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. IPHE consists of 23 member countries and the European Commission. The member countries include major economies such as the United States, Japan, Germany, China, South Korea, Canada, and India. It facilitates the sharing of information on policies,

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technology status, initiatives, codes, and standards among member countries to promote the cost-effective transition to using fuel cells and hydrogen in the economy.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

26. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The UNSC consists of 5 permanent member states (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and 10 non-permanent member states that are elected for 2-year terms by the United Nations General Assembly. Approving the admission of new member states to the United Nations is not a power specifically assigned to the UNSC. The admission of new members is determined by the United Nations General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The UNSC's role is to evaluate and provide recommendations on membership applications, but the final decision is made by the General Assembly, which needs a two-thirds majority vote to admit a new member state.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The concept of "veto power" in the UNSC refers to the ability of the 5 permanent member states to block the adoption of resolutions that are brought to the Council. A negative vote or "veto" from any of the permanent members can prevent the adoption of a resolution, even if all other members support it. The Secretary-General does not have veto power in the Security Council.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary objective of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Startup Forum is to foster collaboration and innovation amongst SCO member states' startups. The SCO Startup Forum aims to promote cooperation and exchange of knowledge between startups from SCO member countries. It seeks to encourage innovation, create job opportunities, and provide mentorship to entrepreneurs, helping them to scale up their businesses and contribute to the economic development of the member states.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

28. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) responsible for issues related to telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs). It coordinates global efforts between governments and private sector entities in the telecommunications industry.
- Statement 2 is correct. One of the primary functions of the ITU is to manage and allocate radio spectrum frequencies for various purposes, such as broadcasting, satellite communication, mobile networks, and aeronautical and maritime navigation. This helps prevent interference and ensures efficient use of the limited frequency resources available globally.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

29. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Bhutan has not joined China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It is the only India's neighbour that is not a part of BRI.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India is Bhutan's top trading partner and the main source of investment. The two countries share close economic ties, and India plays a significant role in Bhutan's socio-economic development. India remains Bhutan's top trading partner and also the main source of investment, accounting for 50% of FDI. There has also been a focus on increasing

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cooperation in newer areas like space, fintech and e-learning. India and Bhutan have extended their cooperation to digital projects like RuPay and BHIM, facilitating financial linkages between the two countries. The collaboration aims to promote digital financial services and strengthen bilateral economic relations.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

30. 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 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](#)

31. 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](#)

32. 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](#)

33. 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

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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](#)

34. 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 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

Q.1) With reference to the Rubber Board of India, consider the following statements:

1. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It sets and enforce minimum wages for rubber plantation workers.
3. It issues licences to rubber producers, manufacturers, and exporters/traders.

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. It recommended maintaining the vertical devolution of divisible tax revenues at 41%.
2. It recommended to establish a Fiscal Oversight and Accountability Commission (FOAC) with the authority to issue binding directives to both the central government and state governments.
3. It recommended the fiscal deficit to be brought down to 4% of GDP by 2025-26 by the central government.

Which of the above are the recommendations made by the Fifteenth Finance Commission?

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

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Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is considered as a major source of non-debt financial resource for the economic development.
2. Under the Automatic route, FDI of up to 100% will be permitted for the manufacturing of components, systems, or sub-systems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments.

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

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

Q.4) In a recently conducted All India Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2022-23, it was found that there was an increase in average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE). What does it imply?

- a) It suggests that inflation has decreased, leading to an overall reduction in the cost of goods and services.
- b) It indicates a rising disposable incomes of households, narrowing inequality between rural and urban areas, and declining poverty levels.
- c) It signifies that the population growth rate has decreased.
- d) It suggests that the cost of living in India has decreased.

Q.5) With reference to the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), consider the following statements:

1. These are government-controlled banks that provide loans to farmers at subsidized interest rates.
2. They provide short-term, and medium-term agricultural loans to the farmers.
3. PACS have the capacity to extend agricultural credit with minimal paperwork within a short time.

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.6) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: At present, India imports all of its required potash for fertilizers.

Statement-II: India lacks sufficient reserves of nitrogen and phosphorus, which are crucial components in fertilizer production.

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

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

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Q.7) With reference to the Sudarshan Setu bridge, recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister, consider the following statements:

1. It is the country's longest cable-stayed bridge.
2. It connects Mandvi with Porbandar.
3. It is on the Arabian Sea.
4. The bridge was earlier known as 'Signature Bridge'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.8) A decrease in the unemployment rate is generally associated with:

- a) Increased government spending
- b) Lower economic growth
- c) Higher consumer spending
- d) Rising inflation rates

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The British constructed the first railway line in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir from Jammu to Sialkot.
2. Banihal-Sangaldan railway line is a part of the Jammu-Poonch Railway Line project.
3. Banihal-Sangaldan railway line includes India's longest tunnel.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India's research and development (R&D) expenditure is relatively low compared to other major economies.

Statement-II: India places a priority on allocating resources towards addressing socio-economic challenges such as poverty reduction, healthcare enhancement, and education.

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

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

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Q.11) The 13th Ministerial Conference (MCA 13) of the World Trade Organization has recently implemented fresh regulations aimed at streamlining international trade in services, applying them on a Most Favored Nation (MFN) basis. Which one of the following is the implication of the new regulations for member countries?

- a) Developing countries receive special treatment in terms of service trade.
- b) They can impose stricter regulations on service providers from certain countries.
- c) All member countries must offer the same level of market access to service providers from other member countries.
- d) They can offer preferential treatment to specific trading partners in the service sector.

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

- 1. One of the reasons for the decline in resources allocated to southern states is the income distance criterion used by the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- 2. The Fifteenth Finance Commission utilized population data from 1971.
- 3. The Fifteenth Finance Commission proposed a new framework for fiscal management for both central and state governments.

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) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) utilizes sell/buy swap agreements primarily to:

- a) Influence exchange rates between the Indian Rupee and other currencies
- b) Manage the short-term availability of cash (liquidity) in the Indian banking system
- c) Directly invest in foreign financial markets
- d) Provide emergency loans to individual banks facing financial difficulties

Q.14) In which one of the following ways does high food inflation affect the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) interest rate decisions?

- a) It accelerates interest rate cuts to stimulate economic growth
- b) It delays interest rate cuts to mitigate inflationary pressures
- c) It leads to an increase in interest rates to attract foreign investment
- d) It encourages the RBI to maintain current interest rates

Q.15) Systemically Significant Digital Enterprises (SSDEs) was seen in the news recently, refers to –

- a) Small-scale digital startups
- b) Large digital enterprises with considerable market presence
- c) Digital startups focusing on niche markets
- d) Individual consumers in the digital space

Q.16) Which one of the following organizations in India is responsible for issuing a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) license?

- a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- c) The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- d) The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

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Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. India ranks third globally in generating PhDs annually after the United States and China.
2. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in India play a major role in overall Research and Development (R&D) investment.

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

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

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India's exports through e-commerce platforms from Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are significantly lower compared to China's.

Statement-II: MSMEs in India lacks the potential to compete in export markets in sectors like handicrafts, handloom textiles, and leather goods.

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.19) A decreasing Wholesale Price Index (WPI), accompanied by rising food prices, suggests:

- a) Overall inflation is under control.
- b) The cost of living is still high for consumers.
- c) There is a deflationary trend in the economy.
- d) Prices are falling due to a decrease in demand for goods.

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Sela tunnel is world's longest twin tunnel.
2. Sela tunnel was constructed using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM).
3. Sela tunnel aims to facilitate the movement of goods for international trade.

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

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

Q.21) With reference to the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), consider the following statements:

1. It is a specialized financial investigation agency functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is responsible for enforcing Income Tax Act, 1961.
3. Investigation of financial frauds and money laundering falls under the purview of the Directorate of Enforcement.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.22) Consider the following statements:

1. Tracking inflation and adjusting wages and pensions.
2. Comparing the cost of living in different regions.
3. Measuring the overall health of the economy.
4. Setting individual tax rates.

For how many of the above purposes is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) used?

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

Q.23) A country experiencing a large trade deficit due to rising imports might see:

- a) An appreciation of its domestic currency.
- b) A depreciation of its domestic currency
- c) No significant impact on its currency exchange rate.
- d) An increase in its foreign exchange reserves.

Q.24) The term "blue chip" refers to stocks of companies that are:

- a) Newly launched and have high growth potential.
- b) Small and have volatile stock prices.
- c) Well-established and financially stable with a long history of success.
- d) Prone to high dividends but with slow growth.

Q.25) Which one of the following statements about 'core inflation' is correct?

- a) It includes the price changes of all goods and services.
- b) It excludes the price changes of food and energy due to their volatility.
- c) It measures inflation experienced by low-income households.
- d) It is always lower than headline inflation.

Q.26) When the central bank of a country decides to lower its benchmark interest rate. Which one of the following will likely be the impact on borrowing rates and bond yields?

- a) Borrowing rates will decrease, while bond yields will decrease.
- b) Borrowing rates will increase, while bond yields will increase.
- c) Borrowing rates will decrease, while bond yields will increase.
- d) Borrowing rates will increase, while bond yields will decrease.

Q.27) Consider the following statements with respect to the Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT):

1. It is the only debt financing mechanism for large-scale government infrastructure projects.
2. InvIT are regulated by the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
3. Investors receive a guaranteed fixed returns when investing through InvITs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.28) Consider the following statements:

1. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the minimum price at which farmers are legally allowed to sell their crops.
2. The MSP is announced annually for 23 crops covering both the kharif and rabi seasons.
3. MSP system has played a crucial role in safeguarding food security in India.
4. Only 6% of farmers, primarily those cultivating paddy and wheat in States such as Punjab, benefit from MSP.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.29) If the US Federal Reserve decides to raise interest rates, which one of the following would be the most likely consequence for India?

- a) Increased borrowing costs for Indian businesses and consumers
- b) A stronger Indian Rupee compared to the US Dollar
- c) A surge in foreign direct investment in Indian companies
- d) A decrease in inflation rates in India

Q.30) In which one of the following ways, does a weaker U.S. dollar usually affect global gold prices?

- a) It decreases gold prices
- b) It increases gold prices
- c) It has no effect on gold prices
- d) It leads to fluctuations in gold prices

Q.31) Which one of the following regulatory bodies oversees Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in India?

- a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- c) Ministry of Finance
- d) National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Q.32) Which one of the following statements correctly describes 'Real GDP'?

- a) The total market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given year, adjusted for inflation.
- b) The total market value of all goods and services produced within a country in a given year, regardless of inflation.
- c) The total income earned by residents of a country in a given year.
- d) A measure of the total wealth of a country.

Q.33) 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

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Q.34) 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.35) 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.36) 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.37) 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.38) 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.

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Q.39) 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.40) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Rubber Board functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is responsible for the overall development of the rubber industry in India by assisting and encouraging research, development, extension, and training

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activities related to rubber. It issues licenses to various stakeholders in the rubber industry, including rubber producers, manufacturers, and exporters/traders. This is done to ensure that the industry adheres to the regulations and standards set by the government and to facilitate the smooth functioning of the sector. It maintains statistical data of rubber. The Board also takes steps to promote marketing of rubber and undertake labor welfare activities. It is responsible for the development of the rubber industry in the country by assisting and encouraging research, development, extension and training activities related to rubber. The Board is headed by a chairman appointed by the Central Government.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Rubber Board is not responsible for setting and enforcing minimum wages for rubber plantation workers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Fifteenth Finance Commission, led by N. K. Singh, made several recommendations for the period from 2021 to 2026. It recommended maintaining the vertical devolution of divisible tax revenues at 41%. This implies that 41% of the central government's net tax revenues would be shared with the state governments. The Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended that the central government bring down the fiscal deficit to 4% of GDP by 2025-26. This recommendation aimed to promote fiscal consolidation and macroeconomic stability at the central level.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It recommended that a comprehensive framework for public financial management should be developed. An independent Fiscal Council should be established with powers to assess records from the centre as well as states. The Council will only have an advisory role.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is considered a significant source of non-debt financial resources for economic development. FDI contributes to the inflow of capital, technology, and expertise, which can help boost the host country's economy, create jobs, and improve infrastructure. Under the Automatic route, the Indian government permits FDI of up to 100% for the manufacturing of components, systems, or subsystems for satellites, ground segments, and user segments. This is part of India's efforts to liberalize its FDI policy and attract foreign investments in various sectors, including space technology and satellite manufacturing.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (B)

- An increase in the Average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) generally suggests that households have more disposable income to spend on goods and services. This could be indicative of improving economic conditions, increased income levels, and a potential reduction in poverty. Additionally, a rise in MPCE in both rural and urban areas might suggest a narrowing of the income gap between these regions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. PACS are not government-controlled banks. They are member-owned, cooperative societies that operate at the village or Gram Panchayat level. They are part of the Short-

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Term Cooperative Credit Structure and function under the supervision of respective state governments and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. PACS provide short-term and medium-term agricultural loans to farmers to meet their cultivation expenses, working capital needs, and other agricultural requirements. One of the advantages of PACS is their ability to extend agricultural credit with minimal paperwork and within a relatively short time. Their grassroots presence allows them to have a better understanding of the local needs and to process loan applications more quickly compared to traditional banks.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct: India imports all of its required potash for fertilizers due to a lack of commercially viable domestic reserves.
- Statement-II is incorrect: India has sufficient reserves of nitrogen and phosphorus. It's the potash that's the limiting factor in terms of domestic fertilizer production.
- **More information** – India is the second-highest consumer of fertilisers after China. Potash derived from molasses (PDM) is a potassium rich fertilizer that is produced as a by-product of the sugar-based ethanol industry. It is derived from the ash generated during the distillation process in molasses-based distilleries. The government has allowed sugar mills to sell potash from molasses (PDM) to fertilizer companies. This assists mills in earning additional revenue and qualifying for nutrient-based subsidies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Sudarshan Setu bridge is the country's longest cable-stayed bridge. It has a unique design, featuring a footpath adorned with verses from Srimad Bhagavad Gita and images of Lord Krishna on both sides. The bridge is energy efficient as solar panels installed on the bridge will provide electricity for the illumination of the bridge at night. It is on the Arabian Sea. The bridge was earlier known as 'Signature Bridge'. It has now been renamed as 'Sudarshan Setu' or Sudarshan Bridge.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It connects Beyt Dwarka island to mainland Okha in Gujarat's Devbhumi Dwarka district.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (C)

- A decrease in the unemployment rate is generally associated with higher consumer spending. As more people find employment, their disposable income rises, allowing them to spend more on goods and services. Lower unemployment rates generally signify a healthier economy, which can increase consumer confidence.

Source: [The Tribune](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The British constructed the first railway line in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1897. It stretched over a distance of 40-45 km between Jammu and Sialkot in the plains. The Banihal-Sangaldan railway line includes the country's longest tunnel, the 12.77-km-long T-50 tunnel.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Banihal-Sangaldan railway line is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. Over 90% of this 48 km line runs through tunnels in the hilly Ramban district.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I: India's research and development (R&D) expenditure is around 0.64% of GDP, which is relatively low compared to other major economies. There has been a decline in science funding from 0.8% in 2008-2009 and 0.7% in 2017-2018 to 0.64 currently.
- Statement-II: India, like many developing countries, faces various socio-economic challenges, such as poverty, education, healthcare, and infrastructure development. The government often prioritizes addressing these immediate needs over investing in long-term R&D initiatives. As a result, public spending on R&D is limited. Along with this, there are other reasons behind low R&D investments like limited private sector investment, Regulatory Issues, Under-utilization of allotted funds, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Most Favored Nation (MFN) principle, which is a fundamental pillar of the World Trade Organization (WTO), requires that each member country treat all other member countries equally in terms of trade policy. In the context of the new regulations aimed at streamlining international trade in services, applying MFN means that member countries must offer the same level of market access to service providers from all other member countries. The regulations address the bureaucratic hurdles in cross-border service trade, aiming to simplify procedures and ensure equal opportunities for service providers globally.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The income distance criterion is one of the factors used by the Finance Commission to determine the allocation of resources to states. It is calculated as the difference between a state's per capita income and the state with the highest per capita income. Since southern states generally have higher per capita incomes, this can lead to a relative decrease in their resource allocation. Distance criterion means that the farther a State is from the highest income State, the higher its share. The Commission recommended a new fiscal management framework, which included targets for the Centre and states to reduce their fiscal deficits and debt levels over the medium term. The framework aimed to promote fiscal sustainability and improve the financial health of both central and state governments.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Fifteenth Finance Commission used population data from the 2011 Census for making recommendations on the distribution of resources between the Centre and states.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) utilizes sell/buy swap agreements primarily to manage the short-term availability of cash (liquidity) in the Indian banking system. These agreements involve the RBI selling a certain amount of foreign currency (e.g., US dollars) to banks in the domestic market and agreeing to buy it back at a later date. This helps to increase the supply of foreign currency in the domestic market and manage liquidity conditions. Sell/buy swaps can also indirectly influence

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exchange rates between the Indian Rupee and other currencies by affecting the supply and demand for foreign currency in the domestic market. However, the primary purpose of these agreements is to manage liquidity and ensure the smooth functioning of the banking system rather than to directly target exchange rates or invest in foreign financial markets.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- High food inflation affects the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) interest rate decisions by delaying interest rate cuts. When food inflation is high, it contributes to overall inflation in the economy. The RBI, as the central bank of India, has a primary objective of maintaining price stability in the economy. One of the tools it uses to achieve this goal is the manipulation of interest rates. When inflation is high, the RBI may choose to delay cutting interest rates or even increase interest rates to make borrowing more expensive. This, in turn, can help mitigate inflationary pressures by reducing the money supply in the economy and cooling down demand.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Systemically Significant Digital Enterprises (SSDEs) is a term used to describe large digital enterprises with a significant market presence, which have the potential to impact the overall economy and financial stability. The concept of SSDEs has gained attention from regulators and policymakers due to concerns related to data privacy, market competition, and potential systemic risks arising from the operations of these large digital enterprises. These enterprises are deemed to have a substantial impact on the digital ecosystem due to their size, market dominance, and influence.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (C)

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is responsible for issuing Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) licenses in India. NPCI is an umbrella organization for all retail payments systems in India, and it operates under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). TPAPs are entities that provide apps or platforms enabling customers and businesses to make and receive payments through India's popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The TPAP license ensures that the third-party application providers meet the prescribed security standards and adhere to the guidelines set by the RBI and NPCI, maintaining the safety and integrity of the digital payment ecosystem in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India has become a prominent producer of academic talent, generating 40,813 PhDs annually, ranking third globally after the United States and China.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) play a minor role in overall R&D investment, contributing only 8.8% (\$1.5 billion). In India, Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) is primarily driven by the government sector, including the central government (43.7%), State governments (6.7%), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) (8.8%), and the public sector industry (4.4%), with the private sector industry contributing only 36.4% during 2020–21.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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18. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. India lags behind China in e-commerce exports through MSMEs. There are various reasons for this, including logistical hurdles and regulatory complexities.
- Statement-II is incorrect. MSMEs in India have demonstrated significant potential and competitiveness in these sectors, and the Indian government has been implementing various schemes and initiatives to further promote their growth and export capabilities. The issue lies more in addressing challenges related to access to finance, technology, and global markets, as well as improving overall ease of doing business.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (B)

- When the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) decreases but food prices rise, it suggests that while there might be a decline in prices for some goods at the wholesale level, essential items like food are becoming more expensive. This situation can lead to an increase in the cost of living for consumers, as they need to spend more on essential goods despite the overall decrease in wholesale prices.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the strategically significant Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh. The tunnel is situated at an altitude of 13,700 feet in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, on the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang road connecting Tezpur (Assam) to Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh). It is world's longest twin tunnel built at an altitude of above 13,000 feet. The tunnel was constructed using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM). It is the highest tunnel in the country. It provides all-weather connectivity to Tawang via the Sela Pass, as well as to other nearby areas along the border with China near the Line of Actual Control (LAC).
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Sela Tunnel has immense strategic value for India, providing all-weather connectivity to Arunachal Pradesh and the Tawang region, bordering China. This enhances the Indian military's ability to move troops and equipment quickly. It also improves connectivity for the local population and aids in the economic development of the region. However, facilitating the movement of goods for international trade is not the aim of the tunnel.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Ministry of Finance. The ED is not responsible for enforcing the Income Tax Act, 1961. The Income Tax Department is responsible for administering and enforcing this act.
- Statement 3 is correct. Investigation of financial frauds and money laundering fall under the purview of the Directorate of Enforcement, as per the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used for the following purposes:
- **Tracking Inflation:** CPI is the primary tool to measure changes in price levels over time.

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- **Adjusting wages and pensions:** CPI helps ensure the purchasing power of wages and pensions remains stable against inflation.
- **Comparing cost of living:** CPI allows for comparisons of living expenses between different regions or cities. It can be used to compare the relative cost of living across various regions by assessing the differences in prices of goods and services.
- **Measuring the overall health of the economy:** Inflation rates, measured by CPI, are a key indicator of economic health.
- However, CPI is not directly used to determine individual tax rates. Tax policy is more often influenced by factors like income bracket and government spending needs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (B)

- When a country experiences a large trade deficit due to rising imports, it typically leads to a depreciation of its domestic currency. A trade deficit means that the country is importing more goods and services than it is exporting. As a result, the demand for foreign currencies increases, causing the domestic currency to weaken or depreciate in the foreign exchange market. A depreciating currency may lead to higher inflation, as imported goods and services become more expensive for domestic consumers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (C)

- The term "blue chip" refers to stocks of companies that are well-established and financially stable with a long history of success. Blue-chip stocks are typically associated with large, reputable, and financially sound companies that have demonstrated consistent performance and growth over an extended period. These companies are often market leaders in their respective industries and are considered relatively safe investments due to their track record of weathering economic challenges.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Core inflation is calculated by excluding certain volatile components, such as food and energy prices, to better capture the underlying trend of inflation in an economy. This exclusion helps provide a clearer picture of the long-term inflation trend, making it a more reliable indicator for policymakers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Benchmark interest rate:** This is the rate at which the central bank lends money to commercial banks. It acts as a reference point for other interest rates in the economy.
- **Impact on borrowing rates:** When the central bank lowers its benchmark rate, it becomes cheaper for commercial banks to borrow money. This, in turn, leads them to lower interest rates on loans given to businesses and individuals. So, borrowing rates decrease.
- **Bond Yields:** Bonds are a form of debt, and their yield represents the return investors get. When interest rates go down, the existing bonds (with higher fixed interest rates) become more attractive. This increases demand for those bonds, driving their prices up and, consequently, lowering their yields.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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27. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) are not solely debt financing mechanisms. They are investment schemes similar to mutual funds that pool money from various investors, including both debt and equity components, to finance infrastructure projects, providing a diversified investment portfolio. InvITs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Investors in InvITs do not receive guaranteed fixed returns. The returns are based on the performance of the underlying infrastructure projects, which may be subject to various market, regulatory, and operational risks. Investors may receive periodic distributions of cash flows generated by the underlying infrastructure assets, but these distributions are not guaranteed and can fluctuate over time.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

28. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is not the minimum price at which farmers are legally allowed to sell their crops. It is a benchmark price set by the government to ensure a minimum level of income for farmers. If market prices fall below MSP, the government procures the crop from farmers at MSP to support them. MSP is not a legally mandated minimum price.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. The MSP is announced annually for 23 crops covering both the kharif and rabi seasons, well in advance of sowing, with 21 of them being food crops. These crops include paddy, wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, and some other cash crops. The MSP system has played a crucial role in safeguarding food security in India. By providing a guaranteed price for farmers, it incentivizes the production of key staple crops such as rice and wheat, which helps ensure sufficient domestic food supply. Only 6% of farmers, primarily those cultivating paddy and wheat in States such as Punjab, benefit from MSP.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- When the US Federal Reserve raises interest rates, it typically makes borrowing more expensive for US businesses and consumers. This, in turn, can attract foreign capital seeking higher returns, leading to an appreciation of the US Dollar relative to other currencies, including the Indian Rupee. As a result, Indian businesses and consumers may find it more expensive to borrow funds from international markets and repay US Dollar-denominated debts, causing an increase in borrowing costs.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

30. Correct Answer is (B)

- When the U.S. dollar weakens, it often leads to an increase in global gold prices for several reasons:
- Gold is predominantly priced in U.S. dollars on international markets. When the dollar weakens, investors holding other currencies can purchase gold at a relatively cheaper price, increasing demand for the precious metal.
- Gold is considered a safe-haven asset and a hedge against inflation, currency devaluation, and financial market instability. When the U.S. dollar weakens, investors tend to move their capital into safe-haven assets like gold, pushing its prices higher.
- A weaker U.S. dollar can lead to concerns about the stability of the global financial system, further boosting demand for gold as a store of value and a safe-haven investment.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

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31. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulatory body that oversees Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in India. Its responsibilities include: Formulating regulations and guidelines for ETFs, Approving and registering ETFs, Monitoring and supervising the activities of ETF providers, Protecting the interests of investors in ETFs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (A)

- Real GDP is a measure of a country's economic output that has been adjusted to account for changes in the price level (inflation or deflation). It reflects the actual quantity of goods and services produced within a country, rather than the nominal value of those goods and services. By removing the effects of inflation, Real GDP provides a more accurate picture of a country's economic growth and standard of living over time.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

33. 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](#)

34. 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](#)

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35. 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 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](#)

36. 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](#)

37. 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](#)

38. 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](#)

39. 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](#)

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

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Environment

Q.1) With reference to the Bull Shark, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is commonly found worldwide in warm, shallow waters.
2. It can thrive in both salt and fresh water.
3. They are also known as freshwater sharks.
4. They are categorized Vulnerable in the IUCN List of Threatened Species.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.2) In the context of the Green Anaconda, which of the following statements are correct?

1. They usually inhabit tropical rainforests and prefer shallow, slow-moving waters like streams, rivers, and flooded grasslands.
2. They are categorized as Endangered in the IUCN List of Threatened Species.
3. They belong to a group of snakes known as constrictors, which aren't venomous.
4. They are not well-adapted to the aquatic environment.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Q.3) With reference to Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtle, consider the following statements:

1. These turtles are found in Southeast Asia, including parts of India.
2. These turtles are primarily carnivores.
3. They are listed Critically endangered in the IUCN List of Threatened Species.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.4) The Sub-National Climate Resilient Green Fund (SNCRGF) is a global blended finance initiative that invests in developing countries' mid-sized climate-resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions. In which one of the following scenarios would a sub-national entity likely apply for funding from the SNCRGF?

- a) Developing a national climate policy framework
- b) Implementing a renewable energy project in a rural area
- c) Constructing a new highway network in an urban center
- d) Establishing a national climate research institute

Q.5) With reference to the Spotted deer, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It is a large species of deer, which has a particularly elegant and charming appearance.
- 2. They are most active during the dawn and dusk.
- 3. They are known for their solitary lifestyle.
- 4. These deer prefer moderate to dense forests and grasslands near water sources.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- 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.6) Which one of the following conservation statuses has the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) assigned to the Bengal tiger population residing within the Kali Tiger Reserve?

- a) Critically Endangered
- b) Endangered
- c) Vulnerable
- d) Near Threatened

Q.7) Which one of the following is the primary mechanism through which stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) aims to address climate change?

- a) Absorption of greenhouse gases
- b) Direct reduction of atmospheric carbon dioxide levels
- c) Reflection of incoming solar radiation
- d) Ocean acidification mitigation

Q.8) Consider the following statements with reference to the North Atlantic Right Whales:

- 1. They are categorized 'Critically Endangered' in the IUCN List of Threatened Species.
- 2. These whales are classified as toothed whales.
- 3. It lacks a dorsal fin and has a broad back.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.9) With reference to Water Hyacinth, consider the following statements:

1. It is a freshwater aquatic plant known for its vibrant purple flowers.
2. The rapid growth of water hyacinth increases water clarity.
3. Water hyacinth grows well in cold climates.

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

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Assam.
2. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of Barking deer in the world.
3. The proposal for denotification of any Sanctuary/National Park requires recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife as per the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.11) With reference to the Namdapha Tiger Reserve, consider the following statements:

1. The reserve is located in Rajasthan.
2. It is the westernmost reserve of India.
3. It is crossed from east to west by the Noa Dihing River.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities are enshrined in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) uses Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) to examine possible futures of the energy and climate system and economies.

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

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

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Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Minerals like lithium, cobalt, and copper, are essential for clean energy technologies like electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems.
2. Despite significant investments in renewables, India still continues to receive support from the World Bank to accelerate transition towards renewables.

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

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

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. Shipping accounts for nearly 13% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.
2. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) emission reduction target from international shipping includes at least a 20% reduction in absolute GHG emissions compared to 2008 levels, and striving for a 30% reduction by 2030.

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.15) With reference to Vechur cow, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare breed of cattle indigenous to Kerala.
2. It is one of the largest indigenous breeds of cattle found in India.
3. The White Revolution led to a decline in the Vechur population.

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.16) With reference to Great Indian Bustard, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the heaviest flying birds, endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
2. It lives in arid and semi-arid grasslands.
3. It is categorized as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.17) With reference to the North Atlantic Right Whale, consider the following statements:

1. They primarily occur in Atlantic coastal waters on the continental shelf.
2. They are categorized 'Endangered' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
3. They have stocky black bodies with no dorsal fins.

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) In the context of the Ranthambore National Park, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is located at the junction of the Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges.
2. It is bounded to the north by the Bhavani River and to the south by the Barak River.
3. Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary and Sawai Mansingh Wildlife Sanctuary are connected to the core of Ranthambore National Park.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.19) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Biomining of Legacy Waste', seen in the news recently?

- a) It involves using advanced chemical processes to extract valuable metals from electronic waste.
- b) It refers to the utilization of organic materials to accelerate the decomposition of waste in landfills.
- c) It is a process where microorganisms are used to break down and extract valuable resources from old landfill sites in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- d) It involves the use of traditional mining techniques to extract minerals and resources from abandoned mines.

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Microplastics are defined as any solid plastic particle insoluble in water, with dimensions between 1 μm and 1,000 μm .
2. Biodegradable plastics are plastics that can be recycled multiple times without degradation.

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

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

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Q.21) 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.22) 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.23) 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.24) 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Bull sharks are found worldwide in warm, shallow waters along coasts and in rivers. They prefer water temperatures above 20°C and can be found in both marine and freshwater environments. Bull sharks are euryhaline and can thrive in both salt and fresh water. They are categorized as Vulnerable on the IUCN List of Threatened Species.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While bull sharks can inhabit freshwater environments, they are not specifically known as freshwater sharks. They are commonly referred to as bull sharks due to their aggressive nature and stocky shape.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Green Anacondas inhabit tropical rainforests, swamps, and grasslands, preferring shallow, slow-moving waters such as streams, rivers, and flooded grasslands. The Green Anaconda belongs to a group of snakes known as constrictors, which are not venomous. Constrictors kill their prey by wrapping their bodies around them and squeezing tightly until the prey suffocates. They then swallow their prey whole, using their unhinged jaws.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. Green Anacondas are currently listed as a species of "Least Concern" by the IUCN. Green Anacondas are well-adapted to their aquatic environment. They have adaptations such as nostrils located on top of their snouts, allowing them to breathe while remaining submerged, and their powerful, muscular bodies enable them to move efficiently through water and constrict their prey.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

3. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Cantor's Giant Softshell Turtles is also known as the Asian giant softshell turtle and the frog-faced softshell turtle. They inhabit inland, slow-moving, freshwater rivers, lakes, streams, and estuaries. It is found in eastern and southern India, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, eastern and southern China. It is a species known for its rarity and secretive nature. It spends most of its life buried and motionless, with only their eyes and mouth protruding from the sand. These turtles are primarily carnivores (piscivores) feeding on fish, crustaceans, and mollusks. They are heavily harvested by locals for meat. Conservation status-IUCN: Critically endangered, CITES: Appendix II, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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4. Correct Answer is (B)

- The SNCRGF specifically targets mid-sized climate-resilient infrastructure and nature-based solutions within developing countries. This aligns well with a renewable energy project in a rural area, promoting cleaner energy solutions and potentially addressing climate adaptation needs. A renewable energy project in a rural area aligns with the fund's objectives, as it can contribute to climate resilience, promote sustainable development, and provide benefits to local communities. The other options (a, c, and d) are either national-level initiatives or may not necessarily contribute to climate resilience and sustainable development.
- Recently, Goa became the 1st state to get the World Bank backed Sub National Climate Resilient Green Fund.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Spotted deer, also known as chital or cheetal, are a large species of deer with a graceful and attractive appearance. They have a distinctive reddish-brown coat covered with white spots, which gives them their name. They are generally most active during dawn and dusk, which is typical of many deer species. These times of day are known as "crepuscular" periods, when many animals are active. They prefer moderate to dense forests, as well as grasslands, and are often found near water sources. They typically inhabit areas with a mix of vegetation types, including open grassy areas for grazing and dense forest for shelter and cover from predators. IUCN status: Endangered. It is native to the Indian subcontinent (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh)
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Spotted deer are social animals, living in herds. These herds can vary in size, but they are not solitary creatures.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Kali Tiger Reserve, earlier known as Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve, is located in the central portion of the Uttara Kannada (North Canara) district of Karnataka state. The Tiger Reserve comprises two important protected areas of the region viz., Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary (475.018 Km²) and Anshi National Park (339.866 Km²). Forests of the Tiger Reserve are primarily moist deciduous and semi-evergreen, with excellent patches of evergreen forests in the westernmost parts as well as in deep valleys. The Kali River flows through the tiger reserve and is the lifeline of the ecosystem. Kali Tiger Reserve is home to rare black panthers.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI) is a proposed geoengineering technique that involves injecting reflective aerosol particles (such as sulfate aerosols) into the stratosphere to combat climate change. The primary goal of SAI is to increase the Earth's albedo (reflectivity) by scattering incoming solar radiation back into space. This scattering effect reduces the amount of solar energy absorbed by the Earth, leading to a cooling effect that can help mitigate the impacts of global warming. It aims to replicate the cooling impact of volcanic eruptions by introducing sulphur dioxide (SO₂) directly into the stratosphere. Within the stratosphere, the SO₂ transforms into sulfate aerosols that reflect sunlight.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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8. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The North Atlantic Right Whale is considered critically endangered (as per the IUCN), with an estimated population of fewer than 400 individuals. One of the distinguishing features of the North Atlantic Right Whale is the absence of a dorsal fin. Instead, they have a broad, rounded back with a series of callosities (rough, hardened patches of skin) on their head and lips, which are unique to each individual whale. Right whales communicate using low-frequency moans, groans, and pulses.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. North Atlantic Right Whales belong to a group of whales known as baleen whales. Baleen whales are characterized by the presence of baleen plates in their mouths instead of teeth. These plates are made of keratin and are used to filter small organisms, such as krill and plankton, from the water as the whale feeds.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a freshwater aquatic plant that is characterized by its purple flowers. The plant has broad, glossy green leaves and produces clusters of flowers on a single stalk. Water hyacinths are native to the Amazon Basin in South America but have been introduced to various parts of the world, where they often become invasive.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The rapid growth of water hyacinth can actually decrease water clarity. When water hyacinth populations explode, the dense mats they form on the water's surface can block sunlight penetration, preventing photosynthesis in submerged aquatic plants. This can lead to decreased oxygen levels in the water, which can negatively impact aquatic life and contribute to the decline of water clarity. Additionally, as water hyacinths die and decompose, the decomposition process can release nutrients and organic matter into the water, further reducing water clarity. Water hyacinth is a tropical plant and thrives in warm climates. It prefers water temperatures between 20°C and 30°C and grows best in areas with high nutrient levels and abundant sunlight.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Morigaon district of Assam, India. It covers an area of approximately 38.81 square kilometers and is known for its diverse flora and fauna. According to the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the proposal for denotification of any Sanctuary or National Park requires the recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife. The National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body responsible for promoting the conservation and development of wildlife and forests in India. It is the apex advisory body for the Central Government in matters relating to wildlife conservation and management.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam is known for its great Indian One-horned rhinoceros. The sanctuary has the highest density of rhinos in the world.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Namdapha Tiger Reserve is situated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh in northeastern India. Namdapha Tiger Reserve is India's easternmost tiger reserve. It harbours the northernmost lowland evergreen rainforests. It is the fourth largest national park in India. It is a biodiversity hotspot in the Eastern Himalayas.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Noa Dihing River flows through the Namdapha Tiger Reserve from east to west.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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12. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities are indeed enshrined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These principles recognize the varying responsibilities, capabilities, and circumstances of different countries in addressing climate change, with developed countries taking the lead in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) uses Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs) to analyze possible future scenarios for the energy and climate systems, as well as economies. IAMs are essential tools that help the IPCC explore various pathways and assess the potential outcomes of different climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. IAMs are complex models that examine possible futures of the energy and climate system and economies. Its macroeconomic models can point to future growth levels in terms of GDP; its energy models can project future consumption; vegetation models can examine land-use changes; and earth-system models use the laws of physics to understand how climate evolves. With such integration across disciplines, IAMs are meant to provide policy-relevant guidelines on climate action.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Minerals like lithium, cobalt, and copper are essential for clean energy technologies such as electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems. Lithium is a key component in the production of lithium-ion batteries used in EVs and energy storage, while cobalt is used in the cathodes of lithium-ion batteries. Copper is essential for the manufacturing of EVs, solar panels, and wind turbines due to its high electrical conductivity. Despite significant investments in renewable energy, India still receives support from the World Bank to accelerate its transition towards renewable energy sources. The World Bank has provided financing for solar park expansion, rooftop installations, low-carbon energy development, and power-sector reforms in Himachal Pradesh. This support demonstrates the World Bank's commitment to assisting India in achieving its sustainable development goals.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Shipping, which transports around 90% of world trade, accounts for nearly 3% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.
- Statement 2 is correct. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) emission reduction target from international shipping includes:
 - 2030: At least a 20% reduction in absolute GHG emissions compared to 2008 levels, and "striving for" a 30% reduction
 - 2040: At least 70% reduction in GHG emissions below 2008 levels, and "striving for" 80% reduction
 - 2050: Net-zero GHG emissions

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Vechur cow is a rare breed of cattle indigenous to Kerala, specifically from the Vechur village in Kottayam district. It is the smallest cattle breed in the world and is known for its high milk-producing capacity despite its small size. The White Revolution, which focused on increasing milk production in India through cross-breeding of indigenous cows with high-yielding foreign breeds, led to a decline in the Vechur population.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. They are known for being the smallest cattle breed in the world.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is one of the heaviest flying birds, endemic to the Indian subcontinent. It is a large, terrestrial bird that is well-adapted to arid and semi-arid landscapes. It lives in arid and semi-arid grasslands, with a preference for open, dry and uncultivated areas. It is categorized as "Critically Endangered" in the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. North Atlantic right whales primarily occur in Atlantic coastal waters on the continental shelf, which is a relatively shallow underwater landmass that surrounds continents. They are known to inhabit areas along the eastern coast of North America, from Canada to Florida, USA. North Atlantic right whales have a distinctive appearance, characterized by their stocky black bodies and the absence of a dorsal fin. They also have rough patches of skin called callosities on their heads, which appear white due to whale lice and can help identify individual whales.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. North Atlantic right whales are listed as "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Ranthambore National Park is located in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan. It is located at the junction of the Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges, in the southeastern part of Rajasthan, India. This unique location contributes to the park's diverse flora and fauna. The Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary and Sawai Mansingh Wildlife Sanctuary are connected to the core of Ranthambore National Park. Together, these areas form the larger Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, which is crucial for the conservation of the endangered Bengal tiger and other wildlife species.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Ranthambore National Park is bounded to the north by the Banas River and to the south by the Chambal River.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

19. Correct Answer is (C)

- Biomining of Legacy Waste is a process where microorganisms are used to break down and extract valuable resources from old landfill sites, such as metals and minerals, in an environmentally sustainable manner. It involves excavation of legacy waste, stabilizing the waste using bioremediation, segregation of excavated waste and then sustainable management and its safe disposal. The methods of biomining include Bioleaching, Bio-oxidation, Dump leaching, and Agitated leaching. Biomining allows to recycle resources by extracting useful components from the waste such as metal, as compost in fertilizer, etc. It is eco-friendly, environmentally sustainable, and after using this technique, it can be used as the contaminated land for other purposes.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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20. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Microplastics are defined as any solid plastic particle that is insoluble in water and has dimensions ranging from 1 μm (micrometer) to 1,000 μm (or 1 mm). These tiny plastic particles can originate from various sources, including the breakdown of larger plastic debris, synthetic textile fibers, and microbeads found in personal care products. Microplastics pose a significant threat to aquatic ecosystems and can also accumulate in the food chain, causing potential harm to human health.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Biodegradable plastics are plastics that can be broken down by living organisms, such as bacteria or fungi, within a reasonable timeframe. They are designed to decompose naturally in the environment, reducing the long-lasting impact of traditional, non-biodegradable plastics. Biodegradable plastics are not necessarily plastics that can be recycled multiple times without degradation. Instead, biodegradable plastics are designed to break down naturally into harmless substances such as water, carbon dioxide, and biomass under specific environmental conditions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. 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](#)

22. 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](#)

23. 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.

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- 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](#)

24. 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 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

Q.1) Quasars are:

- a) Massive stars nearing the end of their lifespan.
- b) Extremely luminous, distant objects powered by supermassive black holes.
- c) Large clouds of gas and dust where new stars are born.
- d) Asteroids composed of mostly ice and rock.

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Rhodamine-B is a chemical commonly used for dyeing in various industries.
2. As per the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006, preparation, packaging, importing, selling and serving food items with Rhodamine-B in public events is a punishable offence.

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

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements with reference to the Brain-Computer Interface (BCI):

1. BCI uses telepathy to communicate with computers.
2. BCIs have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from neurological disorders.

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

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

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Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Seasonal influenza (flu) is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses.
2. The most common mode of transmission of the influenza virus is the ingestion of contaminated food.
3. Influenza virus is a single-stranded RNA virus.

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.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Cervical Cancer is primarily caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
2. In India, cervical cancer is the second most frequent cancer among women between the ages of 15 and 44.

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) With reference to the Cryogenic engines, consider the following statements:

1. Russia was the first country to developed the first operational cryogenic engine for space applications.
2. Cryogenic engines are particularly efficient for launching payloads into interstellar space.
3. It uses extremely low temperatures for propulsion.
4. It uses mixes of liquefied gases (usually hydrogen and oxygen), which deliver greater thrust to weight.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The CE20 cryogenic engine is an advanced propulsion system developed by ISRO.
2. A human rating of a spacecraft highlights the functionality of on-board scientific instruments.

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

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

Q.8) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the term "Solar Maximum"?

- a) It is a sudden and intense burst of energy on the Sun's surface, often accompanied by the release of electromagnetic radiation across the entire spectrum.
- b) It is a continuous stream of charged particles (mostly electrons and protons) flowing outward from the Sun into the solar system.
- c) It refers to the period in the solar cycle when the Sun's activity is at its highest level, characterized by an increased number of sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs).
- d) It is a massive expulsion of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona into space.

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Q.9) Which one of the following statements is correct with respect to the Ultra-processed food?

- a) It refers to foods that undergo minimal processing before consumption.
- b) These are foods that are processed with natural ingredients only.
- c) It refers to foods that undergo multiple processing stages and often contain additives.
- d) These are foods that are only prepared at home.

Q.10) With reference to the Grey Zone Warfare, seen in the news recently, which one of the following statements is correct?

- a) The warfare primarily involves conventional military tactics and strategies.
- b) It is characterized by transparent and clearly defined rules of engagement.
- c) In this kind of warfare, nation-states and non-state actors rarely collaborate or cooperate in achieving strategic objectives.
- d) It refers to actions and operations aimed at altering the status quo in a region without provoking a full-scale military response from the targeted nation.

Q.11) Guinea worm disease caused by:

- a) Bacteria
- b) Virus
- c) Parasitic worm
- d) Fungus

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Surrogacy refers to the process where a woman carries and gives birth to her own biological child.
2. Gametes are reproductive cells that unite during sexual reproduction to create a new individual.

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.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Submarine Cable System is used for carrying communications by means of guided electromagnetic energy.
2. India's legislations do not comprehensively define submarine cable systems.

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

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

Q.14) Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) would provide the recipient with details about the caller, similar to the functionalities of 'Truecaller' and 'Bharat Caller ID'. In which one of the following ways does CNAP work similarly to Truecaller and Bharat Caller ID?

- a) It uses facial recognition technology.
- b) It relies on a database to match phone numbers with names.
- c) It analyzes call patterns for spam detection.
- d) It requires users to register their information manually.

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Q.15) Consider the following:

1. Global positioning satellites
2. Nuclear technology
3. Chemical and biological tools
4. Household appliances
5. Military radar systems

How many of the above items are considered as “dual-use” items?

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

Q.16) Which one of the following is the objective of ‘Garbhini-GA2 AI Model of India’?

- a) Predicting the sex of a fetus
- b) Accurately determine fetal age during pregnancy
- c) Diagnosing potential pregnancy complications
- d) Providing personalized pregnancy advice

Q.17) Bitcoin halving involves reducing the reward that Bitcoin miners receive for verifying transactions and adding new blocks to the blockchain by half. Which one of the following is the reason behind Bitcoin halving?

- a) It aims to increase the total supply of Bitcoins in the market.
- b) It aims to regulate the price of Bitcoin.
- c) It aims to slow down the rate at which new Bitcoins are created.
- d) It aims to improve the security of the Bitcoin network.

Q.18) With reference to the Gaganyaan Mission, consider the following statements:

1. The Crew Module of the Mission is responsible for generating power, providing propulsion for orbital maneuvers, and performing attitude control during the mission.
2. Human Rated LVM3 will be responsible for launching the Orbital Module into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

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:

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI)
2. Quantum Computing
3. E-commerce Platforms

How many of the above are Deep-tech innovation?

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

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Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Genome India Project aims to develop genetically modified crops for increased yield.
2. Genome sequencing helps in producing genetically modified organisms for agricultural purposes.

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

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

Q.21) Large Language Models (LLMs) can be used for a variety of applications. Which one of the following is NOT an application of LLMs?

- a) Generating creative text formats like poems or code.
- b) Translating languages with high accuracy.
- c) Answering open ended, challenging questions in a comprehensive way.
- d) Recognizing objects and scenes in images.

Q.22) With reference to the Miracle drugs, consider the following statements:

1. It is a medicine with no side effects.
2. It is more effective than the conventional medicine in treating some particular condition.
3. It can be used to cure all medical conditions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.23) Consider the following statements:

1. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), obesity is defined as an abnormal or excessive accumulation of fat that poses health risks.
2. Lack of healthy lifestyle is a major reason for increasing obesity rates in India.

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

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

Q.24) With reference to the Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology, consider the following statements:

1. It is an exoatmospheric ballistic missile payload containing several warheads, each capable of being aimed to hit a different target.
2. This technology is also used to launch vehicles into space for satellite deployment.
3. The technology has potential applications in nuclear deterrence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.25) Which one of the following color changes is commonly observed in galaxies when star formation activity declines?

- a) From red to blue
- b) From yellow to green
- c) From blue to red
- d) From green to yellow

Q.26) In the context of malnutrition, the term "Zero-food children" refers to:

- a) Children who consume little to no food on a daily basis
- b) Children who did not consume any animal milk, formula or solid or semisolid food during the last 24 hours.
- c) Children who do not have access to any form of food assistance programs.
- d) Children who consume food with zero nutritional value.

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. An artificial neural network (ANN) consists of computing units called nodes, which are connected to mimic the way the brain works.
2. A power processing unit (PPU) is the physical processor that powers artificial neural networks (ANNs).

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

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

Q.28) Consider the following:

1. Demonstration of the capability of indigenously manufactured defence equipment
2. Integrated tri-service firepower and manoeuvre exercise
3. Demonstration of disaster relief capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.

How many of the above are the features of the recently conducted "Exercise Bharat Shakti"?

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

Q.29) 'AlphaGeometry AI' demonstrates a significant capability in solving geometry problems. This capability is primarily because of:

- a) Relying on a vast database of pre-programmed geometric solutions
- b) Applying advanced machine learning techniques to analyze and solve problems
- c) Mimicking the problem-solving strategies of human mathematicians
- d) Utilizing a combination of symbolic reasoning and numerical methods

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Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. Photovoltaic cells are primarily made of copper and aluminum.
2. Currently, conventional solar cells can only convert about one-third of incident solar energy into electricity.
3. Shockley-Queisser limit defines the maximum achievable efficiency of a solar cell.

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

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

Q.31) Consider the following statements:

1. Rhodamine-B is used in agricultural pesticides due to its effectiveness against pests.
2. Rhodamine-B is also utilized in the textile industry as a dye for coloring fabrics.
3. Rhodamine-B can cause cell death.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.32) With reference to the Lyme disease, consider the following statements:

1. It is a vector-borne infectious disease.
2. It is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected black-legged ticks, often referred to as deer ticks.
3. The standard treatment for Lyme disease is an antibiotic taken as a pill.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Neutrinos are often referred to as "ghost particles".

Statement-II: Neutrinos have almost no mass, no electric charge, and interact very weakly with other matter.

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.34) 'Hemoglobin A1C test (HbA1C) test', seen in the news recently, measures:

- a) Diabetes
- b) Cervical Cancer
- c) Heart Conditions
- d) Levels of Cholesterol in the Blood

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Q.35) Which one of the following is the primary purpose of the Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction (SAKHI) app onboard the spacecraft?

- a) Providing television facilities for the crew during long journeys.
- b) Providing real-time information and assistance to astronauts.
- c) Monitoring and controlling spacecraft systems.
- d) Facilitating communication between the crew and mission control.

Q.36) Which of the following best describes the primary focus of the 'Tiger Triumph exercise'?

- a) Countering maritime piracy
- b) Conducting close-quarter combat drills
- c) Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations
- d) Anti-submarine warfare

Q.37) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Ballistic Missiles fly at low altitudes and follow a relatively flat and level trajectory.
- 2. Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs) technology help evade ballistic missiles defences.
- 3. The Agni-5 is the longest-range missile India has tested so far.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

- 1. AI models undergo training on extensive datasets and have limitations in independent operation whereas an AI Agent has the ability to process data and take actions autonomously.
- 2. Alexa, developed by Amazon, is an example of AI model.

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.39) With reference to the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Mission, consider the following statements:

- 1. It was a NASA space mission aimed at testing a method of planetary defense against near-Earth objects (NEOs).
- 2. The mission was the first to demonstrate a technique of asteroid deflection using a kinetic impactor spacecraft.
- 3. The mission's success criteria involved completely altering the orbit of Dimorphos, a moonlet of the asteroid Didymos.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

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Q.40) Consider the following statements:

1. Elimination of a disease refers to the permanent elimination of a disease with no risk of reintroduction.
2. Guinea worm disease (GWD) is a parasitic disease caused by drinking contaminated water.
3. Disease elimination should be planned only after careful analysis of the costs and benefits associated with it.

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.41) Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear power emits four times less carbon than solar farms or other renewable sources such as wind, hydropower, and geothermal.
2. Nuclear power has the capacity to supply uninterrupted energy irrespective of geographical constraints.
3. Nuclear power plants (NPP) have high operating costs, larger land imprint and a shorter life cycle compared to all the other renewable energy sources.
4. Nuclear power contributes only 1.6% of the total renewable energy mix in India.

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.42) 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.43) 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

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Q.44) 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.45) 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

Q.46) 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.47) 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 - (b)	2 - (c)	3 - (b)	4 - (c)	5 - (b)	6 - (c)	7 - (a)	8 - (c)	9 - (c)	10 - (d)
11 - (c)	12 - (b)	13 - (c)	14 - (b)	15 - (b)	16 - (b)	17 - (c)	18 - (b)	19 - (b)	20 - (d)
21 - (d)	22 - (a)	23 - (c)	24 - (c)	25 - (c)	26 - (b)	27 - (a)	28 - (b)	29 - (b)	30 - (c)
31 - (b)	32 - (d)	33 - (a)	34 - (a)	35 - (b)	36 - (c)	37 - (b)	38 - (a)	39 - (b)	40 - (b)
41 - (c)	42 - (d)	43 - (b)	44 - (c)	45 - (c)	46 - (d)	47 - (a)			

Answers & Explanations

1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Quasars are extremely luminous, distant objects that are powered by supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies. These celestial objects emit enormous amounts of energy across the electromagnetic spectrum, making them among the brightest and most energetic phenomena in the universe. Quasars are believed to be fueled by the accretion of matter onto the central supermassive black hole, which releases gravitational energy as light and other forms of radiation. Due to their immense distances from Earth, quasars appear as point-like sources of light in the night sky.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

2. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Rhodamine-B is a chemical commonly used for dyeing in various industries including textiles, paper, leather, and paints. It serves as a colouring agent, producing red and pink hues. When in powdered form, it appears green. However, when water is added, it changes into pink colour. As per the Food Safety Standards Act, 2006, preparation, packaging, importing, selling and serving food items with Rhodamine-B in wedding ceremonies and other public events is a punishable offence. The Tamil Nadu government has recently banned the sale and production of cotton candy after it was found that a toxic chemical Rhodamine-B was being used to make it.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. BCI does not use telepathy. Instead, it works by detecting and interpreting electrical signals produced by the brain, such as those associated with specific thoughts or motor actions. These signals are then translated into commands that can control external devices. Brain-computer interfaces (BCI) are devices that create a direct communication pathway between a brain's electrical activity and an external output like a computer or a robotic limb.
- Statement 2 is correct. BCIs have the potential to significantly improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from neurological disorders, such as spinal cord injuries, stroke, or neurodegenerative diseases like amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or Parkinson's disease. Bypassing damaged neural pathways, BCIs can help restore communication, mobility, or other functions affected by these conditions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Seasonal influenza (flu) is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses, which primarily affect the nose, throat, and lungs. Common symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue. Influenza viruses are single-stranded RNA viruses.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The most common mode of transmission of the influenza virus is through airborne respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Cervical cancer is primarily caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), not the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). While HIV weakens the immune system, making individuals more susceptible to HPV infection and progression to cervical cancer, it's not the direct cause.
- Statement 2 is correct. In India, cervical cancer is the second most frequent cancer among women between the ages of 15 and 44. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India accounts for approximately one-fifth of the global burden of cervical cancer.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Russia, formerly the Soviet Union, was the first country to develop the first operational cryogenic engine for space applications. Cryogenic engines use extremely low temperatures for propulsion. They rely on cryogenic fuels, such as liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen, which are stored at very low temperatures to maintain their liquid state. These fuels are more efficient and provide higher specific impulse (thrust per unit of propellant) compared to traditional rocket fuels. The combination of liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen as propellants in cryogenic engines provides a high specific impulse (efficiency), leading to greater thrust for the amount of propellant used.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Cryogenic engines are efficient for launching payloads into various orbits, including low Earth orbit, geosynchronous transfer orbit, and interplanetary missions. However, they are not specifically designed for launching payloads into interstellar space, as interstellar travel currently remains a theoretical concept due to the vast distances involved.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The CE20 cryogenic engine is an advanced propulsion system developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is a powerful upper-stage engine that uses liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen as propellants and operates at extremely low temperatures. The CE20 engine has significantly enhanced India's capability to launch heavier payloads into space.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The term "human rating" of a spacecraft refers to the certification process that ensures the spacecraft is safe and reliable for transporting humans. This involves evaluating various factors such as life support systems, crew safety features, environmental control systems, and structural integrity, among others.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

8. Correct Answer is (C)

- Solar Maximum refers to the period in the solar cycle when the Sun's activity is at its highest level, characterized by an increased number of sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections (CMEs). The solar cycle is a nearly periodic 11-year fluctuation in solar activity. During solar maximum, the Sun exhibits increased levels of sunspots, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections due to the intensification of its magnetic field. This heightened activity impacts space weather and can affect satellite communications, power grids, and other technology on Earth.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Ultra-processed foods are typically characterized by a high degree of industrial processing, which often involves multiple stages and the addition of various ingredients, such as preservatives, stabilizers, emulsifiers, and other additives. These foods are usually ready-to-eat or ready-to-heat, and they may contain high levels of added sugar, salt, and unhealthy fats. They usually have five or more ingredients, including additives that are not used in home cooking. These other ingredients are usually flavour and taste enhancers, emulsifiers and colours, and all of them are meant to improve shelf life and taste or make the food convenient to eat. Examples of ultra-processed foods include packaged snacks, soft drinks, instant soups, and frozen meals.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

10. Correct Answer is (D)

- Grey Zone Warfare is characterized by ambiguous actions and operations that are designed to gradually change the status quo in a region or international relations without triggering a full-scale military response from the targeted nation. These actions often involve non-military tools, such as economic pressure, propaganda campaigns, and the use of non-state actors to achieve political objectives. It involves tactics like cyberattacks, misinformation, and economic pressure to weaken an opponent. China has been skillfully using this strategy, especially against India and neighboring countries.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Guinea worm disease is caused by the parasitic worm *Dracunculus medinensis*. It is an infectious 'Neglected tropical disease' (NTD). It is basically a human disease. However, it can also spread to animals and humans by eating certain aquatic animals that might carry Guinea worm larvae, like fish or frogs. It is transmitted through drinking water containing Guinea worm larvae. It affects poor communities in remote parts of Africa that do not have safe water to drink. It can be prevented

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by filtering drinking water through a piece of fine-mesh cloth, chlorination, or boiling. There is no drug & vaccine to prevent Guinea worm infection. India eliminated GWD in the 1990s and it received GWD-free certification from the WHO in 2000.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Surrogacy refers to an arrangement where a woman (the surrogate mother) carries and gives birth to a child for another person or couple (the intended parents) who will become the child's legal parents after birth. In surrogacy, the surrogate mother may or may not be biologically related to the child, depending on the type of surrogacy arrangement.
- Statement 2 is correct. Gametes are reproductive cells that unite during sexual reproduction to create a new individual. In humans and many other organisms, there are two types of gametes: sperm (produced by males) and eggs (produced by females). These gametes carry genetic information from each parent, which is combined when the gametes fuse during fertilization. This fusion creates a zygote, a single cell that divides and develops into an embryo and eventually a new individual with a unique genetic makeup.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

13. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. A submarine cable system is designed to carry communications by means of guided electromagnetic energy. These cables, which are laid on the ocean floor, play a critical role in global communications, enabling the transmission of data, voice, and video across continents. India's legislation does not comprehensively define submarine cable systems. While there are laws and regulations in place that govern telecommunications and cable landing stations, there is no specific legal framework that explicitly defines and regulates submarine cable systems. This has led to a lack of clarity in the legal and regulatory aspects of submarine cable infrastructure in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) works similarly to Truecaller and Bharat Caller ID in that it uses a database to match phone numbers with names. When a call is received, the system checks the database for the caller's name associated with the phone number and displays it on the recipient's screen. This helps the recipient identify the caller, even if the number is not saved in their contact list. The database is populated with information from various sources, including user-submitted data, public databases, and partnerships with telecom operators.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Dual-use items are products and technology that can be used both for civilian and military applications. Global positioning satellites, nuclear technology, and chemical and biological tools have both civilian and military applications, making them dual-use items. However, household appliances are primarily designed for civilian use and do not have significant military applications whereas military radar systems are specifically designed and used for military purposes such as surveillance, target tracking, and missile defense, rather than civilian applications. Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Wassenaar Agreement, Nuclear Suppliers Group (India is not a member of NSG but it is a member of MTCR and Wassenaar Agreement) are global control mechanisms in place to regulate the export and trade of dual-use items.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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16. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Garbhini-GA2 AI Model, developed by a team of researchers in India, aims to accurately determine fetal age during pregnancy. It uses machine learning algorithms to analyze ultrasound images and make accurate predictions of gestational age, which is crucial for monitoring fetal growth and development. It is the first computer model for estimating late-trimester gestational age to be developed and validated using data from the Indian population. It is part of a research program called **GARBH-Ini** which focuses on advanced research about birth outcomes in India. The GARBH-Ini program is a flagship programme of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India. Existing Models like Hadlock and INTERGROWTH estimate pregnancy age, but they are based on Western data. However, Indian and Western babies grow differently during pregnancy. Hence, this model is beneficial for Indian population. The new Garbhini-GA2 formula for the second and third trimesters accurately determines the fetus's age for Indian population, reducing errors by nearly three times.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- Bitcoin halving is designed to control the supply of new bitcoins entering circulation by reducing the mining reward. This process effectively slows down the rate at which new bitcoins are created, ensuring that the total supply of bitcoins increases at a diminishing rate. By doing so, Bitcoin halving helps maintain the value of the cryptocurrency and prevents inflation. This event is programmed into the Bitcoin algorithm and it occurs approximately every four years. The maximum supply of Bitcoin is 21 million coins, and halvings are essential to prevent this limit from being reached too quickly. By decreasing the pace of new Bitcoin creation, Bitcoin reflects the extraction pattern of a finite resource like gold- becoming harder. Halving events slow down new Bitcoin creation thereby reducing inflation in the Bitcoin system. This differs from fiat currencies, where central banks can print money freely, risking high inflation.
- **Note:** Bitcoin transactions consume a lot of electricity and create large carbon footprints because of the intense computational activity involved, even though no physical mining occurs.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Orbital Module (OM) of the Gaganyaan Mission that will be Orbiting Earth comprises of Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM). CM is the habitable space with Earth like environment in space for the crew. It is of double walled construction consisting of pressurized metallic Inner Structure and unpressurized External Structure with Thermal Protection System (TPS). It houses the crew interfaces, human centric products, life support system, avionics and deceleration systems. It is also designed for re-entry to ensure safety of the crew during descent till touchdown. SM will be used for providing necessary support to CM while in orbit. It is an unpressurized structure containing thermal system, propulsion system, power systems, avionics systems and deployment mechanisms.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Human Rated LVM3 (HRLVM3) is the specifically modified, human-rated version of ISRO's LVM3 rocket. It is designed and configured for the safe launch of the Gaganyaan Orbital Module into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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19. Correct Answer is (B)

- Deep-tech innovation refers to technological advancements based on cutting-edge scientific research and engineering innovations that have the potential to significantly impact industries, economies, and society as a whole. These innovations often involve complex, high-risk, and capital-intensive research and development (R&D) processes that require specialized knowledge and expertise. Examples: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing, Biotechnology, Advanced Materials, etc.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

20. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Genome India Project is primarily focused on mapping the genetic diversity of India's population and creating a database of genetic diseases prevalent in the country. It focuses on understanding the unique genetic variations of the Indian population. Genome sequencing can help identify specific genes of interest, but the process of creating GMOs involves manipulating those genes (inserting, deleting, or altering them) using genetic engineering techniques. These techniques, such as CRISPR-Cas9 or other gene editing tools, are separate from genome sequencing. Thus, while genome sequencing can inform the process of creating GMOs, it is not directly responsible for their production.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

21. Correct Answer is (D)

- LLMs (Large Language Models) are primarily designed for natural language processing tasks. They are not typically used for recognizing objects and scenes in images, which falls under the domain of computer vision and convolutional neural networks. LLMs are primarily designed to understand and generate human-like text.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Miracle drugs are pharmaceutical substances that have a transformative impact on the treatment of certain medical conditions. These drugs are often characterized by their exceptional efficacy, groundbreaking therapeutic outcomes, and the ability to significantly improve patient outcomes. Almost every medication has the potential for side effects, even if they are mild or rare. Miracle drugs might have very tolerable side effects compared to conventional treatments, but they are not guaranteed to be side-effect-free. Miracle drugs are effective for specific conditions, and they aren't cure for everything.
- Statement 2 is correct. Miracle drugs are known for their ability to produce remarkable improvements in treating specific medical conditions, often surpassing the efficacy of conventional medications or therapies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

23. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), obesity is defined as an abnormal or excessive accumulation of fat that poses health risks. A sedentary lifestyle, poor dietary choices, and lack of physical activity are significant contributing factors to the rise in obesity rates in India.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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24. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. MIRV technology allows a single missile to carry multiple warheads, which can be independently targeted, making it possible to hit various locations with a single missile launch. MIRV technology contributes to nuclear deterrence by increasing the effectiveness and survivability of a country's nuclear arsenal, offering flexible targeting options, and providing a more cost-effective solution for maintaining a credible nuclear deterrent.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. MIRV technology is not typically utilized for launching vehicles into space to deploy satellites into orbit. This task is commonly accomplished using dedicated space launch vehicles designed explicitly for deploying satellites into orbit around the Earth or for interplanetary missions. MIRV technology primarily serves military purposes, particularly in the domain of strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (C)

- The color change observed in galaxies as star formation activity ceases is from blue to red. This occurs due to the aging of the stellar population within the galaxy. Young, newly-formed stars are generally hot and emit light primarily in the blue and ultraviolet wavelengths. These stars are often found in regions of active star formation within galaxies, such as spiral arms. As a result, galaxies with high rates of star formation tend to appear blue or blue-white in color. However, as star formation activity decreases, the hot, short-lived stars begin to die out, and the galaxy's overall color starts to shift towards longer, redder wavelengths. The remaining stars are generally older, cooler, and emit light primarily in the red and infrared wavelengths. This aging process causes the galaxy to appear redder in color.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (B)

- In the context of malnutrition, the term "Zero-food children" refers to children who did not consume any animal milk, formula, or solid or semi-solid food during the last 24 hours. This definition is often used in emergency food insecurity situations or when assessing the immediate dietary intake of children. It highlights the severe short-term and long-term consequences of inadequate food intake and malnutrition on children's health and development.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

27. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. ANNs are computational models inspired by the structure and functioning of the human brain. They consist of interconnected nodes, often organized into layers, which process information and perform tasks such as pattern recognition, prediction, and decision-making. The nodes in an ANN are typically arranged into an input layer, one or more hidden layers, and an output layer, with each node connected to others in the adjacent layers. These connections have associated weights that determine the strength of the signal transmitted between nodes, and the network learns by adjusting these weights based on training data.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A graphic processing unit (GPU) is the physical processor that powers artificial neural networks (ANNs). Originally designed for rendering graphics in video games, GPUs excel at running computing tasks simultaneously, making them ideal for ANNs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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28. Correct Answer is (B)

- Recently, the Bharat Shakti exercise was conducted showcasing the prowess of indigenously manufactured defence equipment across the three services. Exercise Bharat Shakti showcased various indigenously manufactured defence equipment, such as radar systems, UAV-launched precision-guided munitions, Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicles, and drones, etc. Exercise Bharat Shakti was a tri-service exercise involving the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force. However, disaster relief is not a focus of this particular exercise.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (B)

- AlphaGeometry is an AI tool that could solve geometry problems at the level of the International Mathematical Olympiad, almost reaching the proficiency of gold medallists. AlphaGeometry's capability in solving geometry problems is primarily due to its use of advanced machine learning techniques. AlphaGeometry leverages the combined power of a 'Deductive Database' and 'Algebraic Rules' programs to achieve its remarkable problem-solving abilities.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Photovoltaics is the process of converting light energy (such as sunlight) into electrical energy. They are primarily made of semiconductor materials like silicon, which is often doped with other elements such as boron or phosphorus to create an electric field. The top and bottom layers of the cell are usually made of transparent conductive materials, like indium tin oxide or fluorine-doped tin oxide, which allow sunlight to pass through and help collect the generated electric current.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Conventional solar cells, made from crystalline silicon, can convert about one-third of incident solar energy into electricity. The Shockley-Queisser limit, named after physicists William Shockley and Hans-Joachim Queisser, defines the maximum achievable efficiency of a solar cell.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

31. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Rhodamine-B is not primarily used in agricultural pesticides for its effectiveness against pests; it is a synthetic dye with various industrial applications.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Rhodamine-B is utilized in the textile industry as a dye for coloring fabrics, due to its fluorescent properties. Rhodamine-B has been shown to have potential cytotoxic effects, which means it can cause cell death or damage when cells are exposed to the substance. Rhodamine-B was used as the coloring agent in the cotton candy and others. However, due to its harmful health effects the govt. of Tamil Nadu has banned its use.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Lyme disease is a vector-borne infectious disease. It is primarily transmitted to humans through the bite of infected black-legged ticks, often referred to as deer ticks. It is most commonly reported in North America, Europe, and some parts of Asia. The standard treatment for Lyme disease is an antibiotic taken as a pill. The treatment usually lasts 10 to 14 days. Treatment may be longer depending on symptoms.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

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33. Correct Answer is (A)

- Neutrinos are often called "ghost particles" because they have almost no mass, no electric charge, and interact very weakly with other matter. This makes them extremely difficult to detect and study. They can pass through ordinary matter, such as the Earth, without being affected. They are extremely difficult to detect, making them seem elusive or ghost-like. Neutrinos are produced in various astrophysical phenomena, such as nuclear reactions in the Sun, supernovae explosions, and cosmic ray interactions, and they constantly bombard the Earth in vast numbers. However, they are not detected.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

34. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Hemoglobin A1C test (HbA1C) is used to measure diabetes. It is a blood test that provides information about an individual's average blood sugar (glucose) levels over the past two to three months. HbA1C measures the percentage of hemoglobin in the blood that has glucose attached to it. Higher HbA1C levels indicate a greater risk of developing diabetes or poor management of the condition in individuals who already have diabetes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary purpose the SAKHI app onboard the spacecraft is providing real-time information and assistance to astronauts. It is an AI-based mobile app developed by IN-SPACE to assist astronauts during space missions. It can collect and process data from various sensors on the spacecraft, keeping astronauts informed of their environment and potential issues.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (C)

- The primary focus of the Tiger Triumph exercise is Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. Tiger Triumph is a bilateral military exercise conducted by the United States and India, aiming to enhance interoperability, cooperation, and understanding between the two nations' armed forces.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Ballistic missiles do not fly at low altitudes or follow a flat and level trajectory. Instead, they follow a parabolic or ballistic trajectory, which involves being launched into a high altitude and then descending towards the target.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRVs) technology can help evade ballistic missile defenses. MIRVs allow a single missile to carry and deliver multiple warheads, each capable of hitting different targets, making it more challenging for missile defense systems to intercept and destroy all incoming warheads. The Agni-5 is the longest-range missile India has tested so far, with an estimated range of over 7,000 kilometers. This solid-fueled, three-staged missile was first tested by India in 2012, and it incorporates MIRV technology, which India successfully tested recently.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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38. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. AI models undergo training on extensive datasets and have limitations in independent operation whereas an AI Agent has the ability to process data and take actions autonomously.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Alexa, developed by Amazon, is an example of an AI Agent. AI Agent use AI models to help make decisions, but they also add extra layers of logic, learning, or planning to handle complex situations.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

39. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Mission was a NASA space mission designed to test a method of planetary defense against near-Earth objects (NEOs). Its main purpose was to assess the effectiveness of using a kinetic impactor spacecraft to alter the trajectory of an asteroid. It was the first to demonstrate the asteroid deflection technique using a kinetic impactor spacecraft. On September 26, 2022, the spacecraft successfully collided with the asteroid Dimorphos, a moonlet orbiting the larger asteroid Didymos, in an attempt to change its orbital period.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The DART mission's success criteria did not involve completely altering the orbit of Dimorphos. Instead, the primary objective was to change Dimorphos' orbital period by at least 73 seconds, which would indicate a measurable deflection. The mission aimed to assess the feasibility of using a kinetic impactor spacecraft for planetary defense against potentially hazardous asteroids, not to drastically alter their orbits.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Disease elimination refers to the reduction of cases to zero in a specific geographic area. While the ultimate goal may be permanent elimination, there can always be a risk of reintroduction from other areas where the disease persists. The term eradication refers to the permanent, global reduction of cases to zero.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Guinea worm disease (GWD), also known as dracunculiasis, is a parasitic disease caused by drinking water contaminated with parasite-infected copepods (tiny water fleas). The parasitic worm, *Dracunculus medinensis*, grows inside the human body, causing pain and swelling when the female worm emerges to release larvae. Planning for disease elimination should involve a careful analysis of costs and benefits to ensure that the intervention strategies are cost-effective and sustainable. This helps public health decision-makers prioritize resource allocation and evaluate the potential impact of elimination efforts on overall health outcomes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

41. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Nuclear power emits four times less carbon than solar farms or other renewable sources such as wind, hydropower, and geothermal. Nuclear power has the capacity to supply uninterrupted energy irrespective of geographical constraints making it a crucial component of the wider renewable energy mix. Despite its versatile nature, nuclear power contributes only 1.6% of the total renewable energy mix in India. Stigma, weaponisation risk, radiation leak, regulation, high upfront cost, and long project overruns are the reasons for low adoption rate of nuclear energy.

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- Statement 3 is incorrect. Nuclear power plants (NPP) have low operating costs, smaller land imprint and a longer life cycle compared to all the other renewable energy sources.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

42. 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](#)

43. 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](#)

44. 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](#)

45. 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 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

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one place. This enables better-informed decisions and targeted interventions to improve soil health and agricultural productivity.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

46. 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](#)

47. 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](#)