

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

[3rd Week] May, 2024

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Art & Culture

Q.1) Who among the following is considered as the greatest Baul music saint and composer?

- a) Rabindranath Tagore
- b) Kazi Nazrul Islam
- c) Fakir Lalon Shah
- d) Allen Ginsberg

Q.2) Ol Chiki' is a unique script specifically designed for the Santali language. Who of the following is associated with the development of the script?

- a) Birsa Munda
- b) Pandit Raghunath Murmu
- c) Panchanan Barma
- d) A.R. Campbell

Q.3) Saga Dawa Festival (Triple Blessed Festival) is a festival celebrated by:

- a) Theravada Buddhism
- b) Shvetambara
- c) Mahayana Buddhism
- d) Digambara

Geography

Q.4) Which one of the following countries does NOT share a border with Niger?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Benin
- c) Ghana
- d) Libya

Q.5) Which one of the following instruments can be used to predict and warn about flash floods?

- a) Seismographs
- b) Doppler radar
- c) Barometers
- d) Anemometers

Q.6) The Carlsberg Ridge is located in the:

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

Q.7) With reference to the Kumaon Himalayas, consider the following statements:

1. Kanha National Park is located in the Kumaon Himalayas.
2. Nanda Devi is the highest peak in the Kumaon Himalayas.
3. Kali and Teesta Rivers mark the boundaries of the Kumaon Himalayas.
4. Nainital is located in the Kumaon region.

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) 2 and 4 only

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. China is the world's largest agricultural exporter.
2. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the country with the highest reserves of cobalt.

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

Polity

Q.9) With reference to the recent judgment of the Supreme Court on the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), consider the following statements:

1. As per the SC, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) cannot arrest an accused after the special court has taken cognizance of the case.
2. The SC stated that the accused appearing in the special court is not exempted from future personal appearances.
3. The Enforcement Directorate may arrest a person not initially named as an accused in the complaint if it is necessary to carry out further investigations into the same offence.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The right to property is a human right.
2. 42nd Constitutional Amendment removed the right to property as a fundamental right.
3. If state acquires a private property, then it must follow the due process and procedural rights to ensure fairness and justice in the acquisition process.

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.11) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution provides for proportionate reservation based on population.
2. Ambedkar advocated for reservation policies that address economic and educational empowerment for all historically disadvantaged groups, irrespective of caste and religion.
3. Ambedkar also called for reservations in the private sector.

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

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Donations received by registered parties are tax-exempted.
2. The Representation of the People Act (RP Act) grants powers to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to deregister political parties for failing to contest elections.
3. Under the Election Symbols Order, 1968, the ECI has the power to suspend or withdraw the recognition of a recognised political party for failing to observe the Model Code of Conduct (MCC).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.13) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) card holders are free to stay in India without a visa.
2. OCI cardholders have the right to work in India without a work visa.

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. Article 22 of the Indian Constitution mandates that an arrested person cannot be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.
2. The Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) do not require that the grounds for arrest be communicated to the accused.

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.15) Consider the following:

1. Power of majority
2. Equality and social justice
3. Active citizen participation
4. Process of deliberation and decision-making

How many of the above are core values of radical democracy?

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

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution provides the framework for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes in India.
2. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 is the primary legislation governing the resolution of inter-state water disputes 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.17) Consider the following statements:

1. The Home Ministry has the overall responsibility for the security of the Parliament House Complex.
2. Parliament Security Service (PSS) accesses control and regulation of people, material, and vehicles within the Parliament House Complex.

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) Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) decides the location of polling stations.
2. The ECI is responsible for the conduct of election to offices of the President and Vice-President of India.
3. The ECI is legally mandated to disclose the voter turnout data to the public.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Acts & Policies

Q.19) Which one of the following the goal of the '75/25' initiative?

- a) Provide free healthcare services to all citizens
- b) Screen and provide standard care to 75 million individuals suffering from hypertension and diabetes by 2025
- c) Reduce the cost of healthcare services by 75%
- d) Increase the number of healthcare professionals by 25%

Q.20) With reference to the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
2. Blockchain technology is used by ONDC use to establish its network.
3. ONDC is a government owned corporation that requires buyers and sellers to use the same platform for transactions.
4. Real Estate is one of the focus areas under ONDC's operations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) With reference to the Scheme for Care and Support to Victims notified under Section 4 & 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act 2012, how many of the following statements are correct?

1. It covers all pregnant girl victims under the mentioned sections of the POCSO Act.
2. It is mandatory for the girl child victim to have a copy of the FIR registered under the POCSO Act.
3. Under the scheme, the Child Welfare Committee informs the girl child about the process of surrender.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.22) The primary objective of the 'Samrakshan Programme' is to:

- a) Improve access to prenatal vitamins for pregnant women.
- b) Reduce perinatal mortality and improve birth outcomes.
- c) Promote the use of traditional birthing practices.
- d) Promote the use of advanced imaging technologies in urban areas.

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to the Agnipath scheme:

- 1. It aims to recruit youth for a short-term service in the armed forces.
- 2. Under the Agnipath scheme, the duration of service for Agniveers is four years.
- 3. Pension is provided to the Agniveers under the Agnipath scheme.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Index & Reports

Q.24) With respect to the Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. India ranks the highest in South Asia among the lower-middle-income economies in the index.
- 2. The index is published annually by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.25) With reference to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. Kazakhstan is not a member country of INSTC.
- 2. Mumbai port serves as a significant entry point for the INSTC in India.
- 3. Air transportation modes are integrated into the INSTC.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.26) Consider the following statements with reference to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC):

- 1. It aims to create a comprehensive network connecting Central Asia, Russia, and Eastern Europe.
- 2. In order to promote clean energy, it aims to set up solar power plants across the corridor.
- 3. It will improve trade efficiency between India and Europe by providing alternative to the Suez Canal route.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. The compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations is mandatory.
2. White Notice is issued by the Interpol to provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices, or concealment methods used by criminals.
3. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) works in close collaboration with the International Court of Justice.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.28) In the context of International Relations, Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) refers to:

- a) A bilateral agreement between two developing countries to reduce tariffs on all trade goods.
- b) A global initiative led by the United Nations to enforce environmental standards through trade sanctions.
- c) A reciprocal trade agreement where developing countries offer tariff reductions to developed countries in exchange for aid.
- d) A preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries to promote economic growth through trade.

Q.29) Consider the following statements:

1. India spends twice of what China spends on food, transport, communication, and clothing and footwear.
2. China's birth rate and total fertility rate have declined.
3. India's Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) contributes more than China's.

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

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

Q.30) Which one of the following has launched the world's first comprehensive legal framework for regulating artificial intelligence (AI)?

- a) European Union (EU)
- b) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- c) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
- d) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Q.31) 'Oslo Peace Accords' aimed to:

- a) Establish a Palestinian state
- b) Facilitate Palestinian self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip
- c) Resolve the issue of Israeli settlements
- d) Determine the final status of Jerusalem

Q.32) Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) focuses on promoting solar energy in developing countries with high energy demands.
2. 'Towards 1000' strategy of ISA is aimed at installing 1000 solar panels across member countries.
3. Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR C) Initiative is a key initiative by ISA to promote solar energy in agriculture.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) An arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for a national leader:

- a) Automatically triggers military intervention by member states.
- b) Guarantees a successful trial and conviction at the ICC.
- c) Places an obligation on member states to arrest and surrender the individual.
- d) Automatically imposes economic sanctions on the individual's country.

Q.34) Consider the following statements:

1. The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
2. International Health Regulations (IHR) are the legally binding regulations adopted by the WHA.

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.35) Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) acts as the interface with Interpol in India.
2. Interpol notices share critical, crime-related information between member countries, seeking international cooperation for tracing or apprehending fugitives in any part of the world.
3. Red Corner Notice (RCN) by Interpol is issued to seek the location and arrest of a person wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.36) Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of the China-CEE (Central and Eastern European) Cooperation mechanism?

- a) Poland
- b) Hungary
- c) Greece
- d) France

Q.37) 'Nairobi-Washington Vision', seen in the news recently, is:

- a) A new trade agreement between the United States and Kenya to boost bilateral trade in agricultural products.
- b) A joint military exercise between the United States and Kenya to enhance defense cooperation.
- c) A collaborative effort to provide debt relief and sustainable development support for developing countries.
- d) An initiative to transform Nairobi into a global technology hub by 2030, focusing on advancements in artificial intelligence and robotics.

Economy

Q.38) The purpose of a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to:

- a) Manage liquidity in the banking system
- b) Provide long-term loans to commercial banks.
- c) Set fixed interest rates for government bonds.
- d) Facilitate direct investment from the public in government securities.

Q.39) In the Indian banking system, which one of the following is the advantage of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs)?

- a) They increase the availability of credit for new borrowers.
- b) They help banks clean up their balance sheets by removing bad loans.
- c) They reduce interest rates for all types of loans.
- d) They create additional paperwork for loan processing.

Q.40) Which one of the following will be the impact of a decrease in Treasury bill supply on the Indian rupee?

- a) It causes the rupee to depreciate
- b) It has no impact on the rupee
- c) It causes the rupee to appreciate
- d) It leads to increased volatility in the rupee

Q.41) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently issued draft regulations to strengthen the regulatory framework for financing projects with long gestation periods in infrastructure. In this context, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. At the construction stage, a general provision of 3% is to be maintained on all existing and fresh exposures by the banks.
2. A positive Net Present Value (NPV) is required for obtaining project finance.

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.42) Which one of the following organizations is responsible for compiling the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in India?

- a) National Statistical Office (NSO)
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) Labour Bureau
- d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Q.43) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Union Government announces a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Onion.
2. The Coefficient of Variation (CoV) is a key measure of volatility in the prices of vegetables.

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

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

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

1. Interest on holdings of domestic and foreign securities are the income sources of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. The Reserve Bank of India transfers its surplus to the government to improve the credit rating of the Indian government.
3. Bimal Jalan committee's recommendations are currently used to determine the level of surplus transfer from the RBI to the government.

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.45) An increase in interest rates or a reduction in nominal income growth rate can increase the debt-income ratio if the growth in interest payments exceeds income growth. This economic theory is proposed by:

- a) Keynesian Economics
- b) Fisher Dynamics
- c) Permanent Income Hypothesis
- d) Austrian Business Cycle Theory

Q.46) Consider the following statements:

1. Total household savings comprise net financial savings, physical savings, and savings in gold and ornaments.
2. Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) is the average interest rate on all deposits in a bank.

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

Environment

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding the Armoured Sailfin Catfish (Pterygoplichthys):

1. It is classified as an invasive species.
2. It has high prominence in the ornamental fish industry.
3. It is known for consuming large quantities of native fish, threatening the balance of aquatic ecosystems.

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.48) Consider the following:

1. Increased agricultural productivity
2. Increased soil erosion
3. Loss of habitat for wildlife

How many of the above are the consequences of decline in tree cover area?

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

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Iberian Lynx':

1. It is endemic to the Western Ghats in India.
2. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
3. Of all lynx, the Iberian has the most heavily spotted coat.

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.50) Consider the following statements regarding the Lion-tailed macaque:

1. They are endemic to the rainforests of the Western Ghats.
2. They are classified as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
3. They are active only during daylight hours.
4. They spend most of their time on the ground in the forest.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.51) Waterhole Count Method, seen in the news recently, is used in which one of the following?

- a) Monitoring fish populations in large rivers
- b) Estimating the number of migratory birds in wetlands
- c) Counting the population of aquatic plants in lakes
- d) Assessing wildlife numbers at water sources during dry seasons

Q.52) With reference to the Killer Whales, consider the following statements:

1. Killer whales are found in all oceans.
2. They rely on underwater sound to feed, communicate, and navigate.
3. They are categorized as Endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened species.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.53) Which one of the following trees is known for its thick trunk, leafless branches which resemble roots, giving the tree an upside-down appearance?

- a) Bottle Tree
- b) Kapok Tree
- c) Baobab Tree
- d) Sausage Tree

Q.54) Consider the following statements:

1. Sea otters spend most of their time in the water.
2. Sea otters play a crucial role in preserving tropical coral reefs.
3. Sea otters are classified as 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

Q.55) Consider the following statements:

1. Flamingos stand on one leg.
2. Flamingos have long legs that are often longer than their bodies.
3. Flamingos dive deep underwater to catch fish.

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.56) Consider the following Missions:

1. National Mission for Sustainable Habitat
2. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change
3. National Bio-Energy Mission
4. National Water Mission

How many of the above are part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)?

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

Q.57) Consider the following statements with respect to Loss & Damage (L&D) Fund:

1. Loss and Damage Fund covers both economic and non-economic losses.
2. The fund targets developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.
3. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) oversees the initial coordination of the fund.
4. There is a lack of a universally agreed-upon definition of loss and damage.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.58) Consider the following statements:

1. Microplastics can accumulate in the bodies of organisms through bioremediation.
2. Ashtamudi Lake is a Ramsar wetland located in Kerala.

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

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

Q.59) With reference to the Himalayan Ibex, consider the following statements:

1. They are omnivorous animals.
2. They can be found in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. They have thick, shaggy coat that helps them to survive in the harsh mountain environment.

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

Science & Technology

Q.60) Consider the following statements:

1. Globally, hysterectomy is one of the most frequently conducted surgeries among women.
2. The prevalence of hysterectomy in India is more in the eastern region.

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

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

Q.61) Consider the following statements:

1. Kerala is endemic for the West Nile virus.
2. The possibility of West Nile Fever (WNF) is considered only when patients exhibit Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).
3. The principal vector of WNF is Musca flies.

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.62) It is a method of preserving food by exposing it to ionizing radiation, using gamma rays, x-rays, or electron beams to eliminate harmful bacteria and extend shelf life. Which one of the following methods is described above?

- a) Pasteurization
- b) High-Pressure Processing (HPP)
- c) Irradiation
- d) Canning

Q.63) Gram-negative bacteria are often more resistant to antibiotics compared to Gram-positive bacteria. Which one of the following best explains the reasons behind this?

- a) Gram-negative bacteria lack a cell wall
- b) The outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria acts as a barrier
- c) Gram-negative bacteria have a thicker peptidoglycan layer
- d) Gram-negative bacteria can rapidly reproduce

Q.64) In which one of the following diseases is 'Synuclein alpha (SNCA)' known to be involved?

- a) Alzheimer's disease
- b) Multiple sclerosis
- c) Parkinson's disease
- d) Huntington's disease

Q.65) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Hydrogen was formed through stellar nucleosynthesis.

Statement-II: Stellar nucleosynthesis is the process by which stars create elements within their cores through nuclear fusion.

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.66) Consider the following statements:

1. Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-Infrared Experiment (PREFIRE) mission by NASA is aimed at filling the knowledge gap about the Arctic and Antarctic.
2. PREFIRE is composed of two small CubeSats outfitted with specialized miniature heat sensors.

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

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

Q.67) Consider the following statements in respect of Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs):

1. It will allow for faster decision-making and coordinated responses to security threats.
2. Each ITC will be headed by a two-star officer from any of the three services.
3. The establishment of ITCs is a completely new concept for the Indian military.
4. Naresh Chandra Committee recommended the creation of ITCs in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.68) The Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) is a database aimed at curbing which one of the following issues in India?

- a) Malfunctioning of electronic devices
- b) Counterfeiting of mobile phones and other electronic devices
- c) Unauthorized modification of electronic devices
- d) Data breaches on electronic devices

Q.69) Consider the following statements:

1. Males have two X chromosomes, while females have one X and one Y chromosome.
2. The X chromosome is significant for determining gender as well as diseases.
3. X Chromosome Inactivation (XCI) is a process that occurs in female mammals to achieve dosage compensation for X-linked genes.

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture

1. Correct Answer is (C)

- Fakir Lalon Shah, also known as Lalon Shah or Lalon Fakir, is widely regarded as the greatest Baul music saint and composer. Baul music is a unique form of spiritual folk music from Bengal, which is often associated with the wandering minstrels called Bauls. The primary philosophy expressed in Baul music is mysticism and the unity of all religions. West Bengal and Bangladesh are primarily associated with Baul music. Ektara instrument is commonly used in Baul music. Recently, Indo-Bangla Baul Music Festival is conducted to celebrate the birth anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah and promote Baul music.

Source: [AIR](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Pandit Raghunath Murmu, also known as Guru Gomke Raghunath Murmu, was a linguist and a prominent figure in the Santali community. He developed the 'Ol Chiki' script in the early 20th century with the goal of providing the Santali language, an Austroasiatic language spoken primarily in eastern India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, with a standardized writing system. The name 'Ol Chiki' translates to 'writing' or 'script' in Santali.

Source: [AIR](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Saga Dawa Festival, also known as the "Triple Blessed Festival," is one of the most significant festivals in Tibetan Buddhism, which is a branch of Mahayana Buddhism. It commemorates three important events in the life of Buddha: his birth, enlightenment, and parinirvana (death).

Source: [AIR](#)

Geography

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4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Niger is a landlocked country in West Africa and shares its borders with seven countries: Nigeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Algeria, Libya, and Chad. Ghana, while also located in West Africa, does not share a border with Niger.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Doppler radar is a technology that can be used to predict and warn about flash floods. It works by sending out electromagnetic wave fields that can detect the movement and intensity of precipitation in the atmosphere. By analyzing the returned signals, meteorologists can determine the amount and location of rainfall, allowing them to predict potential flooding events.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Carlsberg Ridge is an underwater mid-ocean ridge situated in the Indian Ocean, specifically in the northwest region. It is a part of the complex tectonic structure of the region and separates the Arabian Plate from the Indian Plate. Recently, India has applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for licenses to explore the Carlsberg Ridge and Afanasy-Nikitin Seamount for minerals like cobalt and manganese.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

7. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Kanha National Park is located in Madhya Pradesh, not in the Kumaon Himalayas region of Uttarakhand. The Kumaon Himalayas lie between the Sutlej River in the west and the Kali River in the east.
- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. Nanda Devi at an elevation of 7,816 meters (25,643 feet) is the highest peak in the Kumaon Himalayas. Nainital is a famous hill station and lake city located in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. China is the world's largest agricultural importer, not exporter. The United States holds the title of the world's largest agricultural exporter.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has the world's highest reserves of cobalt and significant reserve of copper.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Polity

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Supreme Court ruled that the ED cannot arrest an accused under Section 19 of the PMLA after a special court has taken cognizance of the complaint. If the ED requires custody of the accused, it must apply to the special court and provide specific grounds for custodial interrogation. The Supreme Court clarified that if the ED wants to conduct further investigation concerning the same offence, it may arrest a person not shown as an accused in the complaint, provided the requirements of Section 19 of the PMLA are fulfilled.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Supreme Court's judgment provides that an accused who appears in the special court can be exempted from future personal appearances. The special court can grant exemption from personal appearance by exercising its power under Section 205 of the CrPC.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The right to property is recognized as a human right along with Constitutional right. The Supreme Court of India has affirmed that the right to own private property is a human right. The state must follow due process and procedural rights to ensure fairness and justice when acquiring private property. The Supreme Court has emphasized that compulsory acquisition without following mandatory procedures and providing fair compensation is unconstitutional.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 reclassified the right to property as a constitutional right under Article 300A.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Indian Constitution does not support proportionate reservation based on population. While it does provide for reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), these reservations are not strictly based on population proportions but rather on social and educational backwardness. The Constitution supports affirmative action for certain sections of society, but it does not endorse proportionate representation based on population.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. B.R. Ambedkar's vision for reservations aimed to uplift marginalized communities by providing them with opportunities for social, economic, and educational advancement. While his primary focus was on addressing caste-based inequalities, he emphasized the importance of inclusive policies that benefit all disadvantaged groups, regardless of their religious affiliations. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a strong advocate for extending reservations to the private sector to address discrimination and ensure equitable opportunities for marginalized communities. He believed that discrimination was more rampant in the private sector than in the public sector, and thus, reservations should be extended to private enterprises as well.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Donations received by registered political parties are tax-exempt under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, provided they file their Income Tax Returns annually along with their audited accounts, income/expenditure details, and balance sheet. Under Paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, the ECI has the power to suspend or withdraw the recognition of a recognised political party for failing to observe the MCC or follow lawful directions of the Commission.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The RP Act does not confer explicit powers on the ECI to deregister political parties for failing to contest elections. The Supreme Court in *Indian National Congress versus Institute of Social Welfare & Ors (2002)* held that the ECI does not have the power to deregister any political party under the RP Act, except under exceptional circumstances such as registration obtained by fraud, the party ceasing to have allegiance to the Constitution, or being declared unlawful by the Government.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. OCI cardholders are allowed to stay in India for any length of time without the need for a visa. They are granted multiple entries and lifelong visa-free travel to India. This means they can stay in India for any length of time without needing to obtain a visa each time they enter the country. OCI cardholders have the right to work in India without the need for a separate work visa. They have the right to pursue most professions in India, including employment

and educational opportunities, similar to Indian citizens, with a few exceptions in areas such as public services and certain government positions.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Article 22 of the Constitution mandates that no person can be detained without being informed of the grounds for their arrest and must have the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner of their choice.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Both the PMLA and the UAPA require that the grounds for arrest be communicated to the accused. Section 19 of the PMLA mandates that the reasons for arrest must be recorded in writing and communicated to the accused. Similarly, Section 43B (1) of the UAPA requires that the grounds of arrest be communicated to the accused.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (C)

- Radical democracy is a type of democracy that pushes for a more extreme extension of equality and liberty compared to traditional democracy. While the "power of the majority" is a foundational aspect of democratic decision-making, radical democracy goes beyond simply following the majority and seeks to consider the voices of all, including minority viewpoints.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides the framework for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes in India. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution deals with the subject matter of laws made by Parliament and the state legislatures. It outlines the Union, State, and Concurrent lists, specifying the respective legislative powers.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 is the primary legislation governing the resolution of inter-state water disputes in India. This Act empowers the Central Government to establish tribunals for the adjudication of such disputes upon the request of the concerned state governments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The overall security of the Parliament House Complex is administered by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the overall responsibility for the security of the Parliament House Complex.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Parliament Security Service (PSS) is the primary agency responsible for access control, regulation, and security within the Parliament premises. It is the in-house security force responsible for safeguarding the Parliament House Complex in India. The Parliament Security Service, headed by Joint Secretary (Security), looks after the security set up in the Indian Parliament House complex.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Election Commission of India, through the district election officers, decides the location of polling stations. The principles and procedures for setting up polling stations are guided by the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and other guidelines issued by the ECI. The Election Commission of India is responsible for conducting elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President of India, as per Article 324 of the Constitution of India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Election Commission of India has stated that there is no legal mandate to provide final voter turnout data of all polling stations to the public. The data is provided to candidates or their agents, but not necessarily disclosed to the general public.

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Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

19. Correct Answer is (B)

- The '75/25' initiative, also known as the India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI) or the India Diabetes Control Initiative (IDCI), is a program launched by the Government of India in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners. Its goal is to screen and provide standard care to 75 million individuals suffering from hypertension and diabetes by 2025.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. ONDC aims to promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. ONDC uses Open-Sourced Methodology as well as Blockchain Technology. ONDC leverages blockchain technology to enhance the security and transparency of transactions.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. ONDC is a private non-profit Section 8 company, not a government-owned corporation. Real Estate is not currently a focus area under ONDC's operations, which are primarily focused on retail, restaurants, and other categories like travel and mobility.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The scheme has been expanded to include all pregnant girl victims under Sections 4 and 6 of the POCSO Act. The Child Welfare Committee informs the girl child about the process of surrender as per Section 35 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. It is not mandatory for the girl child victim to have a copy of the FIR to avail the benefits under the scheme.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

22. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Samrakshan Programme, also known as the India Newborn Action Plan (INAP), is aimed at reducing neonatal and infant mortality rates by improving the quality of care provided to newborns and their mothers. It focuses on strengthening healthcare systems, promoting the uptake of evidence-based interventions, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders to enhance overall birth outcomes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Agnipath scheme is designed to recruit young individuals for a short-term service period in the armed forces, specifically for four years.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Agniveers are not provided with a pension under the Agnipath scheme. Instead, they receive a lump sum amount called the Seva Nidhi package at the end of their four-year service.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Index & Reports

24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India ranks the highest in South Asia among lower-middle-income economies in the Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024. The report highlights India's

improvement in various aspects of the travel and tourism sector. India has climbed to the 39th position in the Index.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Travel & Tourism Development Index is a biennial report published by the World Economic Forum.

Source: [AIR](#)

International Relations/Organizations

25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Kazakhstan is a member country of INSTC. The INSTC primarily involves multi-modal transportation including ship, rail, and road, but not air transportation.
- Statement 2 is correct. Mumbai is a crucial entry point for the INSTC route in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The IMEC corridor focuses on connecting South Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. The IMEC aims to promote clean energy primarily through the establishment of pipelines for clean hydrogen export.
- Statement 3 is correct. One of the key objectives of the IMEC is to improve trade efficiency between India and Europe by offering a faster alternative to the Suez Canal route.

Source: [AIR](#)

27. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. While FATF membership is voluntary and compliance with its recommendations is strongly encouraged, it is not legally mandatory. Non-compliance can lead to significant consequences, such as being placed on the FATF greylist or blacklist, which can impact a country's international financial relations, but it is not legally enforced. Purple Notice is issued by the Interpol to provide information on modus operandi, objects, devices, or concealment methods used by criminals. The UNODC primarily focuses on issues related to drugs, crime, and terrorism, and while it collaborates with various international bodies, it does not specifically work in close collaboration with the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The ICJ deals with legal disputes between states and advisory opinions on international legal issues, which is different from the mandate of the UNODC.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

28. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a trade arrangement where developed countries offer preferential tariff treatment to exports from developing countries. It aims to promote economic growth in developing countries by providing them with better access to markets in developed countries through reduced or zero tariffs on selected goods.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. India spends around half of what China spends on food, transport, communication, and clothing and footwear.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. China's birth rate and total fertility rate have been declining, with the total fertility rate dropping below the replacement level of 2.1 children per woman. India's PFCE contributes over 58% to its GDP, while China's PFCE contributes only around 38% to its GDP.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. Correct Answer is (A)

- The European Union has launched the world's first comprehensive legal framework for regulating artificial intelligence (AI), known as the Artificial Intelligence Act (AI Act). The AI Act aims to

ensure that AI systems are safe, transparent, and respect fundamental rights, while fostering innovation and maintaining the EU's competitive edge in the global AI landscape.

Source: [AIR](#)

31. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Oslo Accords, signed between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the Government of Israel in 1993, aimed to establish a framework for peace and reconciliation between the two parties. The agreement focused on granting the Palestinians limited self-rule in specific areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip through the creation of the Palestinian Authority.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is focused on promoting solar energy among its member countries, many of which are developing countries with high energy demands. The ISA aims to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions, particularly in countries that are rich in solar resources but face significant energy demands and challenges in energy access. The Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR C) Initiative is a key initiative by the ISA, aimed at enhancing quality infrastructure (QI) for the uptake of solar energy product and service markets, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). Recently, Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. 'Towards 1000' strategy of the ISA is aimed at mobilizing USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions, and resulting in the installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.

Source: [AIR](#)

33. Correct Answer is (C)

- When the ICC issues an arrest warrant for a national leader, the Rome Statute, which established the ICC, imposes an obligation on member states to cooperate with the court and arrest the accused individual for the purpose of surrendering them to the ICC. This does not mean that military intervention will automatically occur or that the trial will necessarily result in a conviction. Furthermore, economic sanctions are not directly linked to ICC arrest warrants; they may be imposed by individual countries or international organizations in response to various situations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

34. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The World Health Assembly (WHA) is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO). It is the forum through which the World Health Organization (WHO) is governed by its 194 member states. It is the world's highest health policy setting body and is composed of health ministers from member states.
- Statement 2 is correct. The International Health Regulations (IHR) are legally binding regulations adopted by the World Health Assembly (WHA) to prevent, protect against, control, and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is officially designated as the National Central Bureau (NCB) of India, which acts as the interface with Interpol. Interpol notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts that allow police in member countries to share critical crime-related information, seeking international cooperation for tracing or

apprehending fugitives. A Red Corner Notice (RCN) is issued by the Interpol to seek the location and arrest of a person wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (D)

- The China-CEEC Cooperation mechanism, also known as the “17+1” mechanism, was launched in 2012 to promote economic and trade cooperation between China and 16 Central and Eastern European countries. The participating countries are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Nairobi-Washington Vision was launched in 2022 during the US-Africa Leaders’ Summit in Washington, D.C. It is a joint initiative by the US and Kenyan governments, in coordination with other G7 countries and African nations, to address the issues of debt relief, sustainable development financing, and economic recovery in developing countries. The initiative aims to position the U.S. as a better partner for Africa compared to China, which has been providing high-interest loans to the continent.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Economy

38. Correct Answer is (A)

- The primary purpose of a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction conducted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to manage liquidity in the banking system. This involves injecting short-term liquidity into the system when there is a deficit or absorbing excess liquidity when there is a surplus. By conducting VRR auctions, the RBI aims to maintain financial stability and ensure that money market interest rates evolve systematically. This helps in managing the overall liquidity conditions in the economy and supports the smooth functioning of the banking system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

39. Correct Answer is (B)

- Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) play a crucial role in the Indian banking system by purchasing non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans from banks. This process helps banks clean up their balance sheets, which in turn improves their financial health and allows them to focus on providing credit to new borrowers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (C)

- A decrease in Treasury bill supply is generally seen as a sign of economic strength and rising yields, which attracts more foreign investment into Indian bonds and equities. This increased demand for Indian assets leads to higher demand for the Indian rupee, causing it to appreciate against other currencies like the US dollar.

Source: [The Print](#)

41. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The RBI has proposed that banks should maintain a general provision during the construction stage of projects with long gestation periods. The proposed provision is 5% on all existing and fresh exposures by the banks. This provision is aimed at mitigating potential risks associated with such projects and ensuring stability in the banking sector.

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- Statement 2 is correct. The draft regulations require that the projects must have a positive Net Present Value (NPV) to be eligible for project finance. The NPV is a financial metric that considers the time value of money and assesses the long-term profitability and viability of a project.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

42. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Labour Bureau, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, is responsible for compiling and releasing the CPI-IW in India. The index is a measure of inflation and is primarily used to determine the rate of inflation faced by industrial workers. Additionally, the index is also used to calculate the dearness allowance (DA) for government employees and workers in the organized sector.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Indian Union Government does not announce a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for onions. MSP is typically announced for certain staple crops like cereals, pulses, and oilseeds, but onions are not included in this list. Instead, the government uses other measures, such as maintaining an onion buffer stock and imposing export restrictions, to stabilize onion prices.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Coefficient of Variation (CoV) is used as a key measure to analyze the volatility in the prices of vegetables. It helps in understanding the extent of variability in relation to the mean price and is commonly used in studies analyzing price fluctuations of agricultural commodities.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

44. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) earns income through various means, including interest on holdings of domestic and foreign securities. This is a significant source of profit for the RBI, as it involves open market operations where the central bank purchases or sells bonds in the open market to regulate money supply in the economy. The Bimal Jalan Committee's recommendations are currently used to determine the level of surplus transfer from the RBI to the government. The committee was formed to review the Economic Capital Framework (ECF) of the RBI, and it recommended a formula-based approach for surplus transfer, ensuring transparency and clarity in the process.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary reason the Reserve Bank of India transfers its surplus to the government is not to improve the government's credit rating. Instead, the surplus transfer is a part of the RBI's annual financial operations, where the excess of income over expenditure, after making adequate provisions for contingencies and reserves, is transferred to the government. This process is governed by the RBI Act, 1934, and helps in supporting the government's finances.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (B)

- Fisher Dynamics was proposed by Irving Fisher, an American economist, in the early 20th century. It is based on the concept that debt levels can become unsustainable over time if interest payments outpace income growth, even if the initial level of debt appears manageable. Fisher proposed that a combination of increased interest rates, reduced income growth, or a combination of both can lead to a debt-income ratio that increases indefinitely.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

46. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Total household savings include net financial savings (savings minus consumption), physical savings (household durables like furniture, cars, etc.), and savings in the

form of gold and ornaments. These savings forms are considered essential for households to create a financial buffer against unforeseen circumstances and future expenditures.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Weighted Average Lending Rate (WALR) represents the average interest rate on all loans issued by a bank, weighted by the loan amounts, not deposits.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Environment

47. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Armoured Sailfin Catfish (Pterygoplichthys) is considered an invasive species in many parts of the world. It has been introduced outside its native range in South America, often due to releases from the aquarium trade, and has established populations in various countries, causing ecological problems. They are popular in the ornamental fish industry due to their algae-eating behavior and unique appearance. Their ability to thrive in various water conditions and its diet, which includes algae, small fish, and fish eggs, can disrupt the balance of native fish populations. This can lead to ecological problems in the invaded ecosystems.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

48. Correct Answer is (B)

- Decreased agricultural productivity: Deforestation can lead to soil degradation and reduced agricultural productivity over time due to loss of soil fertility and increased erosion.
- Increased soil erosion: Trees play a crucial role in holding the soil together with their roots, and their removal leads to increased soil erosion.
- Loss of habitat for wildlife: Deforestation leads to habitat loss, which severely impacts wildlife, leading to reduced biodiversity and increased risk of extinction for many species.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

49. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Iberian Lynx is not found in India. It is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula in Spain and Portugal, specifically in the southwestern region.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Iberian Lynx is classified as "Endangered" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. It is the world's most endangered feline species. The Iberian Lynx is known for its distinctive coat, which is typically light brown or gray with numerous dark spots. Compared to other lynx species, the Iberian Lynx has a more heavily spotted coat. This unique feature helps to identify the species and distinguish it from other lynx populations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

50. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Lion-tailed macaques are arboreal, meaning they primarily live in trees, and they are endemic to the rainforests of the Western Ghats in South India. Lion-tailed macaques are diurnal, which means they are active during the day and sleep at night.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. Lion-tailed macaques are classified as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. As arboreal primates, lion-tailed macaques spend most of their time in the trees of the forest canopy, rather than on the ground.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

51. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Waterhole Count Method is primarily used to estimate wildlife numbers, particularly large mammals, at water sources during dry seasons. As water becomes scarce in arid or semi-arid regions during dry seasons, animals tend to congregate around remaining water sources, making it easier to observe and count them. This method is also used in conducting elephant census. Other two methods are: Block Count Sampling, Dung Count Method.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

52. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Killer whales, also known as orcas, have a cosmopolitan distribution and can be found in all oceans around the world, from polar regions to the Equator. Killer whales are highly social animals and use a sophisticated system of underwater communication through sounds such as clicks, whistles, and pulsed calls. These sounds are essential for their survival as they help in hunting, navigation, and maintaining their social structure.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Currently, killer whales are categorized as "Data Deficient" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

53. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Baobab Tree (*Adansonia digitata*) is known for its distinctive appearance, characterized by a thick, bottle-shaped trunk, and a spreading, sparse canopy with bare branches that often resemble roots, giving the tree an upside-down appearance. It is a long-lived, deciduous tree native to Africa and Australia, often found in hot, dry savannah regions. The Baobab Tree is also called the "Tree of Life" due to its ability to store water in its massive trunk, which helps it survive in arid environments and provides a crucial water source for various wildlife.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

54. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Sea otters belong to the weasel family and are aquatic animals. They are found along the coasts of the Pacific Ocean in North America and Asia. Sea otters spend most of their time in the water but occasionally come ashore to sleep or rest. The IUCN lists the sea otter as an endangered species due to various threats, including oil spills, predation, poaching, and conflicts with fisheries.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Sea otters are mainly associated with kelp forests and coastal ecosystems in the northern and eastern North Pacific Ocean. They do not play a significant role in tropical coral reef ecosystems.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

55. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Flamingos often stand on one leg, a behavior known as unipedal resting or standing. Flamingos have long, slender legs that are typically longer than their bodies, allowing them to wade through shallow water and find food with their bills. Their long legs help them navigate their aquatic habitats efficiently and keep their body elevated above the water's surface. Flamingos are regular migratory visitors. India hosts two species of flamingos: the Greater Flamingo and the Lesser Flamingo. These birds migrate to India from various regions, including Africa, the Middle East, and other parts of Asia, primarily for feeding and breeding purposes.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Flamingos are filter feeders and primarily feed on small organisms such as algae, crustaceans, and diatoms found in shallow water or mud. They use their unique curved bills to sift through water and mud while moving their head upside down. Flamingos do not dive deep underwater or feed on fish like some other aquatic birds.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

56. Correct Answer is (C)

- National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) is a Government of India's programme launched in 2008 to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change. The 8 sub-missions aimed at fulfilling India's developmental objectives with focus on reducing emission intensity of its

economy. These are: National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem, Green India Mission, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

57. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The Loss and Damage Fund is designed to address both economic losses (such as damage to infrastructure and loss of crops) and non-economic losses (such as loss of culture, displacement, and mental health impacts) caused by climate change. The primary purpose of the Loss and Damage Fund is to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events. There is no universally agreed-upon definition of loss and damage within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it can mean different things to different groups.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The World Bank will oversee the initial coordination of the Loss and Damage Fund, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources and aiding nations in their recovery efforts.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

58. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Bioremediation refers to the use of microorganisms to degrade or remove pollutants, including microplastics, from the environment. It is a method for reducing pollution, not a process by which microplastics accumulate in organisms. Microplastics can accumulate in the bodies of organisms through processes like bioaccumulation and biomagnification.
- Statement 2 is correct. Ashtamudi Lake is a Ramsar wetland located in the Kollam District of Kerala, India. It was designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on August 19, 2002.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Himalayan Ibex is a herbivore, primarily feeding on grasses, leaves, and shrubs.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Himalayan Ibex is found in the trans-Himalayan regions of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh. The Himalayan Ibex has a thick, woolly coat that helps them survive in the harsh, cold mountain environment.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Science & Technology

60. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Hysterectomy is performed to alleviate symptoms of gynecological disorders such as irregular bleeding, menorrhagia, pelvic pain, and bodily discomfort. It can also reduce anxiety and depression, thereby enhancing the quality of life for many women. Globally, hysterectomy is one of the most frequently conducted surgeries among women.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The overall prevalence of hysterectomy in India is 11.5%, with the highest rates in the southern (18.2%) and western (12.7%) regions. Andhra Pradesh has the highest prevalence rate at 63 per 1,000 women, followed by Telangana (55 per 1,000), Karnataka (29 per 1,000), and Punjab (23 per 1,000).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

61. Correct Answer is (B)

10 PM Compilation May [Third Week] 2024

- Statement 1 is correct. Kerala has been endemic for the West Nile virus (WNV) for at least two decades.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Although Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) is an important factor of WNV infection, the possibility of WNF is also considered in patients with milder symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches and fatigue. The principal vectors of WNV are mosquitoes, primarily those belonging to the Culex genus.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

62. Correct Answer is (C)

- Food irradiation involves exposing food items to ionizing radiation to kill harmful microorganisms and extend the shelf life of food products. The process is used to enhance food safety and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses. It is important to note that irradiation does not make the food radioactive; rather, it is a safe and effective method of food preservation. India is piloting irradiation to extend the shelf life of onions and reduce post-harvest losses.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

63. Correct Answer is (B)

- Gram-negative bacteria possess an outer membrane that contains lipopolysaccharides, which act as a physical barrier to many antibiotics. This outer membrane prevents the entry of antibiotics into the bacterial cell, making Gram-negative bacteria generally more resistant to antibiotics compared to Gram-positive bacteria.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

64. Correct Answer is (C)

- Alpha-synuclein (SNCA) is a protein that has been particularly implicated in Parkinson's disease, a neurodegenerative disorder that affects movement, often causing tremors and stiffness. In Parkinson's disease, abnormal accumulation of alpha-synuclein forms protein clumps called Lewy bodies, which are found in the brains of affected individuals. These clumps are thought to contribute to the loss of dopamine-producing neurons in a region of the brain called the substantia nigra, leading to the motor symptoms associated with the disease.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

65. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statement-I is incorrect. Hydrogen was formed in the initial aftermath of the Big Bang, not through stellar nucleosynthesis.
- Statement-II is correct. Stellar nucleosynthesis is the process through which stars create elements within their cores. Stars have extremely high pressures and temperatures in their cores. For example, the Sun's core temperature is about 15 million degrees Celsius. These conditions allow atomic nuclei to undergo nuclear fusion.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

66. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The primary goal of the PREFIRE mission is to improve our understanding of the energy balance in the Arctic and Antarctic regions by measuring heat emissions from these polar areas. This will help fill knowledge gaps in climate science and provide valuable insights into how Earth's polar regions contribute to the global climate system. The PREFIRE mission consists of two small CubeSats, each equipped with miniature heat sensors called bolometers. These CubeSats will orbit Earth and measure the heat emitted from the polar regions in the far-infrared portion of the electromagnetic spectrum, which is crucial for understanding energy exchange between Earth's surface and the atmosphere in these areas.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

67. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Integrated Theatre Commands are designed to unify the command of the three services (Army, Navy, and Air Force) under a single commander, which facilitates faster decision-making and coordinated responses to security threats by avoiding the need for coordination among multiple service-specific commands.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. The proposed structure for ITCs suggests that they will be headed by four-star officers, equivalent to the service chiefs, to ensure they have the requisite authority and command over the integrated resources of the three services. The concept of jointness and integrated commands is not entirely new to the Indian military. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) and the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) are examples of existing unified commands in India. However, the proposed ITCs will expand this concept to cover larger geographical areas and include all three services. It was the Shekatkar committee, which recommended the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and theatre commands.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

68. Correct Answer is (B)

- The CEIR system is designed to identify and block stolen or illegal mobile phones across networks, thereby preventing the use of counterfeit and cloned mobile devices. It helps in tracking lost or stolen mobile phones and ensures that blacklisted devices cannot be used on any network in India. The CEIR portal was developed by the Department of Telecommunications.

Source: [AIR](#)

69. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Males have one X and one Y chromosome, while females have two X chromosomes. This chromosomal difference between males and females is the basis of sex determination in mammals.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The X chromosome is significant not only for determining sex but also for its role in various biological functions and disease susceptibilities. The human X chromosome encodes around 800 genes, which are crucial for numerous cellular processes. Loss of function in these genes can lead to a variety of genetic diseases. X Chromosome Inactivation (XCI) is a process occurring in female mammals to balance the gene expression levels of X-linked genes between the sexes. One of the two X chromosomes in female cells is transcriptionally silenced to achieve this dosage compensation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)