

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

[2nd Week] July, 2024

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INDEX

Art & Culture and Ancient History.....	2
Geography.....	2
Polity.....	3
Acts & Policies	6
Reports & Index	7
International Relations/Organizations	8
Economy.....	9
Environment.....	13
Science & Technology	13
Answer Key	16
Answers & Explanations	17

Art & Culture and Ancient History

Q.1) Consider the following:

1. High antiquity of early texts over 1500-2000 years
2. A body of ancient literature considered valuable heritage
3. The literary tradition must be original and not borrowed
4. The language must have at least 10 million native speakers

How many of the above are the criteria for recognizing a language as a classical language in India?

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

Q.2) In the ancient Indian history, the word 'Nadu Kal' refers to:

- a) Hero stone
- b) Memorial stone
- c) Planted stone
- d) Warrior stone

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The Paramara dynasty was founded by Krishnaraja or Upendra.
2. The Paramara dynasty emerged as an independent power after defeating the Pratiharas.
3. Bhumija architectural style is associated with the Paramara dynasty.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Geography

Q.4) Russia's Far East borders:

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

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. India's total fertility rate and mortality rate have seen a decline.
2. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line has increased in India.
3. India accounts for one-third of the global malnutrition burden.
4. India has a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCD).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) Which of the following best describes "replacement level fertility"?

- a) A Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of exactly 2.0 children per woman.
- b) A Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of approximately 2.1 children per woman.
- c) The minimum Total Fertility Rate (TFR) needed to prevent population decline.
- d) The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) needed to maintain the current population growth rate.

Q.7) Consider the following:

- 1. They are generally adapted to well-drained loamy soils.
- 2. The ideal temperature range for its growth is 15-30°C.
- 3. They prefer moderate to low rainfall conditions.

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

- a) Rice
- b) Pulses
- c) Cotton
- d) Coffee

Q.8) Which of the following statements about Red Sea are correct?

- 1. It is one of the coldest seas in the world.
- 2. The Sea gets its name due to the presence of red coral reefs.
- 3. Six countries border the Red Sea.
- 4. The Red Sea has no permanent rivers flowing into it.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to the Cauvery River:

- 1. The Cauvery River originates from Andhra Pradesh.
- 2. Krishna is not a tributary of the Cauvery River.
- 3. The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) functions are storage, apportionment, regulation and control of Cauvery waters.

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

Polity

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The concept of whip in the Indian Parliament is derived from the judiciary's interpretation of voting rights.
- 2. The main purpose of a whip system in the Parliament is to ensure smooth functioning of the legislative process.

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

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

Q.11) The purpose of designating some companies as Systemically Significant Digital Enterprises (SSDEs) is to:

- a) Promote innovation among large tech companies
- b) Increase tax revenue from digital businesses
- c) Regulate dominant digital platforms and prevent anti-competitive practice
- d) Encourage foreign investment in the digital sector

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Minister is not bound to communicate to the Governor all decisions made by the Council of Ministers regarding the administration of the state's affairs and proposals for legislation.
2. The Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of their office.

Which of the statements given above 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. Caste Census is a state subject.
2. The 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) are applicable to the OBCs, SCs and STs.
3. The Constitution provides for reservations in electoral constituencies in panchayats and municipalities for OBCs but it does not provide reservation to OBCs in electoral constituencies for MPs and MLAs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.14) Consider the following:

1. Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956
2. River Boards Act, 1956
3. National River Water Allocation Act, 1993

How many of the above laws aim to regulate inter-state river water sharing?

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

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. The primary objective of setting up Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) is to create a pool of technical experts from tribal communities.
2. Under Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution, grants are provided for the establishment of EMRS.

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

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

Q.16) Which one of the following best describes the difference between 'procedure established by law' and 'due process of law'?

- a) 'Procedure established by law' is more flexible than 'due process of law.'
- b) 'Procedure established by law' only checks if the procedure is followed, while 'due process of law' also examines if the law is fair, just, and reasonable.
- c) 'Due process of law' applies only to criminal cases, while 'procedure established by law' applies to civil cases.
- d) 'Procedure established by law' is only applicable in state laws, whereas 'due process of law' is applicable in both state and central laws.

Q.17) Which one of the following is NOT a fundamental right related to personal liberty in India?

- a) Protection from arbitrary arrest and detention
- b) Right to free legal aid
- c) Right to privacy
- d) Right to hold public office

Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. The primary goal of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is to ensure food security by distributing essential food items at subsidized rates to economically vulnerable populations.
2. In India, the PDS operate under the Ministry of Rural Development.

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. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is considered a 'State' under Article 12 of the Indian Constitution
2. Under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946, the CBI is required to obtain consent from the concerned administrator of the Union Territories.
3. CBI is an independent agency and it do not function under the direct control of the Union government.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. A Money Bill contains provisions exclusively related to financial matters.
2. The Rajya Sabha cannot recommend amendments to the Money Bill.
3. A Money Bill is certified by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, while a Financial Bill is not.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Acts & Policies

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS):

1. Under the BNSS, officer in-charge of a police station cannot refuse to register an FIR on the basis of lack of jurisdiction.
2. The BNSS mandates videography during a search conducted by the police.
3. The word 'terrorist' has been defined by the BNSS.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.22) Consider the following pairs:

Schemes/Initiatives -----Features

1. Samagra Shiksha----- Improve school effectiveness and equitable learning outcomes
2. PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) ----- Promote lifelong learning for citizens aged 15 and above
3. Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS)-----Establish exemplar schools to showcase NEP 2020 implementation
4. Vidya Samiksha Kendra-----Enable data-driven decision making in education

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.23) With reference to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), consider the following statements:

1. It applies to all registered non-profit organizations (NPOs) receiving foreign funds.
2. Interest received on foreign contributions deposited in a bank is not considered a "foreign contribution" under the FCRA.
3. The act aims to prevent foreigners from influencing Indian electoral politics.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.24) With reference to the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to address challenges faced by shipyards and promote technology development through startups nurtured in India.
2. The scheme aligns with the 'Digital India' and 'Skill India' initiative of the government.

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

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

Q.25) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the e-FAST India initiative?

- a) Promote the use of electric cars for personal transportation
- b) Facilitate collaboration for freight electrification at scale
- c) Develop renewable energy sources for rural areas
- d) Create a network of electric buses for public transport

Q.26) Operation Dhanush II, seen in the news recently, is –

- a) A nationwide campaign to promote archery sports in India
- b) A joint naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka
- c) An anti-corruption drive targeting government officials
- d) An anti-infiltration operation by the Indian Army along the Line of Control

Q.27) With reference to Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) programme, consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to reduce pendency of cases in courts.
- 2. Tele-Law is one of its core components.
- 3. It also aims to secure justice as given in the Preamble and under Articles 39A, 14, and 21 of the Constitution of India.

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

Reports & Index

Q.28) With reference to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. Maharashtra has the highest forest cover by area among all the states in India.
- 2. Delhi has the largest forest cover among seven major megacities.
- 3. Some north-eastern states saw a decrease in forest cover.

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.29) Consider the following statements:

- 1. India has the highest digital transactions globally.
- 2. India has seen improvement in all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the recently released SDG India Index for 2023-24.

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.30) The Order of St Andrew the Apostle', Russia's highest civilian honour, is significant in Russian history because:

- a) It was established by Catherine the Great
- b) It is the oldest and highest order of chivalry in Russia
- c) It is exclusively awarded to military personnel
- d) It was created after the Russian Revolution

Q.31) Which one of the following countries is NOT a part of military exercise 'Birlestik-2024'?

- a) Azerbaijan
- b) Russia
- c) Kazakhstan
- d) Kyrgyzstan

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC):

- 1. Thailand hosts the permanent secretariat of BIMSTEC.
- 2. It is a grouping of seven South and Southeast Asian countries for multifaceted cooperation.
- 3. Leadership in the BIMSTEC is rotated in alphabetical order of country names.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.33) With reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), consider the following statements:

- 1. United States, Australia, India, and Japan are members of Quad.
- 2. The Quad countries share a common concern about climate change.
- 3. Military dominance is a core principle of Quad.
- 4. It is primarily focused on Indo-Pacific region.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.34) Consider the following:

- 1. Artificial intelligence
- 2. Quantum technology
- 3. Renewable energy
- 4. Space

Which of the above are the key areas of focus under the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)?

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

Q.35) 'Hannibal Directive', seen in the news recently, is used in the context of:

- a) Environmental conservation strategy in the Amazon rainforest
- b) Counter-terrorism operations in Israel
- c) Space exploration mission guidelines by NASA
- d) Economic sanctions policy by the European Union

Q.36) With reference to India and Russia relation, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. India's imports from Russia, especially oil and fertilizers, have increased significantly in recent years.
- 2. India's RuPay and Russia's MIR payment systems will be integrated for seamless cross-border transactions.
- 3. Both the countries have signed Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS).

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.37) With reference to the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC), consider the following statements:

- 1. It is an event organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to address various issues related to civil aviation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 2. The conference has stressed on limiting passenger traffic for the India's aviation sector.
- 3. The conference describes India's position in the global aviation market as the most sustainable aviation market globally.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Economy

Q.38) Consider the following activities:

- 1. Supply of seeds and fertilizers
- 2. Direct marketing of agricultural produce
- 3. Providing legal advice to farmers
- 4. Offering financial and technical training

Which of the above activities are associated with Farmers' Producer Organization (FPO)?

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

Q.39) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India's public health spending is low compared to developed countries.

Statement-II: India has a universal healthcare system that covers all citizens.

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.40) Consider the following:

- 1. Fines and penalties
- 2. Dividends from public sector enterprises
- 3. License fees
- 4. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

How many of the above are considered as Non-tax Revenue?

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

Q.41) Consider the following statements:

- 1. About half of Indian workforce is involved in agriculture.
- 2. India has a deficit in service trade but surplus in goods trade.

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.42) Consider the following pairs:

Ports-----States

- 1. Vizhinjam Port-----Tamil Nadu
- 2. Vadhavan Port-----Kerala
- 3. Machilipatnam Port-----Andhra Pradesh

Which of the above pair(s) is/are correctly matched?

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

Q.43) National currency settlement systems often involve a central bank. Which one of the following is likely an important role of the central bank in facilitating national currency settlement system?

- a) Setting interest rates for loans and deposits offered by commercial banks.
- b) Maintaining a record of all transactions happening within the system.
- c) Managing the foreign exchange reserves of the nation.
- d) Approving or denying individual bank transfers based on regulatory compliance.

Q.44) Which one of the following best describes a key principle of the circular economy?

- a) Prioritizing the extraction and consumption of new resources.
- b) Designing products for easy disassembly and reuse of materials.
- c) Promoting a disposable culture for faster product replacement.
- d) Prioritizing production efficiency without considering waste generation.

Q.45) Which one of the following sectors does the 'National Gopal Ratna Award' recognize?

- a) Fisheries
- b) Poultry farming
- c) Dairy farming
- d) Crop cultivation

Q.46) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Goods and Services Tax (GST) has reduced state fiscal autonomy.

Statement-II: Under GST, states cannot independently decide tax rates.

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.47) Which one of the following categories holds the highest weightage in India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket?

- a) Housing
- b) Food and Beverages
- c) Fuel and Light
- d) Clothing and Footwear

Q.48) Consider the following statements:

1. Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) aims to promote exports from India.
2. Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), residents in India can open Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City.

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.49) Consider the following:

1. Stocks of foreign companies
2. Government bonds from other countries
3. Foreign real estate properties
4. Exchange-traded funds

How many of the above are considered types of foreign portfolio investment?

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

Q.50) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The gig workers in India are not guaranteed minimum wage earnings.

Statement-II: In India, gig workers are not recognized as formal workers.

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.51) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. The financial transfers through Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CSec Schemes) are statutory transfers.
- 2. The Finance Commissions recommend the States' share in the net tax revenue of the Union government.

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.52) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The financial transfer to States by the Union has seen a decline in recent years.

Statement-II: Revenue collection by the Union government through cess and surcharge has increased.

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.53) Which one of the following accounts in the balance of payments records a trade deficit?

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

Q.54) With reference to the Union Budget, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a revenue and expenditure statement of the government.
- 2. Article 112 of the Indian Constitution refers to the Union Budget as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).
- 3. The Reserve Fund of India is a part of the structure of the Union Budget.
- 4. The 'Halwa Ceremony' in the Union Budget is a celebration after the Budget is presented.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Environment

Q.55) Which one of the following animals can be easily found in Periyar National Park?

- a) Indian Rhinoceros
- b) Lion-tailed Macaque
- c) Blackbuck
- d) Great Indian Bustard

Q.56) With reference to dogfish shark, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. They hunt in packs similar to dogs.
- 2. All the species of these sharks are characterized by smooth dorsal fin spines.
- 3. These sharks are relatively larger compared to other shark species.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.57) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Windamere palm tree is the state tree of Sikkim.
- 2. Rhododendron niveum tree is endemic to the eastern Himalayas and found in the Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary along the ancient Silk Route.

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

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

Science & Technology

Q.58) Consider the following statements:

- 1. National Quantum Mission (NQM) aims to accelerate quantum technology-led economic growth and innovation.
- 2. High quality polished gold is crucial for quantum research.

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) Consider the following statements:

1. Cervical cancer rates have declined globally.
2. Cervavac, India's indigenously produced vaccine, provides protection against all known Human Papillomavirus (HPV) types.
3. Cervavac vaccine uses virus-like particles (VLPs) produced using recombinant DNA (rDNA) techniques to prevent cervical cancer.

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.60) Which one of the following is the primary aim of the AI Experience Hub, recently inaugurated by the Indian Navy?

- a) Public education about artificial intelligence
- b) Training and familiarization of Navy personnel with AI applications
- c) Conducting basic research on cutting-edge AI technologies
- d) Developing and deploying complex AI systems for military operations

Q.61) The primary function of a regenerative braking system in electric vehicles is to:

- a) Convert kinetic energy into heat energy
- b) Convert kinetic energy into electrical energy
- c) Increase the speed of the vehicle
- d) Reduce the vehicle's weight

Q.62) Which one of the following best describes the primary goal of India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)?

- a) Reduce TB incidence by 50% by 2025
- b) Eliminate TB as a public health problem by 2030
- c) Achieve TB elimination in India by 2025
- d) Reduce TB mortality by 75% by 2025

Q.63) Consider the following statements:

1. Water microdroplets can carry electric charges.
2. Water microdroplets are capable of engaging in chemical reactions.
3. Water microdroplets can break down crystals like silica and alumina into nanoparticles.

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.64) Consider the following:

1. Border guarding
2. Counter-insurgency operations
3. Conducting air strikes
4. Disaster rescue operations

How many of the above are the main responsibilities of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force?

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

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the Military Exercise Pitch Black:

1. It is an annual joint military exercise conducted between India and New Zealand.
2. The 2024 exercise will focus on Large Force Employment warfare aimed at strengthening international cooperation.

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

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

Q.66) Consider the following statements:

1. The dengue virus is transmitted to humans when they are bitten by mosquitoes carrying the virus.
2. Dengue is endemic only to Asia.
3. The primary method for preventing dengue is through vaccination.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.67) Consider the following statements:

1. Stinger missile is an anti-tank missile.
2. The primary target of a Stinger missile is low-flying aircraft.
3. Infrared homing is the guidance system used by the Stinger missile.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.68) Wolbachia bacteria was seen in the news recently, is:

- a) A new method to enhance crop yields by modifying plant genetics.
- b) A breakthrough in cancer treatment using bacterial therapy.
- c) A novel method for controlling mosquito populations.
- d) A discovery of bacteria that can degrade plastic waste.

Q.69) The primary objective of "One Scientist, One Product" program is to:

- a) Increase the number of scientists in agricultural research.
- b) Focus research efforts and improve efficiency in agricultural innovation.
- c) Reduce the overall number of agricultural products being researched.
- d) Assure scientists work on at least one product in their career.

Q.70) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Currently, the Indian space programme follows a supply-driven model.
- 2. Under the Project Soorya, ISRO aims to enhance satellite communication 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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture and Ancient History

1. Correct Answer is (C)

- 1, 2 and 3 are the required criteria. Classical language status in India is a prestigious recognition granted by the government to languages with a rich historical and literary heritage. The Government of India has established specific criteria for a language to be considered classical. These are: High antiquity of early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years, A body of ancient literature/texts considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers, The literary tradition must be original and not borrowed from another speech community, the classical language and literature should be distinct from its modern forms. Currently, India officially recognizes six languages as classical: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia. However, consideration of Marathi language is underway. Languages designated as classical receive several benefits such as: Two major annual international awards for scholars of eminence in the language, Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Studies in the Classical Language, etc.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

- In ancient history, the term Nadu Kal refers to a hero stone. These stones were memorials erected to commemorate the honorable death of heroes in battle. They were significant during the Sangam period and were often inscribed with details of the hero's bravery and the battle in which they perished.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Paramara dynasty was founded by Upendra or Krishnaraja in the 9th century CE. The Paramara dynasty ruled over the Malwa region in central India from the 9th to the 14th centuries CE. The Bhumija style was developed in the Malwa region during the 10th-11th century CE under Paramara rule. It is considered one of the late developments of Nagara temple architecture and is closely associated with the Paramara dynasty.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Paramaras emerged as an independent power after defeating the Rashtrakutas, not the Pratiharas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Geography

4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Russia's Far East is a vast and diverse region that encompasses the easternmost part of Russia and the Asian continent. This expansive territory stretches from Lake Baikal to the Pacific Ocean. The region's geography is characterized by its immense size and varied landscape. It borders two oceans - the Pacific and the Arctic - and shares land borders with Mongolia, China, and North Korea, as well as maritime boundaries with Japan and the United States. The Far East is rich in natural resources, playing a crucial role in Russia's economy. About one-third of Russia's coal reserves and hydro-engineering resources are located in the Far East. The region's forests comprise approximately 30% of Russia's total forest area.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

5. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, India's total fertility rate (TFR) decreased from 3.4 to 2 between 1992 and 2021, dropping below the replacement level of 2.1. There has been a significant drop in the mortality rate as well. The average life expectancy of Indians has also increased over time. India contributes a third of the global

10 PM Compilation July [Second Week] 2024

burden of malnutrition. India has a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCD).

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line reduced from 48% to 10% between 1990 and 2019.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Replacement level fertility refers to the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, without migration. This typically corresponds to a TFR of about 2.1 children per woman in most countries.

Source: [AIR](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Pulses are typically grown in well-drained loamy soils and thrive in moderate to low rainfall conditions. They generally require a temperature range of 15-30°C, which is ideal for their growth. Pulses are known for their drought tolerance and ability to grow in areas with low to moderate rainfall. Pulses are both rabi and kharif crops.

Source: [AIR](#)

8. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Red Sea is an inlet of the Indian Ocean located between Africa and Asia. It connects to the Mediterranean Sea in the north via the Suez Canal and to the Gulf of Aden in the south via the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb. It is one of the saltiest and warmest seas in the world. The Red Sea has coral reefs, but they are not predominantly red. The name is more likely derived from the seasonal blooms of the red-colored cyanobacteria *Trichodesmium erythraeum* or from ancient references to the direction "south" associated with the colour red.
- Statements 3 and 4 are correct. The Red Sea is bordered by six countries: Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen. The Red Sea does not have any permanent rivers flowing into it. It is largely surrounded by desert regions, and while there are some intermittent streams or wadis, no permanent rivers reach the sea.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Cauvery River originates from Talakaveri in the Kodagu district of Karnataka. Its journey takes it through the states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, with small portions in Kerala and the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Krishna River is a separate major river in India and is not a tributary of the Cauvery River. The Cauvery has several important tributaries: Left bank: Harangi, Hemavati, Shimsha, and Arkavati and Right bank: Lakshmantirtha, Kabini, Suvarnavati, Bhavani, Noyil, and Amaravati. The CWMA's functions include the storage, apportionment, regulation, and control of Cauvery waters.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Polity

10. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The concept of whip in the Indian Parliament is inherited from British colonial rule and is based on unwritten conventions of the parliamentary system, rather than being defined in the Constitution or other written laws. 'Whip' is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India, nor in the Rules of the House, nor in any Parliamentary Statute.

- Statement 2 is correct. The whip ensures smooth and efficient functioning of the business of the House. Its primary functions include ensuring party discipline, managing attendance, coordinating voting according to party lines, and facilitating efficient conduct of business in the House.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (C)

- The designation of certain companies as Systemically Significant Digital Enterprises (SSDEs) is primarily aimed at regulating large, dominant digital platforms and preventing anti-competitive practices in the digital economy. This classification is typically part of broader efforts to ensure fair competition, protect consumer interests, and maintain market integrity in the rapidly evolving digital landscape. SSDEs are usually large tech companies with significant market power and influence over digital ecosystems.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 167 of the Indian Constitution explicitly states that it is the duty of the Chief Minister to communicate to the Governor all decisions of the Council of Ministers relating to the administration of the state's affairs and proposals for legislation.
- Statement 2 is correct. According to Article 361 of the Indian Constitution, the Governor enjoys immunity from legal action for any act done in the exercise of their official duties.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The census is a Union subject in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Only the Centre is entitled to conduct a census. However, under the Census Act of 1948, states can collect population data for various purposes such as implementing welfare schemes. However, states cannot conduct a full-fledged census independently. The 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) is not given to the OBCs, SCs, and STs. It is specifically meant for individuals who are not covered under the existing reservations for SC, ST, and OBC categories.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Constitution provides for reservations in electoral constituencies in panchayats and municipalities for OBCs but does not provide reservation to OBCs in electoral constituencies for MPs and MLAs. While SCs and STs have reserved constituencies at all levels, such provisions for OBCs are only at the local government level.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956:** This act specifically aims to regulate inter-state river water sharing. It provides for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-state rivers and river valleys.
- **River Boards Act, 1956:** This act also aims to regulate inter-state river water sharing. It provides for the establishment of River Boards for the regulation and development of inter-state rivers and river valleys
- **National River Water Allocation Act, 1993:** There is no such act.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary objective of EMRS is to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, enabling them to avail reservation in higher and professional educational courses and access the best opportunities in education at par with the

non-ST population. The focus is on comprehensive physical, mental, and social development, rather than specifically creating a pool of technical experts.

- Statement 2 is correct. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution are provided for the establishment of EMRS. These grants are aimed at promoting the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and raising the level of administration in Scheduled Areas to that of the rest of the state. Part of these funds is utilized to establish EMRS to provide quality education to ST students.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Procedure Established by Law: This concept, enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, means that a law is valid if it has been enacted following the correct procedure. It focuses on whether the legislative process was followed correctly, without assessing the fairness or justness of the law itself.
- Due Process of Law: This doctrine, originating from the U.S. Constitution, not only ensures that the correct procedure is followed but also examines whether the law is fair, just, and reasonable. It provides broader protection for individual rights by allowing the judiciary to evaluate both the procedural and substantive aspects of the law.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (D)

- Right to hold public office is not a fundamental right related to personal liberty. It is more related to political rights and the right to participate in public affairs, but it is not classified under the fundamental rights related to personal liberty.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The primary objective of the PDS is to ensure food security by distributing essential food items at subsidized rates to economically vulnerable populations.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The PDS operates under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The DSPE Act requires the CBI to obtain consent from state governments to extend its jurisdiction to states, not from the administrators of Union territories. Union territories are directly governed by the Central Government, so the consent requirement typically applies to states. The Supreme Court has clarified that the CBI operates under the administrative control and superintendence of the Union government, as per the DSPE Act.
- Statement 1 is correct. The CBI is considered an instrumentality of the State under Article 12 of the Indian Constitution, which includes all authorities and instrumentalities of the government.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. According to Article 110(1) of the Indian Constitution, a Money Bill contains only provisions dealing with specified financial matters such as taxation, borrowing of money, and appropriation of funds from the Consolidated Fund of India. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies a bill as a Money Bill, and this certification is final. Financial Bills, on the other hand, do not require such certification by the Speaker.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Rajya Sabha can recommend amendments to a Money Bill, but it cannot reject or amend the bill itself. The Lok Sabha may choose to accept or reject the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The BNSS introduces the concept of Zero-FIR, which allows FIRs to be registered at any police station regardless of jurisdiction. The officer is legally bound to register and transfer such a case to the respective police station. The BNSS mandates that police raids and seizures must be videotaped to enhance transparency and accountability.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The definition of 'terrorism' is provided in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (B)

- 1 and 4 are correctly matched
- Samagra Shiksha aims to enhance school effectiveness as evaluated by equal access to education and equitable learning results.
- PM SHRI aims to establish exemplar schools that showcase NEP 2020 implementation.
- ULLAS is focused on promoting lifelong learning and bridge the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills among citizens aged 15 and above.
- Vidya Samiksha Kendra aims to leverage data and technology to bring a big leap in learning outcomes and enhance the overall monitoring of the education system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) applies to all registered NPOs that receive foreign contributions. These organizations must register with the Ministry of Home Affairs and comply with the regulations set forth by the FCRA. One of the primary objectives of the FCRA is to prevent foreign influence in Indian electoral politics and other areas that could be detrimental to national interests.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the FCRA, the interest accrued on foreign contributions deposited in a bank is considered a "foreign contribution".

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The primary goal of GAINS 2024 is to address challenges in shipyards and promote technology development through startups nurtured in India. The scheme encourages Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions. The scheme aims to foster technological advancements in ship design and construction.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme aligns with the 'Make in India' and 'Start-up India' policies.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

25. Correct Answer is (B)

- e-FAST India (Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport – India) is a platform designed to accelerate the adoption of electric freight vehicles in India. Its primary objective is to facilitate collaboration between various stakeholders to promote freight electrification at scale.

Source: [AIR](#)

26. Correct Answer is (D)

- Operation Dhanush II was an anti-infiltration operation conducted by the Indian Army along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Keran sector of Kupwara district, Jammu and Kashmir. The operation

resulted in the elimination of three terrorists and the recovery of weapons and other war-like stores.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA) programme is a five-year initiative (2021-2026) launched by the Department of Justice, Government of India. The primary aim of DISHA is to provide comprehensive, holistic, integrated, and systemic solutions to ensure access to justice across India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Its core components are: Tele-Law, Nyaya Bandhu and Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Programmes. The programme is designed to secure justice as articulated in the Preamble and under Articles 39A, 14, and 21 of the Constitution of India.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

Reports & Index

28. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. According to ISFR 2021, Madhya Pradesh has the highest forest cover by area in India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The ISFR 2021 indicates that Delhi has the largest forest cover among the seven major megacities in India. The ISFR 2021 reports a decrease in forest cover in several north-eastern states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Meghalaya.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India leads the world in digital payments, accounting for 46% of global real-time digital transactions in 2022. India is far ahead in terms of digitisation and with UPI being used from street vendors to large shopping malls, the country has the highest digital transactions globally.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. SDG India Index 2023-24 reports a positive trend in the performance of States and UTs on many SDGs. However, not all goals have seen improvement. For example, there has been a decline in scores related to income and gender inequality (Goal 10).

Source: [AIR](#)

International Relations/Organizations

30. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Order of St Andrew the Apostle was established by Tsar Peter the Great in 1698, making it the oldest and highest order of chivalry in Russia. It was originally created to recognize outstanding civilian and military merit. Recently, PM Modi has received Russia's Highest Civilian Honour, The Order of St Andrew The Apostle.

Source: [AIR](#)

31. Correct Answer is (B)

- Birlestik-2024, meaning "Unification" in Kazakh, is a significant regional military exercise involving five Central Asian countries—Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The exercise is notable for excluding major regional powers like Russia and China, marking a shift towards independent regional cooperation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The permanent secretariat of BIMSTEC is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

10 PM Compilation July [Second Week] 2024

- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. BIMSTEC is an international organization comprising seven member states from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand). The chairmanship of BIMSTEC is rotated in alphabetical order of the member countries' names.

Source: [AIR](#)

33. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The Quad comprises the United States, Australia, India, and Japan. The Quad countries have acknowledged climate change as a significant threat and have discussed it in their meetings. The primary focus of the Quad is on the Indo-Pacific region.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While the Quad does involve security cooperation, its core principles focus on ensuring a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, rather than military dominance.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

34. Correct Answer is (C)

- Focus areas under iCET are: AI research agency partnership, Defense Industrial Cooperation, Defense Technological Cooperation, And Defense Startups, Innovation Ecosystems, Semiconductor Ecosystem Development, Cooperation on Human Spaceflight, Quantum technology, Advancement in 5G and 6G Technologies, and Adoption of OpenRAN network Technology in India, Biotechnology, Critical Minerals, Rare Earth Mineral Processing and Digital Technology. However, renewable energy is not a focus area.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Hannibal Directive refers to a controversial military protocol used by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), originally intended to prevent Israeli soldiers from being captured by enemy forces, even if it meant risking their lives.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

36. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India's imports from Russia, especially oil and fertilizers, have surged significantly since 2022, leading to a trade imbalance that both sides aim to address. Both countries have agreed to establish a system for settling trade transactions in their national currencies (rupee-rouble) to circumvent Western sanctions. This includes integrating India's RuPay and Russia's MIR payment systems for seamless cross-border transactions.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) is ready for finalization and has been approved by the Russian side, it has not yet been signed by both countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation (APACMC) is organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to address various issues related to civil aviation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The focus areas for India include making aviation more accessible and affordable, sustainability, and growth in passenger traffic. India is projected to have significant growth in passenger traffic, aiming to reach 250 million annually. The conference highlights that India is among the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world and emphasizes the importance of sustainability. However, it does not describe India as the most sustainable aviation market globally.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Economy

38. Correct Answer is (C)

- Farmers' Producer Organizations facilitate farmers with access to improved technology, credit, better input and more markets to incentivise them to produce better quality commodities. These are legal entities formed by primary agricultural producers, mainly small and marginal farmers. An FPO is a type of Producer Organization where the members are farmers. It can be registered as a producer company, cooperative society, or any other legal form that allows profit-sharing among members. The key idea is to aggregate farmers to achieve economies of scale and enhance bargaining power. Of the activities mentioned above, providing legal advice to farmers is not an activity carried out by FPOs.

Source: [AIR](#)

39. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. India's public health spending as a percentage of GDP is significantly lower compared to developed countries. For instance, the U.S. spends nearly 16% of its GDP on healthcare, while India's public health spending has been around 1.12% to 1.35% of GDP.
- Statement-II is incorrect. While India has made efforts towards universal health coverage (UHC) with schemes like Ayushman Bharat, which aims to cover the poorest 40% of the population, it does not yet have a comprehensive universal healthcare system that covers all citizens without financial hardship.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (C)

- Non-tax revenue generally includes all government revenue that is not generated through taxes. This includes profits and dividends from public enterprises, fees for services, interest receipts, fines, and penalties. GST is not considered non-tax revenue; it is a form of tax revenue.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

41. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to the data, approximately 42.86% of the workforce in India was employed in agriculture in 2022.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. India has a trade deficit in goods and a trade surplus in services. Specifically, India's services trade surplus for FY 2023-24 was estimated at USD 162.05 billion, while the merchandise trade deficit was significant.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

42. Correct Answer is (D)

- Vizhinjam Port – It is India's first deep-water container transshipment port. It is located about 14 km from Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala.
- Vadhavan port – This major greenfield port is part of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEEEC). It aims to double the country's container handling capacity. It is a proposed deep-sea port located in Palghar district of Maharashtra. The port will feature nine container terminals, multipurpose berths, and facilities for handling liquid cargo. It is expected to become one of the world's top 10 ports.
- Machilipatnam Port – It is located in the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. This modern, all-weather, deep-water, multi-purpose port is being developed in phases. The project includes berth-related piling works and land-side dredging, with significant progress already made on breakwater construction.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- In a national currency settlement system, the central bank plays a crucial role. Maintaining a record of all transactions happening within the system is one of the important roles played by the central bank in facilitating national currency settlement system. This role is essential because it ensures the smooth and secure clearing and settlement of transactions, which is fundamental to the stability and efficiency of the financial system. The central bank acts as a central ledger, ensuring transparency, accountability, and finality of settlements. This record allows for reconciliation, identification of potential errors, and overall monitoring of the system's health. The responsibility for regulating transactions in the national currency system with another country in India primarily falls under the jurisdiction of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI operates under the framework provided by the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- The circular economy emphasizes minimizing waste and making the most of resources. This involves designing products in a way that their materials can be easily recovered, reused, and recycled at the end of their life cycles. By focusing on product longevity, resource efficiency, and the reduction of environmental impact, the circular economy seeks to create a closed-loop system where products and materials are continuously cycled back into the economy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (C)

- The National Gopal Ratna Award specifically recognizes excellence in the dairy and livestock sector. It is described as one of the highest National Awards in the field of livestock and dairy sector. The award aims to encourage the milk producing farmers, dairy cooperative societies, Milk producer Companies, Dairy farmers Producers organizations. It is organized by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying as part of the National Milk Day celebration. The award focuses on recognizing contributions to indigenous cattle/buffalo breeding, milk production, and dairy cooperatives. The award is given under Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Source: [AIR](#)

46. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I is correct. The implementation of GST has centralized the tax system, reducing the fiscal autonomy of states by subsuming many state taxes and limiting their ability to independently generate revenue.
- Statement II is correct. Under the GST regime, states do not have the power to set their own tax rates independently, which is a key aspect of fiscal autonomy.
- Therefore, Statement-II provides a direct explanation for Statement-I. The inability of states to set their own tax rates under GST is a significant reason why their fiscal autonomy has been reduced.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

47. Correct Answer is (B)

- Food and Beverages holds the highest weightage in India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket. This is because a significant portion of an average Indian household's expenditure is on food and related items. This category is given significant importance due to its direct impact on the cost of living for consumers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

48. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) allows resident individuals to remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year for any permitted current or capital account

10 PM Compilation July [Second Week] 2024

transactions, such as expenses for education, travel, medical treatment, and maintenance of relatives abroad. It's primarily a scheme to allow individuals to send money abroad for various purposes.

- Statement 2 is correct. The RBI has recently allowed resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). This new provision expands the scope of LRS and allows residents to use these accounts for various permissible transactions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

49. Correct Answer is (C)

- Foreign portfolio investment involves the purchase of financial assets such as stocks, bonds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that are passively held by investors without direct control over the companies or assets. These investments are characterized by their liquidity and the ability to diversify an investor's portfolio internationally. Foreign real estate properties are not considered part of foreign portfolio investments. Instead, they fall under foreign direct investment (FDI).

Source: [AIR](#)

50. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct. Many platforms for gig workers in India do not ensure that their workers earn at least the local minimum wage. The Fairwork India Ratings 2023 report highlighted that only a few platforms, such as BigBasket, Flipkart, and Urban Company, ensure their workers earn the minimum wage.
- Statement-II is correct. Currently, there is no specific legal framework in India that formally recognizes gig workers as formal workers. Even the Code on Social Security 2020 includes gig workers as informal self-employed workers. Since gig workers are not classified as formal employees, they are excluded from labor laws, including those related to minimum wages.
- Hence, Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Source: [The Hindu](#)

51. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The financial transfers through Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Central Sector Schemes (CSec) are non-statutory transfers to the states. These non-statutory grants are tied grants, i.e., they have to be spent on specific schemes for which the grants are allocated.
- Statement 2 is correct. Article 280 of the constitution, provides for the constitution of Finance Commission to recommend the distribution of net tax revenues between the central government and the state governments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

52. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I is correct. The Union government has been reducing financial transfers to states, especially as a proportion of gross tax revenue. For example, the share of states in gross tax revenue declined from 35% in 2015-16 to 30% in 2023-24.
- Statement II is correct. Revenue collection through cess and surcharge have significantly increased over the years. For instance, cess and surcharge collection rose from 5.9% of the Union government's gross tax revenue in 2015-16 to 10.8% in 2023-24.
- The increase in cess and surcharge collection (Statement-II) is one of the reasons for the decline in financial transfers to states (Statement-I). This is because cess and surcharge revenues are not shared with states, allowing the Union government to retain more of its tax collections.

- Therefore, Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

53. Correct Answer is (C)

- A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports, and this is recorded in the current account of the balance of payments. The current account includes transactions related to goods, services, income, and current transfers. When the value of imports of goods and services surpasses the value of exports, it results in a trade deficit, which is reflected in the current account balance.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

54. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Union Budget outlines the government's income (revenue) and spending (expenditure) for the upcoming financial year. Article 112 of the Indian Constitution refers to the Union Budget as the Annual Financial Statement (AFS).
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. There is no such fund called the Reserve Fund of India as part of the Union Budget structure. There are, however, other funds like the Contingency Fund and Public Account. The Halwa Ceremony is a tradition marking the beginning of the budget-making process, not a celebration after its presentation. It symbolizes the secrecy maintained during the budget preparation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Environment

55. Correct Answer is (B)

- Lion-tailed Macaque: This rare and endangered primate is endemic to the Western Ghats and is known to inhabit Periyar National Park. They are found in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. They are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- Indian Rhinoceros: This species is not found in Periyar National Park. It's primarily found in other parts of India, such as Kaziranga National Park in Assam.
- Blackbuck: While blackbucks are found in some parts of India, they are not typically associated with the habitat of Periyar National Park. The park's terrain, which consists mainly of tropical evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, is not the preferred habitat for blackbucks.
- Great Indian Bustard: This critically endangered bird species is not found in Periyar National Park. It's found in dry grasslands and scrublands of other parts of India, not in the moist, forested areas of Periyar.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

56. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. Dogfish sharks are known to hunt in packs, sometimes numbering in the thousands, which is why they are named after dogs.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While some species of dogfish sharks, like the smooth dogfish (*Mustelus canis*), have smooth dorsal fin spines, others, such as the spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*), have sharp spines in front of their dorsal fins. Even the newly discovered species - *Squalus hima*, has smooth dorsal fin spines. Dogfish sharks are relatively small compared to many other shark species.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

57. Correct Answer is (B)

10 PM Compilation July [Second Week] 2024

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The state tree of Sikkim is Rhododendron niveum. Palm trees typically thrive in tropical or subtropical climates, which are not the conditions found in Sikkim's mountainous terrain.
- Statement 2 is correct. Rhododendron niveum is endemic to the eastern Himalayas and is found in the Kyongnosla Alpine Sanctuary along the ancient Silk Route. Windamere palm tree is also located along the Silk Route. Both trees face threat to extinction.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Science & Technology

58. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The National Quantum Mission aims to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Diamonds with specific defects are crucial for quantum research.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Cervical cancer rates have declined globally and in India as well. However, it is still a major health concern in low- and middle-income countries. Cervavac uses virus-like particles (VLPs) produced using recombinant DNA techniques to elicit an immune response against HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Cervavac is a quadrivalent vaccine that provides protection against HPV types 6, 11, 16, and 18. It does not protect against all known HPV types. Cervavac is India's first indigenously developed Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine. Cervavac works by stimulating the immune system to produce antibodies that neutralize the virus, preventing its entry into cells and subsequent infection.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

60. Correct Answer is (B)

- The AI Hub is designed to foster exposure, learning, and encourage the use of AI tools and applications among Navy personnel to harness the transformative potential of artificial intelligence across various naval domains. The AI Hub is equipped with state-of-the-art AI tools and applications to enthuse personnel to take advantage of the transformational advances in artificial intelligence. The AI initiative aims to foster exposure, learning, and encourage germination and follow-up of use cases across multiple domains.

Source: [AIR](#)

61. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary function of a regenerative braking system in electric vehicles is to convert kinetic energy into electrical energy. It is a brake system designed to convert the kinetic energy of the wheels to a form that can be stored and used for other purposes. Regenerative braking is one type of dynamic braking.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

62. Correct Answer is (C)

- India's National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) has set an ambitious goal to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) in India by 2025, which is five years ahead of the global target. This goal is stated in the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for Tuberculosis Elimination 2017-2025. The program aims to rapidly reduce the burden of TB, including its morbidity and mortality, while working towards complete elimination by 2025.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

63. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Water microdroplets can carry electric charges, which can influence their chemical reactivity and other properties. Water microdroplets can engage in chemical reactions, often at accelerated rates compared to bulk water. This is due to factors such as high electric fields and increased surface area. Recent research has shown that water microdroplets can break down crystals like silica (SiO₂) and alumina (Al₂O₃) into nanoparticles.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

64. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is a border guarding force of India deployed along its borders with Tibet Autonomous Region. It is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces, established in 1962 in the aftermath of the Sino-Indian War of 1962. At present, the ITBP guards 3,488 km long India-China borders ranging from the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from this, the Force also has important roles in many internal security duties and operations against the Left-Wing Extremism in the state of Chhattisgarh. ITBP also conducts relief and rescue operations as 'First Responders' for natural calamities in the Himalayan region. However, conducting air strikes is not one of its functions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

65. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Exercise Pitch Black is not an annual event, but a biennial exercise. It is a multinational exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).
- Statement 2 is correct. The 2024 exercise will be focusing on Large Force Employment warfare aimed at strengthening international cooperation. The exercise provides an opportunity for strengthening the ability of the participating nations to deploy over large distances, support integrated operations in the Indo-Pacific region and building strong aviation associations.

Source: [AIR](#)

66. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Dengue is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitoes, particularly Aedes aegypti.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. While dengue is endemic in many parts of Asia, it is not limited to Asia. The WHO states that dengue is now endemic in more than 100 countries across multiple regions, including the Americas, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia, and Western Pacific. The primary method for preventing dengue is vector control, i.e., reducing mosquito populations and preventing mosquito bites. Vaccination is a tool, but it's not the primary method.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

67. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Stinger missile is a surface-to-air missile. It is designed to target low-flying aircraft such as helicopters and planes. It was developed by the United States. Stinger missiles are known for their fire-and-forget capability. India has approved the acquisition of an Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS), which includes the deployment of Stinger missiles.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The primary target of the Stinger missile is low-flying aircraft, including helicopters and planes. The Stinger missile uses an infrared homing guidance system to lock onto the heat emitted by the target's engine.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

68. Correct Answer is (C)

10 PM Compilation July [Second Week] 2024

- Wolbachia is a genus of bacteria that infects many arthropods, including insects like mosquitoes and wasps. The bacteria manipulate their hosts' reproductive systems. In mosquitoes, Wolbachia is used to reduce the spread of diseases like dengue and Zika by interfering with mosquito reproduction and virus transmission. Similarly, Wolbachia manipulates the reproduction of the wasp 'Encarsia formosa' to eliminate male offspring. Wolbachia bacteria are present in insect eggs, but they are absent in the sperm.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

69. Correct Answer is (B)

- The "One Scientist, One Product" program aims to streamline and focus the research efforts of ICAR's scientists to enhance efficiency and productivity in agricultural innovation. Each scientist or group of scientists is tasked with developing a specific product, technology, model, concept, or publication, with regular monitoring to ensure progress and avoid duplication of efforts.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

70. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Indian space program has shifted from a supply-driven model to a demand-driven model following reforms in 2019-2020. In the demand-driven model, satellites are built and launched only if there is existing demand for their services. Project Soorya, also known as the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) project, aims to develop a new launch vehicle with greater payload capacity and reusability. It focuses on building the country's own space station and sending Indians to the Moon.

Source: [The Hindu](#)