

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

[1st Week] Sep 2024

10 PM Compilation September [First Week] 2024

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Art & Culture

Q.1) With reference to the Walled City of Jaipur, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, consider the following statements:

1. It was one of the first planned cities in India.
2. The city was laid out according to Vedic architecture principles.
3. Raja Man Singh was the founder of the Walled City of Jaipur.

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.2) Consider the following statements:

1. The Viharas in India were originally constructed as places for storing Buddhist relics.
2. The architectural design of the Vishwashanti Buddha Vihara is inspired by the entry gate of the Sanchi Stupa.

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

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

Q.3) Who among the following presents the National Teachers Award?

- a) The Prime Minister of India
- b) The President of India
- c) The Minister of Education
- d) The Chief Justice of India

Geography

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Mediterranean Sea borders Sudan to the northeast.
2. Sudan shares its longest border with Libya.
3. Sudan is located in Southern Africa.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Polity

Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to LGBTQIA+:

1. The Supreme Court of India has recognised same-sex marriages as a constitutional right.
2. The LGBTQIA+ couples can avail the facilities of ration card.
3. The LGBTQIA+ couples can open joint bank accounts and nominate each other as beneficiaries.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.6) With reference to the Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to handle civil disputes cases more efficiently.
2. The FTSC scheme was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

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.7) Consider the following statements:

1. The collegium system involves senior judges making decisions about judicial appointments without government interference.
2. The National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act aimed to include representatives from the judiciary, executive, and civil society.
3. Kesavananda Bharati Case led to the establishment of the collegium system in India.

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

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

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Deception detection tests (DDTs) are scientific procedures employed to detect probable deception during interrogation.
2. DDTs do not violate fundamental rights of the accused.
3. A person's choice to speak is part of their right to privacy.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.9) With reference to the Parliamentary Standing Committees, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide detailed scrutiny of bills, budgets and government actions.
2. Members are appointed to Standing Committees based on seniority in Parliament.
3. They allow for more collaborative and less politically charged discussions compared to the full Parliament sessions.
4. They are permanent and constituted every year or periodically.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Constitution mandates that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and High Courts be conducted in English, unless Parliament decides otherwise.
2. The Indian Constitution allows the Chief Minister of the State to authorize the use of Hindi or another official language in the State's High Court.
3. At present, only four High Courts in India are allowed to use Hindi in their proceedings.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

d) None

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the Law Commission of India:

1. It is a statutory body, established by an Act of Parliament.
2. It serves as an advisory body to Ministry of Law and Justice.
3. It is reconstituted every five years.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Nationalizing literary works means they will no longer be covered by copyright protection.
2. In India, copyright laws transfer the rights of authors to their heirs after their death.

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

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

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. The 'creamy layer' refers to the more affluent members within a reserved category who may not need the benefits of reservation.
2. According to Dr. Ambedkar, economic disparities is the primary source of graded inequality in India.
3. The Mahad satyagraha was led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

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 statements regarding the Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

1. It is composed of 15 members from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha.
2. It reviews the performance of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament.
3. Ministers can be members of PAC.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.15) Which one of the following bodies is responsible for conducting the National Exit Test (NExT)?

- a) Medical Council of India
- b) National Medical Commission
- c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- d) Central Board of Secondary Education

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. The government can request reconsideration and is not bound to accept a Collegium recommendation, even if reiterated.
2. The Chief Justice of a High Court cannot make decisions on judicial appointments alone.

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.17) Consider the following statements regarding the Telecommunications Act, 2023:

1. Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) Fund, established under the Act, aims to replace the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).
2. DBN funds are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India before allocation.
3. Digital Bharat Nidhi Fund also provides subsidies for smartphone purchases to enhance digital connectivity and accessibility in underserved regions.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.18) Consider the following:

1. Agri Stack
2. Krishi Decision Support System (DSS)
3. Soil Profile Maps
4. Digital Crop Insurance Scheme

Which of the above are the pillars of the Digital Agriculture Mission (DAM)?

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

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. India recognizes heatwaves as a notified disaster to enhance preparedness and response measures, allowing for better resource allocation and implementation of Heat Action Plans.
2. Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 proposes the creation of an 'Urban Disaster Management Authority' for state capitals and cities with municipal corporations.

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

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

Q.20) With reference to Smart Cities Mission, consider the following statements:

1. Cities are selected for the Smart Cities Mission through a two-stage competitive process known as the "Smart Cities Challenge".
2. Area-Based Development (ABD) in the Smart Cities Mission focuses on rural areas outside the city limits.

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

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

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) aims to boost health preparedness by setting up health centers, public health units, and critical care hospital blocks in every district.
2. The Human Resources for Health and Medical Education (HRHME) programme seeks to increase the spending in healthcare by facilitating Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

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) With reference to National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013, consider the following statements:

1. The primary difference between Priority Households (PHH) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households under the NFSA is that PHH receive more food grains than AAY households.
2. NITI Aayog is responsible for determining the state-wise coverage of beneficiaries under the NFSA.

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

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

Q.23) With reference to Critical Mineral Mission, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. The mission aims to enhance exploration and mining activities within India to increase the domestic output of critical minerals.
2. Under the mission, India seeks to establish long-term supply contracts with South-East Asian countries.

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.24) With reference to Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), consider the following statements:

1. Swachh Survekshan under the SBM is a training program for sanitation workers aimed at enhancing their skills, awareness, and safety practices in waste management and cleanliness maintenance.
2. SBM has helped in reducing infant mortality.

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) Consider the following statements regarding the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative:

1. The initiative aims to strengthen community involvement in water conservation.
2. Ministry of Jal Shakti is leading the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative.
3. Government-centric approach has been emphasized for the success of this initiative.

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.26) With reference to Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create a platform for closer cooperation in maritime security and address regional security threats.
2. India, Bangladesh, and Nepal are the founding members of the CSC.
3. Observer states of CSC have no role in decision-making.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.27) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) aims to reduce India's dependence on ASEAN for raw materials.
2. AITIGA is part of India's "Act East" policy.

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.28) Consider the following statements:

1. Brunei is a landlocked country.
2. India and Brunei elevated their relations to a 'Comprehensive Economic Partnership' during the recent visit of the Indian Prime Minister.

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.29) With reference to Global Digital Compact (GDC), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to ensure responsible use of digital technologies and address the digital divide.
2. The principles of the Global Digital Compact are inspired by the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
3. The United Nations play an important role in development and implementation of the GDC by providing financial incentives for countries to adopt digital technologies.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. Brunei is one of the leading exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG).
2. The United States is Brunei's largest trading partner and investor.
3. India has shifted its oil imports from Brunei to Russia in recent years.

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

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

Q.31) With reference to International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest international police organization.
2. It is tasked with addressing and mitigating military-related offenses.
3. In Interpol's General Assembly, each member country has one vote, and decisions are made by a simple majority vote.
4. A Blue Notice, issued by the Interpol, is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.32) With reference to International Solar Alliance (ISA), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. The eligibility criteria for full membership in the ISA is that the countries must be located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
2. The ISA has proposed implementing solar taxes as a financing mechanism to support solar projects in its member countries.
3. International Solar Festival, organized by the ISA, celebrates the transformative impact of solar energy.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.33) Consider the following statements:

1. India-Singapore Strategic Dialogue Framework facilitates regular high-level dialogue between India and Singapore on various sectors.
2. The Prime Minister of India recently interacted with participants of the India Ready Talent Programme, which prepares young Singaporeans to explore business opportunities 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.34) With reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD), which of the following statements are correct?

1. It conducts joint military exercises known as Malabar.
2. Its secretariat is located in Tokyo.
3. It focuses on areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and biotechnology.

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.35) The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) was seen in the news recently, is associated with:

- a) The economic integration of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states
- b) The military alliance between North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries
- c) The collective security framework of the African Union (AU).
- d) The European Union's (EU) approach to international security and crisis management

Economy

Q.36) The windfall tax is calculated:

- as a fixed percentage of all profits
- based on the average profits over a few years
- as a percentage of profits exceeding a baseline level
- as a flat fee for all companies

Q.37) Consider the following:

- Issuing credit cards
- Providing Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)
- Offering QR card-based transactions
- Facilitating insurance and mutual fund investments

Which of the above services are provided by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)?

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

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India's domestic steel production has decreased.

Statement-II: India has adopted stricter environmental regulations and sustainability targets for steel plants.

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.39) Consider the following statements:

- The Unified Lending Interface (ULI) is a digital platform that helps lenders access a customer's financial and non-financial data.
- ULI is expected to have a similar transformative impact on the lending landscape as Unified Payments Interface (UPI) had on the payments ecosystem.

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

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

Q.40) With reference to AgriSURE Fund, consider the following statements:

- The fund aims to subsidize agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, and equipment to lower costs and boost yields.
- The World Bank plays a significant role in supporting the AgriSURE Fund.
- The fund is a part of Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

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

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

Q.41) Which one of the following principles is central to the Gandhian model of development?

- a) Industrialization
- b) Globalization
- c) Decentralization
- d) Urbanization

Q.42) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Globally, there has been a decline in labour income.

Statement-II: Many young people are not working, studying, or receiving training.

Statement-III: Businesses across the globe are implementing automation technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) systems into their operations and processes.

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

- a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I
- c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I
- d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

Q.43) The primary purpose of a Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) is to:

- a) Limit the total volume of imports to a country
- b) Allow a specific quantity of a product to be imported at a reduced tariff rate
- c) Apply a uniform tariff rate on all imports
- d) Eliminate tariffs on agricultural products

Q.44) With reference to the Centralized Pension Payment System (CPPS), consider the following statements:

1. It provides a unified system that allows pension payments to be made through any bank or branch in India.
2. It requires pensioners to transfer their Pension Payment Orders (PPO) when changing locations.

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

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

Q.45) Which one of the following correctly describes Vertical Fiscal Imbalance (VFI)?

- a) It occurs when subnational governments collect more revenue than they spend, transferring excess funds to the national government.
- b) It measures the difference between actual and potential tax revenue collection at different levels of government.
- c) It represents the mismatch between expenditure responsibilities and revenue-raising powers of different tiers of government within a federation.
- d) It quantifies the degree of fiscal autonomy of local governments in setting their own tax rates and bases.

Q.46) Which of the following statements are correct regarding the impact of the increasing fiscal deficit?

1. It leads to increased debt-to-GDP ratio.
2. It can lead to an increase in household savings.
3. It crowds out the private sector investment from the economy.

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

Environment

Q.47) Which one of the following is a unique geographical feature of Rajaji Tiger Reserve?

- a) It is entirely located in the Himalayan mountains
- b) It is bisected by the Ganges River flowing through it
- c) It consists only of grassland habitats
- d) It has no elevation changes throughout the reserve

Q.48) With reference to low-carbon hydrogen, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. Low-carbon hydrogen is a hydrogen that is highly reactive and explosive.
- 2. The primary environmental benefit of using low-carbon hydrogen compared to conventional fuels is that it produces no carbon dioxide emissions when utilized as fuel.

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.49) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Great Nicobar is a biodiversity hotspot with indigenous communities and is located in a seismically active region.
- 2. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) is a quasi-government agency responsible for trading, managing tourism resorts, and developing infrastructure on the island.

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.50) Consider the following statements with respect to Loss and Damage Fund (LDF):

- 1. The fund aims to address both immediate disaster response and long-term resilience building.
- 2. It provides compensation for past and ongoing climate impacts.
- 3. Carbon credits from the global carbon market is one of the proposed sources of financing for the LDF.
- 4. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is currently serving as the interim trustee of the Fund.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.51) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Tiger reserves are notified by the state governments on the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- 2. Human habitation and activities like hunting and collecting forest produce are prohibited in the core zone of the tiger reserve.
- 3. The NTCA was established in accordance with the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Science & Technology

Q.52) Consider the following pairs:

Concepts-----Descriptions

1. Bio-Scaffolds-----Structures used to support cell growth and tissue formation
2. Bio-Banking-----Production of biological products using living cells or organisms
3. Biomarkers-----Indicators used to measure biological processes or responses
4. Bio-Manufacturing-----Storage of biological samples for research and clinical use

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.53) Consider the following statements:

1. Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs) aims to promote cultural exchange between military services and seek higher defence budget allocation.
2. Joint Logistics Nodes (JLNs) aim to streamline logistics and resource utilization across the military services.

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) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the Next Generation Sequencing (NGS)?

- a) It allows the simultaneous sequencing of millions of DNA fragments, providing high-throughput and rapid sequencing capabilities.
- b) It can only sequence a single DNA molecule at a time, making it a slow and labour-intensive process.
- c) It requires significantly more input DNA compared to traditional Sanger sequencing, limiting its use in clinical applications.
- d) It produces results with lower accuracy and longer turnaround times compared to older sequencing methods.

Q.55) Palaeogenomics is used to:

- a) Study the genetic evolution of modern species
- b) Analyze ancient DNA to understand past evolutionary and ecological processes
- c) Develop new agricultural practices
- d) Investigate the origins of human languages

Q.56) With reference to Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), consider the following statements:

1. DAC is headed by the Chief of Defence Staff.
2. It conducts the field trials for newly procured defence equipment.
3. The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) is a formal approval granted by the DAC to begin the procurement process for military equipment.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.57) Consider the following:

1. Cellular Networks
2. Wi-Fi
3. Fiber To The Home (FTTH)
4. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
5. Near-Field Communication (NFC)
6. Satellite networks

How many of the above are parts of Machine-to-Machine (M2M) services?

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

Q.58) Consider the following statements:

1. The navies of India and South Africa have signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in submarine rescue.
2. The Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) is a specialized vehicle capable of rescuing submarine crew members from depths of up to 650 meters.

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. India has set a target to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) earlier than the global target set by the United Nations.
2. BPALM regimen is primarily designed to treat extrapulmonary TB.

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.60) Consider the following pairs:

Weapon System-----Type

1. Agni-V-----Ballistic Missile
2. BrahMos----- Cruise Missile
3. Astra----- Air-to-Air Missiles (AAM)
4. S-400-----Anti-Tank Missile

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture

1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Jaipur is considered one of the first planned cities in modern India. It was designed with a grid layout and developed in a single phase, making it a significant example of early urban planning in India. The city was planned according to principles of Vastu Shastra, which is a traditional Indian system of architecture that aligns with Vedic principles. The planning was done under the guidance of architect Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, incorporating these ancient guidelines. The Walled City of Jaipur is renowned for its distinctive pink-coloured buildings.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Walled City of Jaipur was founded by Sawai Jai Singh II. Sawai Jai Singh II established the city in 1727 as a new capital for his kingdom. In 2019, Jaipur's Walled City was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This recognition highlights its exceptional urban planning and architecture, which reflects a blend of ancient Hindu, Mughal, and Western influences.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Viharas were originally constructed as monasteries or living quarters for Buddhist monks. They served as places for study, meditation, and living, rather than specifically for storing Buddhist relics.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Vishwashanti Buddha Vihara's entry gate is based on the design of the entry gate of the Sanchi Stupa in Madhya Pradesh.

Source: [AIR](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

- The National Teachers' Award is conferred by the President of India. This prestigious award ceremony is held annually on Teachers' Day, which is celebrated on September 5th, marking the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, a former President of India and a renowned educator. The award recognizes and honours the remarkable contributions of teachers who have significantly improved the quality of education and enriched the lives of their students. Each award includes a certificate of merit, a cash prize, and a silver medal, and the awardees are given the opportunity to meet the Prime Minister of India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Geography

4. Correct Answer is (D)

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- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. Sudan does not border the Mediterranean Sea. It is located in Northeast Africa and has a coastline along the Red Sea to the northeast. Sudan shares its longest border with South Sudan. Sudan is located in Northeast Africa. It is situated at the crossroads of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. Nile River flows through Sudan.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Polity

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Supreme Court of India has not recognized same-sex marriages as a constitutional right. While the Court has acknowledged the importance of the issue and the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals to cohabit and be free from discrimination, it has left the decision to legalize same-sex marriages to Parliament and state legislatures.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Union government has issued advisories to ensure that LGBTQIA+ couples are considered part of the same household for the purpose of ration cards. This means they can apply for and receive ration cards without facing discrimination. The Department of Financial Services has clarified that LGBTQIA+ couples cannot be prevented from opening joint bank accounts and are allowed to nominate each other as beneficiaries. This measure is part of broader efforts to ensure equal access to financial services for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. FTSCs are specifically established to expedite the trial process for cases related to sexual offenses, particularly those involving rape and violations under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act).
- Statement 2 is correct. The FTSC scheme was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which means it is primarily funded by the central government with contributions from state governments. The scheme was initiated to ensure the swift disposal of cases related to sexual offenses, using funds from the Nirbhaya Fund.

Source: [AIR](#)

7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The collegium system in India is a mechanism where senior judges, including the Chief Justice of India and the four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court, make decisions about judicial appointments and transfers without interference from the executive branch of the government. The NJAC was proposed to include representatives from the judiciary (the Chief Justice of India and two senior judges), the executive (the Union Law Minister), and two eminent persons from civil society, aiming to make the judicial appointment process more transparent and participatory.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Kesavananda Bharati case is known for establishing the "basic structure" doctrine of the Indian Constitution, which ensures that certain fundamental features of the Constitution cannot be altered by amendments. The collegium system was established through a series of Supreme Court judgments known as the Three Judges Cases.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. DDTs, such as polygraph tests, narco-analysis, and brain mapping, are scientific methods used to detect deception during interrogations. The right to privacy, as recognized by the Supreme Court of India, includes a person's autonomy over their own choices, including the decision to speak or remain silent. This is part of the broader interpretation of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The use of DDTs has been questioned for potentially violating fundamental rights, particularly the right against self-incrimination under Article 20(3) and the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. The Supreme Court of India has ruled

that these tests cannot be administered without the consent of the accused, highlighting concerns about their impact on fundamental rights.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Parliamentary Standing Committees are tasked with the detailed examination of legislative proposals, budgets, and government actions to ensure effective governance and accountability. Standing Committees provide a platform for more collaborative and less politically charged discussions compared to the full Parliament sessions. They operate in a more informal setting, which allows members to engage in detailed and constructive deliberations beyond party lines. Standing Committees are permanent committees that are reconstituted every year or periodically. They continue to function on an ongoing basis, unlike ad hoc committees, which are temporary and dissolve after completing their specific tasks. There are 24 such Standing committees, with 16 under the Lok Sabha (lower house) and 8 under the Rajya Sabha (upper house).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Members of Standing Committees are not appointed based on seniority. Instead, they are appointed or elected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, or through consultation between them, and their selection may consider various factors, including party representation and expertise.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Article 348(1) of the Indian Constitution specifies that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and every High Court shall be conducted in English unless Parliament provides otherwise by law. Currently, only the High Courts of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar are authorized to use Hindi in their proceedings.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Article 348(2) of the Constitution allows the Governor of a State, with the previous consent of the President, to authorize the use of Hindi or any other language used for any official purposes of the State in the proceedings of the High Court.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The Law Commission is not a statutory or constitutional body. It is an ad hoc executive body constituted by the Government of India. The Law Commission is reconstituted every three years. The first Law Commission in India was established in 1834 during British rule under the Charter Act of 1833, chaired by Lord Macaulay. The first Law Commission of independent India was established in 1955, chaired by M.C. Setalvad, the then Attorney-General of India.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Law Commission serves as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice, providing recommendations for legal reforms and improvements in the legal system.

Source: [AIR](#)

12. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Nationalizing literary works, particularly in Tamil Nadu, involves placing them in the public domain, which means they are no longer covered by copyright protection and can be freely used by the public without restrictions. In India, the Copyright Act, 1957 provides that the rights of authors are transferred to their heirs after their death. The copyright protection for literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works lasts for the lifetime of the author plus an additional 60 years after their death.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The term "creamy layer" is used to describe the economically advanced members within the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and, in some contexts, within other

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reserved categories. These individuals are considered to be well-off and, therefore, not in need of the benefits provided by reservations, such as educational and job quotas. The Mahad Satyagraha, held in 1927, was led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. It was a significant protest against the caste system, aiming to assert the rights of Dalits to access public water sources, and it marked a pivotal moment in the Dalit emancipation movement.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar identified the caste system as the primary source of graded inequality in India. Graded inequality, as per Ambedkar, refers to the hierarchical nature of the caste system, where different castes experience varying levels of privilege and oppression, creating a complex social structure that perpetuates inequality.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Public Accounts Committee is a parliamentary committee that consists of 22 members. Specifically, 15 members are elected from the Lok Sabha, which is the lower house of India's Parliament, and 7 members are elected from the Rajya Sabha, the upper house. The PAC is tasked with examining the accounts and financial statements of the government, which includes reviewing the performance of regulatory bodies established by Acts of Parliament. This involves scrutinizing how these bodies utilize public funds and whether they adhere to the financial regulations and objectives set by the government.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Ministers are not allowed to be members of the PAC. This rule is in place to maintain the committee's independence and impartiality, ensuring that it can effectively scrutinize government expenditure without conflicts of interest arising from having members who are part of the executive branch.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- The National Medical Commission is responsible for conducting the National Exit Test (NExT). The NExT is designed to replace the NEET PG and FMGE exams, serving as a single examination for medical graduates in India to obtain a license to practice and to qualify for postgraduate medical courses. The National Exit Test (NExT) for AYUSH will be applicable to students who had enrolled from the 2021-22 academic session onwards.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. When the Collegium reiterates its recommendation, the government is generally bound to accept it. The Supreme Court has stated that if the Collegium reiterates a recommendation, it should be binding on the Union government, and the appointment should be processed and completed within a specified timeframe.
- Statement 2 is correct. The process of judicial appointments is not the prerogative of a single individual, including the Chief Justice of a High Court. It must involve collective consultation and deliberation by the High Court Collegium, which includes the Chief Justice and the two senior-most judges of the High Court.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The "Digital Bharat Nidhi" is a fund established under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, aimed at enhancing telecommunication services in India, particularly in underserved and remote areas. It is intended to replace the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) to address issues such as underutilization of funds and bureaucratic inefficiencies, and to broaden the scope of enhancing telecom services in underserved areas. The funds for the Digital Bharat Nidhi are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) before being allocated to various projects under the DBN.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. DBN does not provide subsidies for smartphone purchases.

Source: [AIR](#)

18. Correct Answer is (D)

- The DAM aims to build Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) that will offer farmer-centric digital services and relay timely and reliable information to farmers, leveraging technologies like data analytics, artificial intelligence, and remote sensing. The DAM includes the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), which aims to create a tech-based ecosystem to provide accurate estimates of agricultural production by leveraging scientifically designed crop-cutting experiments. The three key pillars of DAM are:
- **Agri Stack:** This is a key component of the Digital Agriculture Mission. It involves creating a comprehensive digital database for farmers, including land records, crop information, and other relevant data. The Farmers' Registry under AgriStack will assign digital identity numbers (Farmer IDs) to farmers, which will be linked to various local data such as land records, livestock ownership, and crops sown.
- **Krishi Decision Support System (DSS):** This is another pillar of the Digital Agriculture Mission. It aims to create a geospatial system to integrate remote sensing data related to crops, soil, weather, and water resources.
- **Soil Profile Maps:** This is also a pillar of the Digital Agriculture Mission. It involves creating detailed soil profile maps to support agricultural planning and management.
- **Digital Crop Insurance Scheme** is not a pillar of the Digital Agriculture Mission.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Heatwaves are not officially classified as a notified disaster under India's Disaster Management Act, 2005. Although there is a strong case for recognizing heatwaves as disasters due to their increasing frequency and severity, which would facilitate better resource allocation and preparedness through Heat Action Plans, they have not yet been formally designated.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, includes a proposal to establish an 'Urban Disaster Management Authority.' This new authority is intended to address the unique challenges faced by urban areas, which are often more vulnerable to certain types of disasters due to higher population densities and complex infrastructure. By focusing on state capitals and cities with municipal corporations, the bill aims to enhance urban resilience and ensure that disaster management strategies are tailored to the specific needs of urban environments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Smart Cities Mission uses a two-stage competitive process called the "Smart Cities Challenge" to select cities. In the first stage, states and Union Territories shortlist potential cities based on specific criteria. In the second stage, these shortlisted cities compete by preparing proposals, and the best proposals are selected for funding and development.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Area-Based Development (ABD) under the Smart Cities Mission focuses on transforming existing urban areas within city limits through retrofitting, redevelopment, and greenfield development. The goal is to improve infrastructure and services in these areas, making them more liveable and sustainable.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) aims to boost health preparedness by setting up health centers, public health units, and critical care hospital blocks in every district. The PM-ABHIM is designed to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across India, focusing on critical care and primary health centers, as well as setting up health units and critical care blocks.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Human Resources for Health and Medical Education (HRHME) program seeks to fill healthcare gaps by expanding medical professionals, enhancing training, and improving infrastructure. The HRHME program aims to address shortages in healthcare personnel and improve the quality of medical education and infrastructure.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Under the NFSA, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which are considered the "poorest of the poor," receive 35 kg of food grains per family per month. In contrast, Priority Households (PHH) receive 5 kg of food grains per person per month. The state-wise coverage of beneficiaries under the NFSA was initially determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission, which has now been replaced by NITI Aayog. However, the responsibility for identifying eligible households within this coverage is primarily with the state governments and Union Territories, not NITI Aayog.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. One of the primary objectives of the Critical Mineral Mission is to boost domestic production by enhancing exploration and mining activities within India. This initiative aims to reduce import dependency and ensure a stable supply of critical minerals for various industries.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Critical Mineral Mission does aim to secure international supplies through long-term contracts, the focus has been primarily on resource-rich countries, especially in Africa, rather than South-East Asia. The mission involves engaging with mineral-rich countries to secure a stable supply of critical minerals.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Swachh Survekshan is not a training program for sanitation workers. Instead, it is an annual cleanliness survey conducted to assess the performance of cities and towns in India on various sanitation and cleanliness parameters. It aims to foster competition among cities to improve their sanitation standards and promote citizen participation in the mission.
- Statement 2 is correct. Studies have shown that the Swachh Bharat Mission, through its focus on improving sanitation and increasing access to toilets, has contributed to a significant reduction in infant mortality in India. The construction of toilets and the reduction of open defecation have been linked to improved public health outcomes, including a decrease in infant and child mortality rates.

Source: [AIR](#)

25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative emphasizes enhancing community involvement in water conservation efforts. It aims to mobilize citizens, local bodies, industries, and stakeholders to implement rainwater harvesting structures and promote sustainable water management practices. The 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative emphasizes enhancing community involvement in water conservation efforts. It aims to mobilize citizens, local bodies, industries, and stakeholders to implement rainwater harvesting structures and promote sustainable water management practices. The initiative aligns with the ongoing "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The initiative emphasizes a "whole-of-society" approach rather than a government-centric one. It focuses on community partnership and ownership, encouraging collective action from all sections of society to enhance water conservation efforts.

Source: [AIR](#)

International Relations/Organizations

26. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 is correct. The CSC focuses on creating a platform for cooperation in maritime security and addressing regional security threats, including counter-terrorism, trafficking, and cybersecurity. There are five pillars of cooperation under the CSC namely Maritime Safety and Security; Countering Terrorism and Radicalisation; Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organised Crime; Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology; and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The CSC was originally established as a trilateral maritime security dialogue among India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives in 2011. It was later expanded and renamed in 2020 to include Mauritius as a member. Bangladesh was initially an observer but officially became the fifth full member of the CSC during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting on July 10, 2024. Currently, Seychelles holds observer status in the CSC. Observer states participate actively in discussions and can influence the decision-making processes, even though they do not have formal voting rights. Their involvement allows them to contribute significantly to the conclave's activities.

Source: [AIR](#)

27. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) is designed to enhance economic cooperation by reducing tariffs on goods traded between India and ASEAN countries, thereby facilitating trade. ASEAN is a significant source of imports for India, including raw materials like energy products and vegetable oils.
- Statement 2 is correct. The AITIGA is part of India's "Act East" policy, which aims to strengthen economic, strategic, and cultural ties with the Asia-Pacific region, including ASEAN countries. The policy emphasizes enhancing trade and connectivity with ASEAN as a central component.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

28. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Brunei is not a landlocked country. It is located on the northern coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia and has a coastline along the South China Sea. Brunei is the only sovereign state entirely on Borneo; the remainder of the island is divided between its multi-landmass neighbours of Malaysia and Indonesia. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, India and Brunei elevated their bilateral ties to an Enhanced Partnership.

Source: [AIR](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The GDC aims to promote responsible use of digital technologies, address the digital divide, and foster a secure and inclusive digital environment. One of its objectives is to improve international governance of emerging technologies, like AI, so they align with fundamental human rights and values.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The principles of the GDC are inspired by the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN facilitates cooperation and encourages multistakeholder involvement but does not directly offer financial incentives.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Brunei is one of the leading suppliers of LNG, primarily supplying to customers in the Asian region. India has increased its imports of Russian oil, which has affected its oil trade with Brunei.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the United States does engage in trade with Brunei, China is Brunei's largest trading partner and foreign investor.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

31. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Interpol is the world's largest international police organization, with 196 member countries. It facilitates cross-border police cooperation and supports efforts to combat international crime. In Interpol's General Assembly, each member country is represented, and decisions are typically made by a simple majority vote. It is headquartered in Lyon, France.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. Interpol's mandate does not include addressing military-related offenses. Its focus is on transnational crime, such as terrorism, cybercrime, and organized crime. Interpol is prohibited from engaging in activities of a political, military, religious, or racial character. A Blue Notice is not used for arrest purposes. Instead, it is used to collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation. It helps in locating or identifying individuals but does not request their arrest.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Initially, the ISA was open to countries located fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. However, as of 2018, membership was opened to all member states of the United Nations, regardless of their geographic location. The ISA focuses on innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Global Solar Facility, to support solar projects. There is no such mechanism like solar tax.
- Statement 3 is correct. The International Solar Festival, organized by the ISA, aims to celebrate and highlight the transformative power of solar energy, its role in powering new opportunities, and advancing sustainable development goals.

Source: [AIR](#)

33. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) serves as a platform for high-level dialogue between the two countries. It focuses on enhancing economic cooperation and identifying new areas for collaboration across various sectors, including digitalization, energy, skills development, healthcare, and more. It aims to review the progress in bilateral collaboration and explore new opportunities to further elevate and broaden the strategic partnership between India and Singapore.
- Statement 2 is correct. The India Ready Talent Programme is an initiative launched by Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with support from the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) of Singapore. The programme aims to prepare young Singaporean talent to tap into the growing business opportunities in India. The prime minister met with interns from both countries — Singapore students who did internships through the India Ready Talent Programme and pupils from Odisha who are working in Singapore companies.

Source: [AIR](#)

34. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Malabar exercise is a naval exercise involving the United States, Japan, and India as permanent partners, with Australia rejoining in 2020. It is associated with the QUAD nations. The QUAD focuses on emerging and critical technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, and cybersecurity.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The QUAD does not have a formal secretariat or headquarters. It is a strategic forum without a formal structure like a secretariat.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is a key component of the European Union's efforts to manage international security and crisis situations. It is part of the EU's broader Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and enables the EU to take a leading role in peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention, and strengthening international security. The CSDP involves both

civilian and military missions aimed at preserving peace, preventing conflicts, and supporting international stability, in line with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Economy

36. Correct Answer is (C)

- The windfall tax is applied only to profits that exceed a predetermined baseline or threshold, which represents typical earnings. This method targets extraordinary profits that are considered excessive or unearned, often due to external factors like market disruptions or regulatory changes.

Source: [AIR](#)

37. Correct Answer is (D)

- The primary aim of IPPB is to provide accessible, affordable, and reliable banking services to the common man, particularly targeting the unbanked and underbanked segments in both urban and rural areas. One of the standout features of IPPB is its doorstep banking service, which leverages the extensive postal network of over 1.55 lakh post offices and 3 lakh postal employees, including postmen and Gramin Dak Sevaks, to deliver banking services directly to customers' homes. IPPB offers services through a combination of digital platforms (such as mobile and internet banking) and physical presence (such as counter operations at post offices and micro-ATMs). IPPB is a payments bank and, by regulation, it cannot issue credit cards. Payments banks are restricted to offering limited banking services and cannot provide credit facilities like loans or credit cards.

Source: [AIR](#)

38. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. India's domestic steel production has decreased by 8% in the first half of the year.
- Statement II is incorrect. India has seen a rise in steel imports, especially from China and Vietnam, which has led to a decrease in demand for locally produced steel. This is because imported steel is cheaper, making it more attractive to Indian manufacturers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

39. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. ULI is a digital platform designed to facilitate the seamless flow of both financial and non-financial data from multiple sources to lenders. This platform aims to streamline the credit appraisal process by providing lenders with easy access to comprehensive customer data, thereby making lending more efficient and reducing the need for extensive documentation. ULI is anticipated to revolutionize the lending landscape in India, much like how UPI transformed the payments ecosystem. By providing a standardized, digital platform for accessing credit-related data, ULI aims to make credit more accessible, especially for underserved segments like small and rural borrowers, similar to how UPI made digital payments widely accessible and efficient. ULI uses standardized Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) that allow different financial institutions to connect easily. This "plug and play" approach simplifies the integration of diverse data sources, reducing technical complexities. Lenders gain streamlined access to comprehensive customer data, enabling more accurate credit decisions and reducing fraud risks.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The AgriSURE Fund is primarily focused on supporting startups and agripreneurs in the agriculture sector through equity and debt investments, particularly in high-risk, high-impact activities. The fund is supported by contributions from the Government of India, NABARD, and other institutions, including private investors.
- Statement 3 is correct. The AgriSURE Fund is established as a Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

Source: [AIR](#)

41. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Gandhian model of development emphasizes decentralization, which involves empowering local communities and promoting self-sufficiency. This approach is reflected in Gandhi's concept of Swaraj, which emphasizes self-reliance and local governance. Decentralization is a key aspect of Gandhi's philosophy, with a focus on empowering individuals and communities rather than relying on centralized authority.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

42. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement-I: According to the ILO report, the global labour income share has declined over the past two decades.
- Statement II is correct. According to the recent data and report by the ILO, 21.7% of youth between 15 and 24 years were neither in education, employment, nor training (NEET). As per the reports, a fifth of young people were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in 2023.
- Statement III is correct. Businesses globally are increasingly implementing automation technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) systems, which is contributing to changes in labour dynamics.
- However, only Statement-III explains Statement-I. The decline in labour income is largely attributed to technological advancements and automation, including AI, which increase productivity but can reduce the share of income going to workers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- A Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) is a trade policy tool used in international trade that permits a certain quantity of a product to be imported at a lower tariff rate. Once the specified quantity is reached, any additional imports of that product are subject to a higher tariff rate. This mechanism serves several purposes such as Regulating Imports, Protecting Domestic Industries, Facilitating Trade Agreements. While TRQs are associated with imports, they can also be part of export arrangements under specific international trade agreements or bilateral arrangements, providing preferential access to certain markets.

Source: [DD News](#)

44. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The CPPS is designed to provide a national-level centralized system that allows pension payouts through any bank or branch in India. This initiative is part of the modernization efforts for the Employees' Pension Scheme, enabling pensioners to receive their pensions from any bank, any branch, anywhere in the country.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. One of the key features of the CPPS is that it eliminates the need for pensioners to transfer their Pension Payment Orders (PPO) when they relocate or change banks or branches. The system ensures uninterrupted pension delivery across India without the need for such transfers.

Source: [AIR](#)

45. Correct Answer is (C)

- VFI refers to the situation where there is a mismatch between the revenue-raising powers and expenditure responsibilities of different levels of government, such as central and subnational governments. Typically, central governments have greater revenue-raising capabilities, while subnational governments (like states or provinces) have more expenditure responsibilities but limited revenue sources. This imbalance necessitates financial transfers from the central government to the subnational governments to enable them to meet their expenditure obligations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

46. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. A fiscal deficit occurs when a government's expenditures exceed its revenues, necessitating borrowing to cover the gap. This borrowing increases the national debt. As the debt increases while GDP remains constant or grows at a slower rate, the debt-to-GDP ratio rises. Crowding out occurs when government borrowing drives up interest rates, making it more expensive for the private sector to borrow and invest. This is a common concern with high fiscal deficits, as increased government borrowing can compete with the private sector for available funds, potentially leading to higher interest rates and reduced private investment.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. An increasing fiscal deficit does not lead to an increase in household savings. It can have the opposite effect. Higher borrowing costs due to increased government borrowing can reduce disposable income and thus decrease household savings.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Environment

47. Correct Answer is (B)

- Rajaji Tiger Reserve was established in 1983 by merging three wildlife sanctuaries and it is located in Uttarakhand. It is named after C. Rajagopalachari. The reserve is situated along the foothills of the Shivalik range of the Himalayas. The Ganga and Song rivers flow through the reserve, adding to its ecological diversity. It is a critical corridor for wildlife movement between the western and eastern regions of the Himalayas. It is part of India's Project Tiger and Project Elephant. The unique geographical feature of Rajaji Tiger Reserve is that it is bisected by the Ganges River flowing through it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

48. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The term "low-carbon hydrogen" refers to hydrogen that is produced with minimal carbon emissions, not its reactivity or explosiveness. The focus of low-carbon hydrogen is on reducing carbon emissions during its production, not on its chemical properties.
- Statement 2 is correct. One of the main environmental benefits of using hydrogen as a fuel is that it does not produce carbon dioxide emissions when burned; instead, it produces water. This makes it a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels, which emit CO₂ and other greenhouse gases when combusted.

Source: [DD News](#)

49. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Great Nicobar is part of the Sundaland global biodiversity hotspot, known for its rich biodiversity, including unique and endemic species. It is home to indigenous communities such as the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes. Additionally, the region is located in a high-risk seismic zone, making it prone to earthquakes and other seismic activities. ANIIDCO is a public sector corporation established to promote the integrated development of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is involved in various activities, including infrastructure development, tourism promotion, and trade management.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

50. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Loss and Damage Fund is designed to provide financial support for both immediate disaster response and long-term resilience building to address the impacts of climate change. The LDF is intended to help developing countries compensate for losses and damages resulting from climate change, which includes both past and ongoing impacts.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. While innovative sources of financing, such as taxes on fossil fuels and other mechanisms, have been discussed, carbon credits from the global carbon market are not proposed source of financing for the LDF. The World Bank is serving as the interim trustee for the Loss and Damage Fund.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

51. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Tiger reserves are notified by the state governments on the advice of the NTCA, as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The core zones, also known as critical tiger habitats, are intended to be "inviolable," meaning they are kept free from human habitation and activities like hunting and collecting forest produce to maintain a viable population of breeding tigers.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The NTCA was established under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Science & Technology

52. Correct Answer is (B)

- 1 and 3 are correctly matched.
- **Bio-scaffolds:** Bio-scaffolds are structures used in tissue engineering to support the growth of new tissues. They are typically made from biomaterials and are designed to mimic the extracellular matrix of natural tissues. These scaffolds provide a framework for cells to attach, grow, and form new tissue. They are often porous to allow for nutrient and waste exchange and can be biodegradable, breaking down as the new tissue forms.
- **Bio-banking:** Bio-banking refers to the process of collecting, storing, and managing biological samples, such as blood, tissue, or DNA, for use in research and medicine. These samples are preserved for future studies to understand diseases, develop new treatments, and improve healthcare outcomes. Bio-banks play a crucial role in biomedical research by providing high-quality biological materials.
- **Biomarkers:** Biomarkers are biological indicators used to measure and evaluate physiological or pathological processes or responses to a treatment. They can be molecules, genes, or characteristics that indicate a particular disease state or condition. Biomarkers are essential in diagnosing diseases, predicting disease progression, and monitoring treatment responses.
- **Bio-manufacturing:** Bio-manufacturing involves using biological systems, such as microorganisms or cell cultures, to produce commercially valuable products. This field combines biotechnology and manufacturing processes to create products like pharmaceuticals, biofuels, and food ingredients. Bio-manufacturing is essential for producing complex biological products that cannot be synthesized chemically.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

53. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary aim of Integrated Theatre Commands (ITCs) is to unify the command structure of the Army, Navy, and Air Force for specific geographical areas to enhance operational efficiency and coordination during conflicts. The proposal includes three theatre commands: two for land operations focusing on India's western and northern borders, and one maritime command for the coastline. These commands will be led by four-star officers, similar to the heads of the individual military branches.
- Statement 2 is correct. Joint Logistics Nodes (JLNs) are established to provide integrated logistics support, such as ammunition, fuel, and supplies, to all branches of the military. The goal is to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and optimize resource utilization across the military services.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

54. Correct Answer is (A)

- NGS is designed to sequence millions of DNA fragments simultaneously, which allows for rapid data generation and analysis. This high-throughput capability is a significant advantage over traditional sequencing methods. It is a revolutionary technology in the field of genomics that allows for the rapid and simultaneous sequencing of millions of DNA or RNA fragments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

55. Correct Answer is (B)

10 PM Compilation September [First Week] 2024

- Palaeogenomics involves studying the genomes of ancient organisms. By analyzing ancient DNA, scientists can gain insights into how species have evolved over time and how they interacted with their environments. This helps in reconstructing past evolutionary and ecological processes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

56. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The DAC is headed by the Defence Minister. The DAC does not conduct field trials. Field trials are conducted by the respective branches of the armed forces or designated agencies to evaluate the equipment in real-world conditions.
- Statement 3 is correct. The AoN is a formal approval granted by the DAC, which marks the beginning of the procurement process for military equipment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

57. Correct Answer is (C)

- Machine-to-Machine (M2M) services encompass a range of technologies that enable devices to communicate with each other without human intervention. Examples include: Cellular Networks, Wi-Fi, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), Bluetooth, Near-Field Communication (NFC), Satellite Communication, Wireless Sensor Networks (WSNs). However, Fiber To The Home (FTTH) is not associated with M2M services, as it is primarily used for providing high-speed internet access to residential users rather than facilitating machine-to-machine communication.

Source: [AIR](#)

58. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Indian and South African navies have signed an agreement to improve cooperation in submarine rescue operations, ensuring mutual support and safety for submarine crews in distress. Under this agreement, the Indian Navy will provide assistance by deploying its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) when needed. The DSRV can operate at depths of up to 650 meters and is designed to rescue crew members from disabled submarines.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India has set a target to eliminate TB by 2025, which is five years ahead of the global target of 2030 set by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The BPaLM regimen is primarily designed for the treatment of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). It has been recently approved for use in several countries, including India. It is a novel treatment option that includes a combination of drugs: Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid, and Moxifloxacin. This regimen is intended to be a more effective, safer, and quicker alternative to traditional MDR-TB treatments, reducing the treatment duration from up to 20 months to just six months.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

60. Correct Answer is (C)

- 1, 2 and 3 are correctly matched.
- **Ballistic Missiles:** These include a range of surface-to-surface missiles such as the Prithvi series and the Agni series, which vary from short-range to intercontinental ballistic missiles. For example, the Agni-V is an intercontinental ballistic missile with a range of 5,500 to 8,000 km.
- **Cruise Missiles:** These are designed to deliver a large warhead over long distances with high precision. India's notable cruise missiles include the BrahMos, a supersonic cruise missile developed in collaboration with Russia, and the Nirbhay, a subsonic land-attack cruise missile.
- **Air-to-Air Missiles (AAM):** These missiles are launched from aircraft to target other aircraft. Examples include the Astra missile, which has a range of 80-110 km.
- **Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAM):** These are designed to target and destroy incoming aerial threats. India uses various SAM systems, including the Akash and the S-400.

Source: [DD News](#)