

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

[4th Week] July, 2024

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Art & Culture and Ancient India

Q.1) With reference to the Charaideo Moidam, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Site, consider the following statements:

1. It is the first site from northeastern India to be recognized as a World Heritage Site in the cultural category.
2. The Moidams are similar to Egypt's pyramids.
3. The Moidams were used for the burial of common people in the Ahom Dynasty.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Charaideo was the first capital of the Ahom dynasty.
2. The royalty and nobles of the Ahom dynasty traditionally kept the mortal remains of their ancestors and their valuables in the Moidam.
3. Pratap Barua was a military general and commander-in-chief of the Ahom Kingdom, best known for his leadership in the Battle of Saraighat.

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

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

Q.3) Which one of the following areas is commonly associated with the Chenchu tribe?

- a) Sundarbans National Park
- b) Palkonda Hills
- c) Nallamala Hills
- d) Ranthambore National Park

Geography

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the world's largest milk producer.
2. Gujarat is the largest milk-producing state in India.
3. Women play a significant role in India's dairy sector.

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

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

Q.5) The Godavari River basin extends over which of the following states?

- a) Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha
- b) Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh
- c) Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Assam

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The abyssal zone of the ocean experiences photosynthesis.
2. The ocean floor contains vast quantities of polymetallic nodules rich in valuable metals.
3. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is responsible for regulating deep-sea mining in international waters.

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

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

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest user of groundwater in the world for irrigation purposes.
2. India possesses about 4% of the world's freshwater resources.
3. Groundwater constitutes a relatively small portion of India's drinking water supply.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.8) Which of the following mountain ranges surround Pangong Lake?

- a) Himalayas, Karakoram, and Zaskar
- b) Changchenmo Range, Pangong Range, and Kailash Range
- c) Ladakh Range, Pir Panjal Range, and Dhauladhar Range
- d) Kunlun Range, Tanggula Range, and Hengduan Range

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The Bohai Gulf is the innermost part of the Yellow Sea, situated on the northeastern coast of China.
2. China, Japan, South Korea borders the Yellow Sea.

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

Polity

Q.10) With reference to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:

1. It regulates the import of medical devices into India.
2. It operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. It sets and enforces the drug prices in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.11) With reference to the fundamental rights of the Indian Constitution, consider the following statements:

1. Article 32 is referred to as the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution.
2. Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression is available to both Indian citizens and foreigners.
3. Right to shelter is a fundamental right recognized through judicial interpretation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.12) With reference to the Indian Constitution, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. The President's conduct cannot be reviewed by a court, tribunal, or body designated by Parliament even if there is a charge of impeachment for violating the Constitution.
2. No criminal proceedings can be started or continued against the President or a Governor while they are in office.

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.13) With reference to the Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), consider the following statements:

1. They have authority over all forest areas including reserved forests.
2. The Governor of a state with Sixth Schedule areas has the power to divide an autonomous district into multiple autonomous regions.
3. All members of ADCs are directly elected by the people.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.14) With reference to the Lok Adalat, consider the following statements:

1. The Lok Adalat is a tribunal.
2. Lok Adalat are conducted under the supervision of Legal Services Authority.
3. Both civil and criminal cases can be referred to Lok Adalat.
4. The award passed by a Lok Adalat is not appealable.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Only those persons are appointed as judges in the Supreme Court who are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium.
2. The Constitution mandates reservation for specific classes of persons in the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court or High Court.

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

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

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in India.
2. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 governs coal mining eligibility in India.
3. The central government is primarily responsible for addressing illegal mining issues.

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.17) Consider the following statements:

1. If an ordinary Bill is returned by the President for reconsideration and is passed again by the state legislature with or without amendment, the Governor can reserve it again for the President's consideration.
2. When the President returns a Bill to the state legislature for reconsideration, the state legislature must act upon it within 3 months.

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) With reference to the NITI Aayog, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Prime Minister, all Chief Ministers of states, and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.
3. National Education Policy, 2020 is an initiative of NITI Aayog.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. Articles 15 and 16 of the Indian Constitution ensure equality for all citizens in government policies and public jobs.
2. The Constitution guarantees 15% reservation for SCs and 7.5% for STs in jobs, education, and public sector enterprises at the central level.
3. The creamy layer refers to the less advantaged members within the Other Backward Class (OBC) category.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) With reference to the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), consider the following statements:

1. It is the highest decision-making body of the defence ministry on procurement.
2. The Council is headed by the Prime Minister of India.
3. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a member of the Council.
4. The Council is responsible for the operational deployment of military units.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act of 2001 states that the boundaries of constituencies can't be changed until after the first Census done after 2026.
2. The National Population Register (NPR) was first prepared in 2009.

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

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

Q.22) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Royalties are payments set by law and can only be collected by public authorities to pay for welfare programs and public services.
2. Parliament can impose limitations on States' power to tax minerals.

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.23) The Governor can act in his discretion to reserve a bill for the President, if:

- a) The bill is a Money Bill
- b) The bill affects the Centre-State relations
- c) The bill is passed unanimously by the State Legislature
- d) The bill pertains to the subjects in the State List only

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

1. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is constituted by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to provide economic advice and recommendations.
2. The primary purpose of the Law Commission of India is to ensure the enforcement of laws and monitor their proper implementation.

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

Acts & Policies

Q.25) With reference to Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is responsible for implementing the ADITI scheme.
2. Only large defence manufacturing companies are eligible to participate in the scheme.
3. It aims to facilitate partnerships between innovators and defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.26) Consider the following pairs:

Schemes-----Objectives

1. NPS Vatsalya----- National Pension Scheme for minors
2. Samarthyaa----- Providing shelter and rehabilitation to women in difficult circumstances
3. Swadhar Greh----- Empowerment of women by providing public jobs

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

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

Q.27) Consider the following statements:

1. The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) aims to oversee higher education institutions across all districts in India.
2. Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) links to the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) and integrates with DigiLocker for secure storage of academic documents.

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

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

Q.28) Consider the following pairs:

Initiatives-----Objectives

1. Project PARI----- Aimed at providing training and employment opportunities to unemployed youth and women in rural areas.
2. MANAS initiative----- Aimed at promoting mental health awareness and reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues.
3. Project UNNATI----- Aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration through public art installations.

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Q.29) Consider the following statements:

1. Caller ID spoofing refers to intercepting phone calls without authorization.
2. The Telecommunications Act, 2023 gives the Union Government the power to take control of any telecommunication service during emergencies.

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

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

Q.30) The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme primarily incentivizes companies based on their:

- a) Profit margins
- b) Tax payments
- c) Production and export performance
- d) Research and development expenditure

Q.31) With reference to the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to boost exports of conventional agricultural products.
2. Integrated manure management is one of the components of PKVY.

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

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

Q.32) With reference to the Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to consolidate and modernize the regulatory framework for various broadcasting services under a single legislative framework, making the process more efficient and contemporary.
2. It increases the Union Government's control over digital media by classifying individual commentators and content creators as 'Digital News Broadcasters' and 'OTT Broadcasters,' respectively.
3. Content Evaluation Committees (CECs) are responsible for managing advertising revenue.

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.33) Consider the following statements regarding the Henley Passport Index:

1. Diplomatic relations with other nations is the primary metric used by the Henley Passport Index to rank passports.
2. The rank of Indian passport has improved in the 2024 ranking.

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.34) With reference to Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to foster economic growth and regional stability through political and economic cooperation.
2. Myanmar is one of the founding members of ASEAN.
3. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) provides aid and development assistance to member countries.

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

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

Q.35) With reference to G-4 countries, consider the following statements:

1. The aim of these countries is to collectively develop policies aimed at mitigating climate change.
2. India is one of the members of G-4.
3. The G4 countries have significant economic and political influence globally.

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.36) India's large population and diverse demographic profile contribute to its aspiration for a permanent UN Security Council seat primarily because:

- a) It represents a significant consumer market.
- b) It reflects the global population distribution.
- c) It enhances India's military power.
- d) It strengthens India's claim as a representative of the Global South.

Q.37) Consider the following statements:

1. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, a component of the India's Act East policy, aims to connect Manipur with Myanmar.
2. The Act East policy focuses only on Southeast Asian countries.

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

1. It has equal representation of countries from South Asia and Southeast Asia.
2. China is an observer member of BIMSTEC.
3. BIMSTEC differ from South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in terms of its geopolitical composition that it excludes Pakistan and includes Southeast Asian nations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.39) With reference to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional organization focused on the Bay of Bengal.
2. Thailand is a member of both BIMSTEC and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
3. India leads the sector of Agriculture and Food Security in BIMSTEC.

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

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

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC):

1. The primary mission of the ADPC is to build the resilience of people and institutions to disasters and climate change impacts in Asia and the Pacific.
2. India is one of the members of ADPC.
3. The headquarters of the ADPC is located in Manila, Philippines.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.41) Consider the following statements:

1. Disaster Recovery and Community Support (DRCS) partnership is an initiative of Quad grouping aimed at improving coordination for disaster relief operations and enhance regional cooperation.
2. Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), an initiative of Quad, aims to improve maritime security in the Indian Ocean by using satellite data, training, and building capacity.

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) With reference to the International Labour Organization (ILO), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to advance social and economic justice through setting international labour standards.
2. It was created as part of the Treaty of Trianon.
3. World Labour Council is one of the main bodies of the ILO.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Economy

Q.43) With reference to the Union Budget 2024-25, which of the following statements are correct?

1. The angel tax on foreign investments received by start-ups has been increased.
2. The tax rates on both short-term and long-term capital gains have gone up.
3. Custom duties on gold, silver, and platinum have been lowered.

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.44) Consider the following statements regarding the Union Budget 2024-25:

1. The Budget has proposed safe-harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in India.
2. It has proposed to set up an integrated technology platform and additional National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs).
3. Allocation to fertilizer and food subsidies have increased in the Budget.

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) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct regarding the Union-Budget 2024-25?

1. The Budget has proposed investment-grade energy audits for traditional MSMEs.
2. The budget allocation for Border Road Organization (BRO) has been reduced.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.46) Consider the following statements regarding the Union Budget 2024-25:

1. The Budget proposes 2% equalisation levy on e-commerce transactions.
2. The Budget aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application by fostering a culture of continuous learning and hands-on experience.
3. The Budget aims to promote of small modular reactors for nuclear energy.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.47) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Currently, the India government does not offer a legal assurance for the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

Statement-II: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases.

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

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Q.48) With reference to the Union Budget 2024-25, consider the following statements:

- The Budget includes measures to revive the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector through credit guarantees.
- The Budget indicates that government is relying more on private investments.
- The Budget has outlined initiatives to improve education and healthcare.
- The Budget is inclined more towards a service-oriented economy rather than manufacturing.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

- Royalties paid by mining lease holders to the state governments are not considered taxes.
- The central government can levy taxes on lands and quarries where minerals are found.

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

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

Q.50) With reference to the Union Budget 2024-25, consider the following statements:

- It introduced financial incentives for companies to hire more people.
- Import duties on all electronic goods were raised to 40% to promote domestic manufacturing.

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

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

Q.51) Standard Input Output Norms (SION) was seen in the news recently, is used in the context of:

- The development of green energy projects.
- The export and import policies in India.
- The financial regulation of cryptocurrency.
- The formulation of public health policies.

Q.52) Where is India's first integrated agri-export facility being established?

- Vadhavan Port
- Kandla Port
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port
- Chennai Port

Q.53) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, functional limitation is used to assess a person's physical disability.
2. Persons with disabilities (PwDs) have a low employment rate 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.54) Consider the following statements:

1. Digitalisation consistently boosts the traditional credit channel of monetary policy by increasing the number of bank loans.
2. Digitalisation makes it harder for consumers to compare prices and make purchasing decisions.
3. Digitalisation can create interconnected financial system with implications for financial stability.

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

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

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding the Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs):

1. The primary objective of issuing SGBs is to reduce the demand for physical gold.
2. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issues Sovereign Gold Bonds on behalf of the Government of India.
3. The interest earned on SGBs is exempted from taxation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.56) Consider the following statements:

1. The U.S. has become India's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplier.
2. The U.S. is the world's largest LNG exporter.

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

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

Environment

Q.57) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: There has been a growing interest in exploring the Arctic region by different countries.

Statement-II: The Arctic region is warming faster than other parts of the world.

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

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

Q.58) Consider the following statements:

1. Cheetahs are mostly found in eastern and southern Africa.
2. Cheetahs do not have a specific breeding season.
3. The savannah is the preferred habitat of cheetahs.
4. Cheetah relies on powerful large jaws to hunt their prey.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.59) Consider the following statements:

1. Agarwood is primarily formed due to a fungal infection in the Aquilaria tree.
2. The agarwood is mainly used in food flavouring industry.
3. Agarwood is listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

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

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

Q.60) Which one of the following government bodies in India is responsible for authorizing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates for electronic product producers/importers?

- a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- b) Central Pollution Control Board
- c) National Green Tribunal
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Q.61) Consider the following pairs:

Protected Areas-----Rivers

1. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary----- River Banas
2. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary----- River Gomati
3. Ranipur Tiger Reserve----- River Narmada

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

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

Q.62) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Woody Encroachment'?

- a) It refers to the gradual increase of tree and shrub cover in open ecosystems, such as grasslands and savannahs, often due to changes in land use and climate conditions.
- b) It is the process of deforestation in tropical rainforests, leading to a decrease in biodiversity and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions.
- c) It is the intentional planting of trees and shrubs in urban areas to increase green space and improve air quality.
- d) It is the practice of harvesting timber from forests in a sustainable manner to promote forest regeneration and biodiversity conservation.

Science & Technology

Q.63) Consider the following statements:

1. Genetically Modified (GM) mustard is a crop that is resistant to drought and flooding.
2. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the regulator of genetically modified organisms 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.64) With reference to the Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system, consider the following statements:

1. It is a defence system designed to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles with ranges up to 10,000 km.
2. It enhances India's credibility of nuclear deterrence.
3. It uses S-400 and Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) for exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.65) Consider the following statements regarding the Khaan Quest military exercise:

1. The aim of this exercise is to prepare the Indian Armed Forces for peacekeeping missions.
2. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Mongolian Armed Forces co-sponsor the Khaan Quest exercise.
3. It will enable the participating countries to share their best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures for conduct of joint operations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.66) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India has earned the title of the 'pharmacy of the world'.

Statement-II: Indian pharmaceutical companies produce medicines at a fraction of the cost compared to other countries.

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

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

Q.67) With reference to the Sickle Cell Disease, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a group of inherited blood disorders that affect White Blood Cells (WBCs).
2. The disease is a lifelong illness.

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.68) Consider the following statements:

1. DNA is made up of building blocks called nucleotides.
2. The CRISPR-Cas9 tool works by using a guide-RNA (gRNA) to find and attach to a specific DNA sequence in the target genome.
3. The primary advantage of using FnCas9 over CRISPR-Cas9 in gene-editing is that FnCas9 does not requires guide-RNA (gRNA).

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.69) Machine Unlearning (MUL) refers to:

- a) The process of teaching machines to learn new tasks without forgetting previously learned ones.
- b) A technique to enhance machine learning models by providing additional data.
- c) The process of selectively removing data from a machine learning model to protect privacy.
- d) A method to improve machine learning algorithms' computational efficiency.

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture and Ancient India

1. Correct Answer is (B)
 - Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Charaideo Moidams are the first cultural heritage site from northeastern India to be recognized by UNESCO. The Moidams are described as earthen burial mounds similar to the pyramids of Egypt.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect. The Moidams were used primarily for the burial of Ahom kings and nobles.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Charaideo was established as the first capital by Sukaphaa, the founder of the Ahom dynasty, in 1253. The royalty and nobles of the Ahom dynasty traditionally kept the mortal remains of their ancestors and their valuables in the Moidam
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The commander-in-chief of the Ahom Kingdom during the Battle of Saraighat was Lachit Borphukan. The tallest statue of the great Ahom warrior Lachit Borphukan was unveiled on 9th March this year.

Source: [AIR](#)

3. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Chenchu are an indigenous tribal group primarily found in the southern Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha. The Chenchu are considered one of the oldest aboriginal tribes in India. They are mentioned in ancient Indian texts like the Manu Smriti, which describes them as early inhabitants of the Andhra Pradesh region. The Chenchu primarily inhabit the Nallamala forest region, particularly in the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) which spans parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Some Chenchu communities are also found in Karnataka and Odisha. They are classified as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Traditionally, the Chenchu were nomadic hunter-gatherers, relying on the forest for their sustenance.

Source: [AIR](#)

Geography

4. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. India ranks first in milk production globally, contributing 24% of the world's total milk production. Women have over 70% participation in the dairy sector, playing a crucial role in its management and operations.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Uttar Pradesh is the largest milk-producing state in India.

Source: [AIR](#)

5. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Godavari River is one of India's most significant waterways, often referred to as the "Dakshina Ganga" or the "Southern Ganges". It originates in the Western Ghats of central India, near Trimbakeshwar in Nashik, Maharashtra. It flows eastward across the Deccan Plateau before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The river's journey takes it through several states, including Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The abyssal zone is a deep part of the ocean that does not receive sunlight, making photosynthesis impossible.

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- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The ocean floor, particularly areas like the Clarion-Clipperton Zone, contains significant quantities of polymetallic nodules rich in metals such as manganese, nickel, copper, and cobalt. The ISA is the organization responsible for regulating deep-sea mining activities in international waters to ensure that such activities are conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India is the largest user of groundwater globally, primarily for irrigation, which significantly supports its agricultural sector. India holds approximately 4% of the world's freshwater resources, which is relatively low compared to its population size, contributing to its water stress. India is considered one of the most water-stressed countries globally.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Groundwater constitutes a significant portion of India's drinking water supply, with over 85% of drinking water in rural areas and 50% in urban areas coming from groundwater sources.

Source: [AIR](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Pangong Lake, also known as Pangong Tso, is a high-altitude lake located in the Himalayas, spanning eastern Ladakh in India and West Tibet in China. Pangong Lake is an endorheic (landlocked) lake, meaning it does not drain into any external bodies of water like rivers or oceans. The lake is famous for its ability to change colours, displaying different shades of blue, green, and even red depending on the time of day and weather conditions. Pangong Lake is surrounded by the Changchenmo Range, Pangong Range, and Kailash Range, which are sub-ranges of the Karakoram Range and Gangdise Shan range.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Bohai Gulf (also known as Bohai Sea) is the innermost part of the Yellow Sea, located on the northeastern coast of China. Due to its proximity to Beijing, it is one of the busiest seaways in the world. The gulf is bordered by the Liaodong Peninsula to the northeast and the Shandong Peninsula to the south. The Yellow River, China's second-longest river, flows into the gulf.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Yellow Sea is bordered by China, North Korea, and South Korea. It's a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean, located between mainland China and the Korean Peninsula. The Yellow Sea is also known as the North Sea and can be considered the northwestern part of the East China Sea.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

Polity

10. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The CDSCO is responsible for the regulatory control over the import of drugs and medical devices into India. It operates under the Directorate General of Health Services, which is part of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The CDSCO does not set or enforce drug prices. The regulation of drug prices in India is the responsibility of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar referred to Article 32, which provides the right to constitutional remedies, as the "heart and soul" of the Constitution. The Right to Shelter has

been recognized as a part of the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution through judicial interpretation.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution is available only to Indian citizens, not to foreigners.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 361 of the Indian Constitution states that the President's conduct can be reviewed by a court, tribunal, or body designated by either House of Parliament for the investigation of a charge under Article 61 (impeachment for violation of the Constitution).
- Statement 2 is correct. Article 361(2) of the Indian Constitution provides that no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor of a State in any court during their term of office.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) are special administrative bodies established under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution to provide self-governance to tribal areas in certain northeastern states. ADCs have management powers over forests not being reserved forest. Reserved forests remain under the control of the state government. Not all members are directly elected; some are nominated by the Governor.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Governor of a state with Sixth Schedule areas have the power to divide an autonomous district into multiple autonomous regions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Lok Adalat are alternative dispute resolution forums. Lok Adalat are not tribunals but are organized under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, which allows for the resolution of disputes through conciliation and settlement.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. Lok Adalat are primarily conducted under the supervision of Legal Services Authority. Lok Adalat can handle both civil and criminal cases. The decisions of Lok Adalat are final and binding, with no provision for appeal.

Source: [AIR](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The appointment of judges to the Supreme Court is done based on the recommendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium. This system, established by a series of Supreme Court judgments known as the Three Judges Cases, involves the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court making these recommendations. Although the President of India formally appoints the judges, the recommendations of the Collegium are important.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Indian Constitution does not provide for reservations based on caste or class for the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court or High Courts. Judicial appointments are based on merit and seniority, and the process is governed by the Collegium system without any constitutional mandate for reservations.

Source: [AIR](#)

16. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel in India and is a major source of energy for the country. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, is a key legislation that

governs coal mining in India, establishing guidelines and eligibility criteria for coal mining operations.

- Statement 3 is incorrect. Illegal mining is considered a law-and-order issue, which falls under the jurisdiction of state governments. While the central government, through various ministries and agencies, plays a role in overseeing mining regulations, the primary responsibility for addressing illegal mining falls on state governments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. According to the Indian Constitution, when an ordinary Bill is returned by the President for reconsideration and is passed again by the state legislature, the President may or may not give his assent. The Governor does not have the authority to reserve the Bill again for the President's consideration once it has been reconsidered and passed by the state legislature. The Constitution specifies that when the President returns a Bill to the state legislature for reconsideration, the state legislature must act upon it within 6 months.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. NITI Aayog is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body; it is a policy think tank of the Government of India. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was formulated by the Ministry of Education, not NITI Aayog.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Governing Council of NITI Aayog comprises the Prime Minister, all Chief Ministers of states and Union Territories with legislatures, and Lieutenant Governors of other Union Territories.

Source: [AIR](#)

19. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Articles 15 and 16 of the Indian Constitution ensure equality and prohibit discrimination on various grounds, and they allow for special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes, including reservations in public employment. The Indian Constitution provides for reservations for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in jobs, educational institutions, and public sector enterprises at the central level, with the percentages set at 15% for SCs and 7.5% for STs.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The term "creamy layer" refers to the more advantaged or wealthier members within the OBC category who are excluded from reservation benefits to ensure that the benefits reach the truly disadvantaged members.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. DAC is the highest decision-making body of the defence ministry on procurement. Its members include Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. The DAC is headed by the Defence Minister of India. The DAC does not handle the operational deployment of military units.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act of 2001 was enacted to freeze the delimitation, or redrawing, of parliamentary and assembly constituencies until after the first Census conducted following the year 2026. This means that the current boundaries of electoral constituencies will remain unchanged until at least after the Census of 2031. The purpose

of this amendment was to maintain consistency in representation and avoid frequent changes in constituency boundaries, which could disrupt the electoral process.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The National Population Register (NPR) is a database of the identities of all Indian residents. It was first prepared in 2010. The NPR is intended to create a comprehensive identity database by collecting demographic and biometric details of individuals residing in India. The data collected under NPR is used for various purposes, including improving the delivery of government services and ensuring more accurate population statistics.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Royalties are payments made to the owner of a resource (often the government) for the right to extract and use that resource. Royalties can be considered a form of compensation for the extraction of natural resources, and their use can vary.
- Statement 2 is correct. Parliament has the authority to impose restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse between states or within a state in the public interest, which includes the power to regulate and limit the taxation of minerals by states. The Centre can regulate mining development under Entry 54 of the Union List, but this doesn't include the power to impose taxes, which falls under the State legislatures. However, Parliament can impose limitations on States' power to tax, which could even mean a "prohibition" on imposing taxes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Governor can act in his discretion to reserve a bill for the President when the bill affects the Centre-State relations. This is specified under Article 200 of the Indian Constitution, which allows the Governor to reserve a bill for the consideration of the President if it is of such a nature that it may conflict with the laws made by Parliament or affect the powers of the Centre.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The EAC-PM is constituted by the Prime Minister's Office to provide economic advice and recommendations on various issues.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary purpose of the Law Commission of India is to recommend legal reforms and suggest improvements to existing laws, rather than enforcing laws and monitoring their implementation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The ADITI scheme is implemented under the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) framework of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence. The ADITI scheme is aimed at supporting start-ups, MSMEs, and innovators, not just large defence manufacturing companies.
- Statement 3 is correct. The ADITI scheme aims to facilitate partnerships between innovators and defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) to develop innovative and indigenous technological solutions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (B)

- The NPS Vatsalya scheme is a National Pension Scheme specifically designed for minors, allowing parents to contribute towards their children's future retirement savings.
- Samarthyaa is a sub-scheme of the Mission Shakti program, which is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to empower women. The Samarthyaa sub-scheme includes the

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following components: Provides homes and institutional support for women facing destitution, including victims of trafficking and provides safe and secure places for working women in cities and areas with job potential.

- The Swadhar Greh Scheme is a government initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development that provides institutional support to women in difficult circumstances. The scheme's goal is to help women regain their dignity and lead their lives with support. Its primary focus is on immediate shelter and rehabilitation for women in difficult circumstances.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) is designed to collect and monitor comprehensive data on school education, covering primary to secondary levels, across all districts in India. It collects comprehensive data on school infrastructure, teachers, student enrolment, and academic performance.
- Statement 2 is correct. APAAR is a specialized identification system designed for all students in India, introduced as part of the National Education Policy 2020. It provides a unique identifier for students and links to the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC), which facilitates the storage and transfer of academic credits. It also integrates with DigiLocker for secure storage of academic documents.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

28. Correct Answer is (A)

- Project PARI (Public Art of India) – it is an initiative by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, executed by Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art, aiming to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration through public art installations.
- MANAS initiative – It is a mental health and well-being initiative aimed at promoting mental health awareness, providing mental health services, and reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues.
- Project UNNATI – It is a skill development and employment generation program aimed at providing training and employment opportunities to unemployed youth and women in rural areas.

Source: [AIR](#)

29. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Caller ID spoofing is defined as deliberately falsifying the information transmitted to the recipient's caller ID display to disguise the caller's identity. It does not involve intercepting calls, but rather manipulating the caller identification information.
- Statement 2 is correct. Telecommunications Act, 2023 allows the Union Government to take over control and operation of any telecommunication service or network during times of "emergency" or in the interest of public safety.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme primarily incentivizes companies based on their production and export performance. The scheme offers financial incentives to eligible companies on incremental sales of products manufactured in domestic units, aiming to boost domestic manufacturing, reduce imports, and enhance exports.

Source: [AIR](#)

31. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. PKVY aims to promote organic farming and produce agricultural products free from chemicals and pesticides, not conventional agricultural products.
- Statement 2 is correct. PKVY focuses on components that promote organic farming practices, such as manure management, bio-fertilizer production, and training on organic methods.

Source: [AIR](#)

32. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The bill aims to consolidate and modernize the regulatory framework for various broadcasting services under a single legislative framework. This is intended to make the process more efficient and up-to-date with current technological and industry trends. The bill increases the Union Government's control over digital media by classifying individual commentators and content creators as "Digital News Broadcasters" and "OTT Broadcasters," respectively. This classification brings these digital content creators under the regulatory purview of the government.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Content Evaluation Committees (CECs) are not responsible for managing advertising revenue. Their primary role is to evaluate and ensure that content adheres to the prescribed guidelines and standards. They are not involved in the financial aspects of advertising.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Index & Reports

33. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Henley Passport Index primarily ranks passports based on the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- Statement 2 is correct. India has been ranked 82nd spot on a global passport index, allowing Indians visa-free entry to 58 countries. India's passport now ranks at an improved 82nd spot. The ranking is based on data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Source: [AIR](#)

International Relations/Organizations

34. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. ASEAN's primary objectives include promoting economic growth, regional stability, and cooperation among its member states through political and economic collaboration.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Myanmar is not one of the founding members of ASEAN. The founding members, who established ASEAN in 1967, are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Myanmar joined ASEAN later, in 1997. The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is primarily focused on addressing political and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary aim of the G-4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) is to support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and to push for UNSC reforms to make it more representative and effective.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India is one of the members of the G-4, along with Brazil, Germany, and Japan. The G-4 countries have seen significant growth in their economic and political influence, comparable to the current permanent members of the UNSC (P5).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (D)

- India's large and diverse population mirrors the global population, especially the developing world. This gives India a strong position to represent the Global South's interests. A permanent seat on the UN Security Council would let India better advocate for these nations and ensure their viewpoints are included in global decisions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project aims to connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with the Sittwe seaport in Myanmar and further

extends to Mizoram. The Act East policy focuses on strengthening ties not only with Southeast Asian countries but also with East Asian countries, including Japan, South Korea, and others in the broader Asia-Pacific region.

Source: [AIR](#)

38. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. BIMSTEC has 5 members from South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka) and 2 from Southeast Asia (Myanmar, Thailand). China is not a member or an observer of BIMSTEC.
- Statement 3 is correct. BIMSTEC excludes Pakistan (which is part of SAARC) and includes Southeast Asian nations (Myanmar and Thailand).

Source: [AIR](#)

39. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. BIMSTEC is a regional organization that aims to promote technical and economic cooperation among countries around the Bay of Bengal. Its member states include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Thailand is a member of both BIMSTEC and ASEAN.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Myanmar leads the sector of Agriculture and Food Security in BIMSTEC, while India leads the security sector, which includes counterterrorism and transnational crime.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The primary mission of the ADPC is to build the resilience of people and institutions to disasters and climate change impacts in Asia and the Pacific. ADPC is an autonomous International Organization for cooperation in and implementation of disaster risk reduction and building climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific region. India and eight neighbouring countries Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the founding members of ADPC. ADPC contributes to implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction through its various programs and initiatives.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The headquarters of the ADPC is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

Source: [AIR](#)

41. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Quad has established a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) partnership aimed at improving coordination for disaster relief operations in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Statement 2 is correct. The IPMDA is an initiative by the Quad that aims to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean by leveraging satellite data, training, and capacity building.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

42. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights. It aims to promote social and economic justice by setting international labour standards.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The ILO was created as part of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. The main bodies of the ILO are the International Labour Conference, the Governing Body, and the International Labour Office (Director-General). India is a founding member of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Economy

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The angel tax on foreign investments received by start-ups has been scrapped. This move aims to ease financing challenges and support innovation within the startup ecosystem.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The tax rates on both short-term and long-term capital gains have gone up. Short-term capital gains on specified financial assets now attract a tax rate of 20% instead of 15%, and long-term gains on all financial and non-financial assets attract a tax rate of 12.5% instead of 10%. Custom duties on gold and silver have been lowered to 6%, which is expected to make these metals cheaper and potentially boost consumer demand.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

44. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Budget has proposed safe-harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in India. This initiative aims to simplify tax compliance and attract more foreign suppliers to the diamond industry. The Budget has proposed to set up an integrated technology platform and additional National Company Law Tribunals (NCLTs) to enhance the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The allocation to fertilizer and food subsidies has decreased in the Budget. The food subsidy bill is projected at ₹2.05 lakh crore, and the fertilizer subsidy is fixed at ₹1.64 lakh crore, both of which are reductions compared to previous years.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Budget has proposed investment-grade energy audits for traditional MSMEs. This initiative is aimed at facilitating energy audits in 60 clusters, including those in the glass and ceramic industries, to help these sectors transition to cleaner energy sources.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The budget allocation for the Border Roads Organization (BRO) has increased. The allocation for BRO has been raised by 30% compared to the previous year.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

46. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Union Budget 2024-25 includes the withdrawal of the 2% equalisation levy on e-commerce transactions, effective from August 1, 2024.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Budget aims to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application by fostering a culture of continuous learning and hands-on experience. The budget includes initiatives to promote the development of small modular reactors for nuclear energy, aiming to enhance energy security and sustainability.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

47. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement-I is correct. The Indian government has not implemented a legal guarantee for MSP, despite demands from farmers' organizations.
- Statement-II is correct. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers in the event of crop failure due to natural calamities, pests, and diseases.
- While both statements are correct, Statement-II does not explain the Statement-I. These are two separate aspects of agricultural policy in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

48. Correct Answer is (C)

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- Statements 1,2 and 3 are correct. The budget has introduced several measures to support MSMEs, including a credit guarantee scheme, Mudra loan limit increase, and other financial and regulatory supports. The budget continues to emphasize private investments, especially through initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, which is aimed at boosting manufacturing and attracting private investment. The budget allocates increased funds for healthcare, including programs under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PMABHIM) and Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY. Additionally, the budget focuses on education through increased allocations and programs aimed at improving infrastructure and access. It also includes significant allocations and initiatives for education, such as digital learning and vocational training, and healthcare, including increased funding and exemptions for certain cancer drugs.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. The budget places substantial emphasis on manufacturing, with initiatives like the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme and support for MSMEs in the manufacturing sector. It also includes measures like tax clarifications for new manufacturing units and incentives for sectors like green mobility and electronics manufacturing. Hence, it presents a balance between service sector and manufacturing.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

49. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Supreme Court has clarified that royalties are not considered taxes. They are payments made by the lessee for the use of mineral resources, and they constitute an expenditure incurred by the lessee and income for the lessor (usually the state government).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. State legislatures have the power to levy taxes on lands and quarries where minerals are found. This power is derived from Entry 49 (tax on lands and buildings) and Entry 50 (tax on mineral rights) of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The central government's role is primarily regulatory rather than taxing. Therefore, only state governments have the legislative competence to impose taxes on lands and quarries where minerals are found, while the central government's involvement is limited to regulation and development.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

50. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Union Budget 2024-25 introduced several Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) schemes aimed at boosting job creation. These schemes include financial incentives for companies to hire first-time employees and offer support for additional employment across various sectors.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Union Budget 2024-25 reduced customs duties on several electronic components, including mobile phones and chargers, to promote domestic manufacturing.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

51. Correct Answer is (B)

- Standard Input Output Norms (SION) are specifically used in the context of regulating and facilitating international trade in India. They are established by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to specify the quantity of inputs required to produce a unit of output for exporting purposes. SION plays a crucial role in determining exporters' eligibility for various benefits and incentives provided by the Indian government, and in ensuring uniformity and transparency in export-import processes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

52. Correct Answer is (C)

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- India's first integrated agri-export facility is being established at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai. The development of this all-in-one agricultural facility will streamline logistics, reduce wastage, and provide better prices for agricultural products.

Source: [AIR](#)

53. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The current system in India uses percentage-based assessments rather than functional limitations. India's certification system for disabilities is based on practice of quantifying disabilities by percentage which is outdated and not supported by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Statement 2 is correct. PwDs in India face significant barriers to employment, resulting in a low employment rate. The National Sample Survey in 2018 found that only 23.8% of PwDs were employed, whereas the Labour Force Participation Rate at the national level was 50.2% the same year.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

54. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Digitalisation can sometimes weaken the traditional credit channel by reducing reliance on bank loans in favour of alternative financing methods such as equity financing, digital lending platforms, or crowdfunding. Hence, it does not consistently or always boost the traditional credit channel. Digitalisation typically makes it easier for consumers to compare prices and make purchasing decisions by providing access to online price comparisons, reviews, and information.
- Statement 3 is correct. Digitalisation can lead to greater interconnectedness in the financial system through various digital platforms and innovations, which can impact financial stability by increasing the potential for systemic risks.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

55. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The primary objective of issuing SGBs is to reduce the demand for physical gold, thereby reducing the import of gold and helping to manage the country's current account deficit.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Sovereign Gold Bonds are issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India. The interest earned on Sovereign Gold Bonds is taxable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. However, the capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGBs to an individual is exempted.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

56. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The U.S. has become India's second-largest LNG supplier, surpassing the UAE, but Qatar remains the largest supplier of LNG to India.
- Statement 2 is correct. The U.S. emerged as the world's largest LNG exporter in 2023, surpassing other major exporters like Qatar and Australia.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Environment

57. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct: There has been a growing interest in exploring the Arctic region by different countries due to factors like resource exploration, new trade routes, geopolitical competition, and scientific research.

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- Statement-II is correct: The Arctic region is warming faster than other parts of the world, and has significant implications for global climate patterns and environmental sustainability.
- Hence, Statement-II explains Statement-I because the rapid warming and melting ice in the Arctic region have made it more accessible, thereby increasing interest from various countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

58. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Cheetahs are primarily found in eastern and southern Africa, they don't have a fixed breeding season, and they prefer savannah habitats. While both grasslands and savannahs provide the open spaces necessary for cheetahs to hunt, savannahs offer additional advantages such as scattered trees for shade and a higher diversity of prey species.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Cheetahs rely on their speed, not powerful jaws, to hunt prey.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Agarwood, most commonly referred to as oud or oudh is a fragrant, dark and resinous wood used in incense, perfume, and small hand carvings. It forms in the heartwood of *Aquilaria* trees after they become infected with a type of *Phaeoacremonium* mold, *P. parasitica*. Agarwood forms when *Aquilaria* trees are infected by fungi, which triggers the production of a resin. Agarwood (*Aquilaria malaccensis*) is listed in Appendix II of CITES.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Agarwood is primarily used in perfumes, incense, and traditional medicine.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

60. Correct Answer is (B)

- The government body in India responsible for authorizing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates for electronic product producers/importers is the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is an environmental policy approach that assigns significant responsibility to producers for the entire lifecycle of their products, especially for the treatment or disposal of post-consumer products.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

61. Correct Answer is (A)

- Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary – It is located in the Rajsamand District of Rajasthan, near the historical Kumbhalgarh Fort. It is part of the Aravalli Mountain range. The sanctuary is primarily associated with the Banas River. Another river flowing nearby sanctuary is Gomati River. The sanctuary is also known for its diverse flora, including various species of trees and plants that thrive in the semi-arid climate of the region.
- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary – Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh. The sanctuary's main rivers are the Bamner and Baner, which are perennial rivers that flow through the sanctuary all year. These rivers are tributaries of Ken River. The sanctuary lies within the basins of the Narmada River and Ganges.
- Ranipur Tiger Reserve – Ranipur Tiger Reserve, located in the Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh, is one of the newest tiger reserves in India. This reserve is located in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. The Betwa and Dhasan, two significant rivers that pass through the area and supply the reserve's fauna with water, border the reserve.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

62. Correct Answer is (A)

- Woody encroachment refers to the gradual increase in the density and cover of woody plants, such as trees and shrubs, in ecosystems that are typically dominated by grasses and herbaceous plants. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in grasslands, savannas, and shrublands and can lead

to significant ecological changes. Higher CO₂ levels due to climate change are causing more trees to grow in grasslands, which disrupts the balance of these ecosystems. This phenomenon, known as woody encroachment, is influenced by various factors in different parts of the world, such as fire suppression, land fragmentation, and changes in rainfall.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Science & Technology

63. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. GM mustard (specifically DMH-11) is primarily developed for yield enhancement and herbicide tolerance, not for drought or flood resistance.
- Statement 2 is correct. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the regulator for genetically modified organisms in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

64. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Phase-II BMD system is designed to intercept ballistic missiles with a range of up to 5,000 km. The Phase-II BMD system includes the AD-1 and AD-2 interceptors, which are designed for more advanced and longer-range threats. The AD-1 is capable of both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception, while the AD-2 is intended for high-altitude exo-atmospheric interception.
- Statement 2 is correct. The BMD system enhances India's defensive capabilities and strengthens its nuclear deterrence by providing a shield against incoming ballistic missiles.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

65. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Khaan Quest began in 2003 as a bilateral exercise between the United States and Mongolian Armed Forces. In 2006, it evolved into a multinational peacekeeping exercise. The exercise aims to prepare participants, including the Indian Armed Forces, for peacekeeping missions in multinational environments. It also aims to gain United Nations training and certification for participants. The exercise allows participating countries to share best practices in tactics, techniques, and procedures for conducting joint operations.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The exercise is co-sponsored by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and hosted by the Mongolian Armed Forces.

Source: [AIR](#)

66. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I is correct. India is widely recognized as the "pharmacy of the world" due to its significant role in global pharmaceutical production and distribution.
- Statement II is correct. India's pharmaceutical industry is known for producing high-quality medicines at much lower costs compared to many other countries.
- Therefore, both statements are correct, and Statement-II provides correct explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [AIR](#)

67. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Sickle Cell Disease primarily affects Red Blood Cells (RBCs), not White Blood Cells (WBCs). The disease causes the red blood cells to become rigid, sticky, and shaped like sickles or crescent moons.
- Statement 2 is correct. Sickle Cell Disease is a lifelong condition. Individuals with this disease typically require ongoing medical care to manage symptoms and prevent complications.

Source: [AIR](#)

68. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is composed of smaller units called nucleotides. Each nucleotide consists of three components: Nucleobase, Phosphate Group and Sugar (Deoxyribose). These nucleotides are arranged in a double helix structure. CRISPR-Cas9 is a revolutionary gene-editing technology that allows scientists to make precise changes to the DNA of living organisms. The CRISPR-Cas9 system uses a guide-RNA (gRNA) to locate and bind to a specific DNA sequence in the genome.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Both FnCas9 and CRISPR-Cas9 require guide-RNA (gRNA) to target specific DNA sequences. FnCas9, derived from *Francisella novicida*, is known for its high precision but traditionally has lower efficiency compared to SpCas9. The primary advantage of FnCas9 is its precision, not the absence of gRNA.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

69. Correct Answer is (C)

- Machine Unlearning (MUL) refers to the process of selectively removing the influence of specific data points from machine learning models. This process is crucial for addressing privacy concerns and ensuring compliance with data protection regulations. The process involves identifying the data to be unlearned, modifying the model, and retraining or adjusting it accordingly.

Source: [The Hindu](#)