

# **10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation**

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*For UPSC CSE Prelims*

**January, 2025 1<sup>st</sup> Week**

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## Art & Culture and Ancient History

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Indus Valley Civilisation (IVC):

1. It existed before the Aryan civilization.
2. The people of the IVC focused on developing civic infrastructure over building temples or palaces.
3. The IVC had a centralized banking system.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) Modhweth Festival is celebrated by which one of the following tribes?

- a) Irula
- b) Kattunayakan
- c) Kurumba
- d) Toda

## Modern Indian History

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Savitribai Phule is known for becoming the first female doctor in India.
2. Savitribai Phule used her poetry to address social issues and promote education.
3. Savitribai Phule was associated with the Brahmo Samaj.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. Rani Velu Nachiyar was the first Indian queen to fight against the British East India Company.
2. Rani Velu Nachiyar established the first army of trained women soldiers in the colonial era.

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

## Geography

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) was established in 1875.
2. The IMD operates under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
3. Dr. P.K. Das was appointed as the first meteorological reporter of IMD.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the largest user of groundwater in the world.
2. Around 70% of groundwater is used for agriculture.
3. India's overall groundwater extraction rate has increased in recent years.
4. Groundwater in Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu shows the highest levels of nitrate contamination.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the Brahmaputra River:

1. It flows through three countries.
2. India is the uppermost riparian country along the river.
3. It is a perennial river.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. The world's largest dam is located in China.
2. Namcha Barwa is located in the Karakoram Range.

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

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

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The Lhasa terrane is part of the collision between the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate.
2. Bangong-Nujiang suture separates the Lhasa terrane from the Himalayas to the south.

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) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Justice of the concerned state High Court administers the oath of office to a Governor.
2. In the absence of the Chief Justice of the High Court, the Chief Minister of the concerned state administers the oath of office to a Governor.
3. The Governor swears to preserve, protect, and defend the state's autonomy in the oath.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

## 10 PM MCQs Compilation [First Week] January 2025

Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. The S.R. Bommai case (1994) introduced guidelines to prevent the arbitrary use of Article 356.
2. India's federal system is a basic feature of its democracy.
3. One Nation, One Election (ONOE) would have impact on state's autonomy.

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.12) With reference to the Island Development Agency (IDA), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. The Prime Minister of India chairs the meetings of the Island Development Agency (IDA).
2. It was established to focus on the holistic development of India's islands.

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) Consider the following statements:

1. Non-citizens residing in India cannot possess Aadhaar cards.
2. Aadhaar's biometrics are stored in a centralized database known as the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).
3. The National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme (NERPAP), 2015 aims to enhance the accuracy and integrity of India's voter rolls.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. Hunger strikes are protected by the Constitution in India.
2. The Constitution of India restricts peaceful protests to national emergencies declared under Article 352.

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

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

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. Constitutional courts can grant bail despite strict legal restrictions if the accused's fundamental rights are being violated.
2. The Supreme Court has power to grant bail in any case.

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) In the context of the judiciary, the term 'Circuit benches' refer to:

- Permanent benches of a court or tribunal established in multiple locations within a region.
- Benches that exclusively handle appeals from lower courts across the country.
- Specialized benches that deal only with constitutional matters in the judiciary.
- Temporary benches of a court or tribunal that operate in locations other than their permanent headquarters.

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

- Article 51A of the Indian Constitution mandates that every citizen must respect the Constitution, its institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem.
- As per the Ministry of Home Affairs' guidelines, the National Anthem is to be played during the Governor's address to the House.

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

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

Q.18) With reference to BHARATPOL portal, consider the following statements:

- It aims to modernize India's approach to tackling transnational crimes.
- It has been developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It allows all Indian law enforcement agencies to connect with Interpol.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

Q.19) Consider the following statements:

- The Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions (SICs) are statutory bodies.
- Both the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and the State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) are appointed by the President of India.

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

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

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

- The collegium system operates without formal rules.
- The President can transfer a judge from one High Court to another only after consulting the Chief Justice of India (CJI).
- The Union government is empowered to reject the collegium's recommendation for the appointment of judges.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



## Acts & Policies

Q.21) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Most of India's former Prime Ministers have dedicated memorials in their honour.

Statement-II: The Prime Ministers' Memorial Allocation and Maintenance Act, 1956 allows building memorials for former Prime Ministers of India.

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.22) Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Centralized Pension Payments System (CPPS)?

- 1. It establishes a national-level centralized pension disbursement system.
- 2. It automatically credits pensions upon release.
- 3. It eliminates the legal disputes related to pensions.

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.23) Which one of the following is the objective of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme?

- a) Refund customs duties paid on imported raw materials.
- b) Reimburse embedded taxes and duties not refunded under existing schemes.
- c) Provide direct subsidies for export-oriented units.
- d) Increase export volumes by offering financial incentives.

Q.24) Which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is exclusively for landholding farmers owning more than 5 hectares.
- 2. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana provides coverage for prevented sowing and post-harvest losses.
- 3. Agriculture Infrastructure Fund offers interest subvention on loans for building farm infrastructure.
- 4. All the above three schemes are centrally sponsored and require 50% state funding.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.25) With reference to the revised guidelines recently released by the University Grants Commission (UGC) for appointing Vice-Chancellors (VCs), consider the following statements:

1. According to the new guidelines, the UGC Chairman will be responsible for constituting the search-cum-selection Committee for appointing Vice-Chancellors.
2. The search-cum-selection committee will consist of three members.
3. The VC shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of taking charge or until attaining the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.
4. The new guidelines have added mandatory administrative experience for VC candidates.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.26) With reference to the National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to position India as a global leader in technical textiles and boost domestic production and usage.
2. Technical textiles are textiles designed for aesthetic appeal and use in the fashion industry.
3. Ministry of Textiles is responsible for implementing the Mission.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.27) Which one of the following is the objective of the "Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0" programme?

- a) It aims to increase women's representation in Parliament.
- b) It aims to train elected women representatives from Scheduled Tribes in constitutional provisions and parliamentary procedures.
- c) It aims to organize cultural exchange programs between different states.
- d) It aims to implement new laws for Panchayati Raj Institutions.

## Index & Reports

Q.28) With reference to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report 2023-24, consider the following statements:

1. It is a comprehensive management information system designed to collect, validate, and analyze school education data across India.
2. The report indicates a drop in total student enrollment in schools compared to the pre-pandemic period.

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

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

Q.29) How does the State of Forest Report (SFR), 2023 define forest cover in India?

- a) All areas with a tree canopy density of at least 10% and a minimum size of 1 hectare, irrespective of ownership or legal status.
- b) Any area with trees, including urban parks and roadside plantations, regardless of canopy density.
- c) All lands with a tree canopy density of at least 30% and an area of 0.5 hectares or more.
- d) Only areas designated as forests by the government, with a minimum tree canopy density of 30%.



## International Relations/Organizations

Q.30) Which one of the following is correct regarding the Torrijos-Carter Treaties?

- a) It established exclusive U.S. control over the Panama Canal.
- b) It granted Panama full sovereignty over the Panama Canal and ensure its neutrality.
- c) It aimed to construct a new canal parallel to the Panama Canal.
- d) It imposed restrictions on the use of the Panama Canal by certain nations.

Q.31) With reference to the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), consider the following statements:

- 1. It originated as a response to the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.
- 2. Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) is a joint military exercise closely associated with the Quad.

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 Indo-U.S. Nuclear Agreement, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

- 1. It granted India a status similar to Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) signatories without actually signing the treaty.
- 2. The agreement focused on advancing India's nuclear research facilities for scientific and technological innovation.

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.33) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India and the United States will partnership to co-produce sonobuoys to enhance the Indian Navy's Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA).

Statement-II: The U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) is a strategic framework to enhance bilateral cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.

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

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

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD):

- 1. **It is celebrated on January 9th every year to mark the founding day of the Ministry of External Affairs.**
- 2. **It is also known as Non-Resident Indian Day.**
- 3. **The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honor conferred on overseas Indians for their significant contributions in various fields.**

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

## Economy

Q.35) With reference to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. It enables seamless real-time peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant payments.
2. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has developed the UPI system in India.
3. One-Time Password (OTP) sent via SMS is the primary authentication method for UPI transactions.
4. The Virtual Payment Address (VPA) in UPI replaces the requirement of a UPI PIN.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.36) Consider the following statements with respect to the Non-Performing Asset (NPA):

1. A high Gross NPA ratio indicates poor asset quality and increased credit risk.
2. Doubtful assets are loans classified as NPAs for less than 12 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.37) The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) primarily measures which one of the following?

- a) The level of consumer confidence in the economy.
- b) The performance of the stock market.
- c) The health of the manufacturing and services sectors.
- d) Government spending trends.

Q.38) Consider the following statements:

1. A cyclical economic slowdown refers to a temporary decline in economic activity caused by natural fluctuations in the business cycle.
2. The central bank raises interest rates to curb inflation and tackle the cyclical downturn in the economy.

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

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

Q.39) Consider the following pairs:

Bays-----Development Project

1. Galathea Bay----- National Park
2. Campbell Bay----- International Container Transshipment Port
3. Atlanta Bay----- Bulk Cargo Transshipment Hub

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.40) Consider the following statements:

1. If demand for a currency rises while its supply remains constant, its value depreciates.
2. A tighter monetary policy leads to the appreciation of the currency.
3. Higher inflation in India reduces the value of the rupee against the dollar.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

## Environment

Q.41) Consider the following statements:

1. Incineration is a biological process in which waste materials are decomposed in a factory.
2. Incineration can be used to generate energy.

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) Which one of the following groundwater pollutants is associated with the use of fertilizers in farming?

- a) Nitrates
- b) Fluoride
- c) Uranium
- d) Lead

Q.43) Consider the following statements:

1. The Paris Agreement (2015) binds developed countries to mobilize finance for developing nations.
2. New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance (NCQG) is a fund dedicated exclusively for renewable energy projects in developed nations.

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

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

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS):

1. It is a high-speed rail-based commuter transit initiative designed to connect major cities within India.
2. It operates on shared tracks with freight trains.
3. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through decreased private vehicle usage.

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

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

Q.45) Sikkim recently celebrated the launch of India's first organic fisheries cluster, marking a significant step forward. In this context, 'organic fisheries' refers to:

- a) The breeding of fish in artificial ponds using chemical feed supplements to boost growth.
- b) The farming of fish and other aquatic organisms in natural water bodies without the use of synthetic chemicals or artificial feed.
- c) The cultivation of fish using genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to improve yield.
- d) A traditional fishing technique that involves using only hand-made nets and boats.

Q.46) Considering the different types of hydrogen, how many of the following are generated from fossil fuels?

1. Grey Hydrogen
2. Blue Hydrogen
3. Green Hydrogen
4. Black Hydrogen

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## Science & Technology

Q.47) Consider the following pairs:

Naval Projects----- Description

1. Scorpene-class submarine----- Diesel-electric attack submarines built with French collaboration
2. Project-15B----- Advanced stealth frigates being built under 'Make in India'
3. Project-17A----- Guided missile destroyers under construction for the Indian Navy

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

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

Q.48) Consider the following statements:

1. The Modified Assured Career Progression Scheme (MACPS) aims to eliminate the need for departmental exams by offering promotions to government employees who have served for 5 years or more.
2. Honorary senior ranks are conferred on retiring personnel who meet promotion eligibility but could not be promoted due to organizational constraints.

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

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

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

1. Chandrayaan-4 will utilize two Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) rockets and perform a series of docking and undocking maneuvers to successfully collect and return lunar soil samples to Earth.
2. Space docking involves the process of transferring fuel between two spacecraft while they are in orbit.

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) With reference to the Suryakiran Military Exercise, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a bilateral joint military exercise conducted annually between the armies of India and Bangladesh.
2. The exercise focuses on jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

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.51) Consider the following statements regarding the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC):

1. It has been constituted under the Biodiversity Act, 2002.
2. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change oversees the functioning of the GEAC.
3. It is responsible for researching and developing new genetically modified organisms in India.
4. As per the new rules, selected expert members of the Committee are required to take steps to ensure that any conflicts of interest do not affect GEAC decisions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.52) With reference to the recently developed injectable hydrogel for localized cancer treatment, consider the following statements:

1. They can be administered orally.
2. They enhance drug delivery in cancer treatment by extending drug retention time at the tumour site.
3. They possess greater biocompatible properties.

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.53) Which one of the following is the fundamental difference between a classical bit and a quantum bit (qubit)?

- a) Bits can represent multiple states simultaneously, whereas qubits can only represent one state at a time.
- b) Bits can represent one of two states (0 or 1), whereas qubits can represent both 0 and 1 simultaneously.
- c) Bits are based on quantum mechanics, whereas qubits are based on classical mechanics.
- d) Bits use superposition and entanglement, while qubits do not.

Q.54) With reference to the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV), consider the following statements:

1. It is a zoonotic virus.
2. Antibiotics are the primary treatment for the virus.
3. It is a common cause of seasonal respiratory illnesses.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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



10 PM MCQs Compilation [First Week] January 2025

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding 'Exercise Varuna':

1. It is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Russia.
2. The exercise is either conducted in the Atlantic Ocean or the Black Sea.
3. The exercise aims to promote security, stability, and peace in maritime zones.

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

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

Q.56) The primary purpose of the 'BAANKNET' portal is to:

- a) Provide banking services to customers
- b) Manage loan applications for distressed assets
- c) Facilitate online stock trading
- d) Facilitate property auctions for banks and lending institutions

Q.57) With reference to the Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD) used in SpaDeX mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first space robotic arm with walking capability.
2. It is designed to showcase the capability of robotic arms in performing tasks such as assembly and maintenance in space environments.
3. It is designed for use only in microgravity environments.

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.58) Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) PSLV-C60 POEM-4 mission recently reached a milestone with cowpea sprouts unveiling their first leaves in space. Which one of the following payloads was responsible for this experiment?

- a) SEEDS (Space Experiment for Environmental Development of Sprouts)
- b) AGROS (Advanced Growth Research for Orbital Sustainability)
- c) CROPS (Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies)
- d) PHOTOS (Photosynthesis and Horticultural Observation in Space)

Q.59) Consider the following statements:

1. The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is appointed by the President of India.
2. The tenure of ISRO's Chairman is generally for two years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

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 statements:

1. Gene silencing can prevent the production of proteins encoded by genes.
2. miRNAs (microRNAs) are small, non-coding RNA molecules that play a significant role in post-transcriptional gene silencing.

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

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



## Answer Key

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

## Answers & Explanations

### Art & Culture and Ancient History

- Correct Answer is (B)
  - Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The IVC flourished from approximately 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE, with its mature phase from 2600 BCE to 1900 BCE. The Aryan civilization is believed to have emerged later, around 1500 BCE, after the decline of the IVC. The IVC is renowned for its advanced urban planning, including drainage systems, granaries, and public baths like the Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro. There is no evidence of monumental structures such as temples or palaces, suggesting that civic infrastructure was prioritized over religious or royal edifices.
  - Statement 3 is incorrect. While the IVC had a standardized system of weights and measures and extensive trade networks, there is no evidence of a centralized banking system. Their economic organization was advanced but not similar to modern banking systems.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

- Correct Answer is (D)
  - The Modhweth Festival is celebrated by the Toda tribe. This annual festival, also known as the Buffalo Festival, is a significant event for the Toda people and typically takes place in late December or early January. The Toda are one of several tribal communities residing in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### Modern Indian History

- Correct Answer is (A)
  - Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. Savitribai Phule was India's first female teacher and a pioneer in women's education and social reform. She established schools for girls and worked on various social issues like widow remarriage, child marriage, and caste discrimination. Savitribai Phule along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, was actively involved in the Satyashodhak Samaj, which aimed to promote social equality and uplift marginalized communities.
  - Statement 2 is correct. Savitribai Phule was an accomplished poet who used her writings to address social issues like caste discrimination, gender inequality, and the importance of education. Her works, such as Kavya Phule (1854) and Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar (1892), reflect her advocacy for education and empowerment of marginalized groups.

Source: [AIR](#)

- Correct Answer is (C)
  - Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Rani Velu Nachiyar is widely regarded as the first Indian queen to actively oppose and fight against the British East India Company. She waged war against them in

1780 to reclaim her kingdom of Sivagangai after her husband was killed in battle. Rani Velu Nachiyar is credited with forming the first-ever army of trained women soldiers in India, known as the "Udaiyaal Army," named after a loyal village woman who sacrificed her life to protect the queen's hideout. This was a pioneering move in the colonial era and demonstrated her innovative military strategy.

Source: [AIR](#)

### Geography

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The IMD was established on January 15, 1875, to centralize meteorological observations and forecasting in India. Since 2006, the IMD has been under the administrative control of the Ministry of Earth Sciences. India was the first developing country in the world to have its own geostationary satellite (NSAT) for continuous weather monitoring.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The first meteorological reporter of the IMD was Henry Francis Blanford.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. India is the largest extractor of groundwater globally, using more than the United States and China combined, with annual usage exceeding 240 billion cubic meters. Approximately 70% of groundwater extracted in India (and globally) is used for agriculture, primarily for irrigation. Rajasthan (49%), Karnataka (48%), and Tamil Nadu (37%) report the highest levels of nitrate contamination in groundwater.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. India's overall groundwater extraction rate has remained relatively stable at around 60.4% since 2009. However, certain regions like Punjab and Rajasthan continue to face overexploitation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Brahmaputra River flows through three countries: China (Tibet), India, and Bangladesh. It does not flow through Bhutan, although Bhutan is part of the Brahmaputra basin. The Brahmaputra is a perennial river, meaning it has water throughout the year due to its sources in glaciers and heavy monsoon rainfall.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. China (Tibet) is the uppermost riparian country where the river originates as the Yarlung Tsangpo. India is a middle riparian country, with Bangladesh being the lowermost riparian.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Three Gorges Dam, located on the Yangtze River in Hubei province, China, is the world's largest hydroelectric facility in terms of installed capacity (22,500 MW) and is widely recognized as a major engineering feat. While other dams like Kariba (Zambia-Zimbabwe) are larger in terms of reservoir capacity, the Three Gorges Dam holds the title for power generation.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Namcha Barwa is located in southeastern Tibet and marks the easternmost point of the Himalayas. It lies near the "Great Bend" of the Yarlung Zangbo River (Brahmaputra) as it enters Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Lhasa terrane is a fragment of the Earth's crust that was part of the southern margin of the Eurasian Plate. It played a significant role in the collision between the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate, which led to the formation of the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Bangong-Nujiang suture separates the Lhasa terrane from the Qiangtang terrane to its north. The Yarlung Tsangpo (or Indus-Tsangpo) suture separates the Lhasa terrane from the Himalayas to its south.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### Polity

10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to Article 159 of the Constitution, the Governor takes the oath of office in the presence of the Chief Justice of the High Court of the concerned state.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. In the absence of the Chief Justice, the senior-most judge of that High Court administers the oath. The Governor swears to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the law" and to serve and promote the well-being of the people of the state.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The S.R. Bommai v. Union of India case is a landmark judgment that curbed the misuse of Article 356, which allows the imposition of President's Rule in states. Federalism, characterized by the division of powers between the Centre and states, is a fundamental feature of India's Constitution and democracy. The proposed One Nation, One Election (ONOE) initiative aims to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, which could centralize authority and reduce states' autonomy in determining their electoral cycles.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Union Home Minister chairs the meetings of the Island Development Agency (IDA).
- Statement 2 is correct. The IDA was set up in 2017 to promote the sustainable and holistic development of India's islands, particularly focusing on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Its objectives include infrastructure development, tourism promotion, renewable energy initiatives, and environmental protection.

Source: [AIR](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Non-citizens, such as Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), Long-Term Visa (LTV) holders, and resident foreigners who have stayed in India for at least 182 days in the past 12 months, are eligible to apply for Aadhaar cards. This includes nationals from Nepal and Bhutan as well.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Aadhaar's biometric data is stored in a centralized database called the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR). This repository securely maintains the biometric and demographic data of individuals enrolled in the Aadhaar system. NERPA was launched in 2015 with the objective of improving the accuracy and integrity of electoral rolls by eliminating duplicate entries and authenticating voter information, thereby ensuring a more reliable electoral process.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Hunger strikes, as a form of peaceful protest, are protected under Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression) and Article 19(1)(b) (right to assemble peacefully without arms). Courts have recognized hunger strikes as a legitimate form of dissent, provided they do not disturb public order or violate reasonable restrictions under Articles 19(2) and 19(3).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Peaceful protests are not limited to national emergencies. The right to protest is a fundamental right under Article 19, and it can only be restricted under specific conditions like public order, sovereignty, or morality, as outlined in Articles 19(2) and 19(3). Article

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352 deals with the proclamation of emergency, during which certain rights under Article 19 may be suspended, but this does not mean protests are inherently restricted to such times.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Constitutional courts, such as the High Courts and the Supreme Court, have the authority to grant bail even in cases governed by special statutes with stringent bail conditions (e.g., MCOCA, PMLA) if there is a violation of fundamental rights, such as prolonged detention without trial (Article 21). However, this power is exercised only in exceptional circumstances.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Supreme Court has wide jurisdiction and extraordinary powers under Articles 32 and 136 of the Constitution, it cannot arbitrarily grant bail in "any case." Its intervention must be justified by legal and constitutional principles, such as a violation of fundamental rights or miscarriage of justice.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (D)

- Circuit benches are temporary or part-time benches of a court or tribunal that function in locations other than their permanent or regional headquarters. They are established to make justice more accessible and reduce travel burdens for litigants, especially in geographically dispersed areas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Article 51A(a) of the Indian Constitution states that it is the fundamental duty of every citizen to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag, and the National Anthem.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines specify that the National Anthem is to be played on certain formal occasions, such as before and after the President's address to the nation or during ceremonial events. However, there is no specific mandate for playing it during a Governor's address to a legislative house. There is no uniform rule regarding the playing of the National Anthem in legislative assemblies across India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Bharatpol is designed to address transnational crimes such as cybercrime, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and financial fraud by enabling seamless international cooperation through Interpol. Bharatpol enables all Indian law enforcement agencies, including state police forces and central agencies, to directly connect with Interpol for international assistance in criminal investigations.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Bharatpol has been developed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which serves as India's National Central Bureau (NCB) for Interpol.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions (SICs) are statutory bodies established under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) is appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and a Union Cabinet Minister. The State Chief Information Commissioner (SCIC) is appointed by the Governor of the State on the recommendation of a committee comprising the Chief Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and a State Cabinet Minister.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



20. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The collegium system is not mentioned in the Constitution or governed by any formal rules or laws. It evolved through judicial pronouncements, particularly the "Three Judges Cases," and functions as a convention-based mechanism for appointing and transferring judges. As per Article 222 of the Constitution, the President can transfer a judge from one High Court to another, but this can only be done after consulting the Chief Justice of India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Union government can send back a recommendation made by the collegium for reconsideration. However, if the collegium reiterates its recommendation, the government is bound to accept it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

#### Acts & Policies

21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement I is correct. Most former Prime Ministers of India, such as Jawaharlal Nehru (Shanti Vana), Lal Bahadur Shastri (Vijay Ghat), Indira Gandhi (Shakti Sthal), and Rajiv Gandhi (Vir Bhumi), have dedicated memorials, primarily in Delhi. However, there are exceptions, such as Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who does not have a dedicated memorial.
- Statement II is incorrect. There is no such act or law in India called the Prime Ministers' Memorial Allocation and Maintenance Act, 1956. Memorials are created based on government decisions or conventions but are not governed by a formalized law.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The CPPS represents a significant shift to a centralized pension disbursement system, enabling pensioners to receive their pensions from any bank branch across India without being tied to specific regional offices or banks. Under the CPPS, pensions are credited directly to pensioners' bank accounts upon release, eliminating the need for physical verification visits or delays in processing.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. There is no such provisions or advantage of the system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme aims to refund embedded taxes and duties that were previously non-recoverable under any other mechanism. These include central, state, and local taxes such as mandi tax, coal cess, VAT, and excise duty on fuel used in manufacturing and distribution of exported goods. The scheme ensures exporters receive refunds to enhance their competitiveness in global markets while complying with WTO norms.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect. The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme provides financial assistance to all landholding farmers' families, regardless of the size of their landholdings. Initially, it was limited to small and marginal farmers with up to 2 hectares of land, but it was later extended to cover all farmer families with cultivable land. PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme, meaning it is fully funded by the Government of India (100%). PMFBY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, where premium subsidies are shared between the Centre and States in a ratio of 50:50. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) covers - **Prevented Sowing**: Farmers who are unable to sow due to adverse weather conditions can claim up to 25% of the sum insured, **Post-Harvest Losses**: Coverage is provided for crops kept in the field for drying for up to 14 days after harvest, against risks like cyclones and unseasonal rains. The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) provides interest subvention of 3% per annum on loans for

building farm-related infrastructure, such as warehouses, cold storages, and processing units. It also offers credit guarantee coverage for loans up to ₹2 crores.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The revised guidelines state that the Chancellor or Visitor will constitute the Search-cum-Selection Committee for appointing Vice-Chancellors, not the UGC Chairman. The revised guidelines specify that the Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of five years or until attaining the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.
- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. The new guidelines specify that the committee will have three members: a nominee of the Chancellor (Chairperson), a nominee of the UGC Chairman, and a nominee from the university's apex body. The new regulations expand eligibility criteria to include individuals with at least 10 years of senior-level experience in fields like public administration, public policy, industry, or public sector undertakings, provided they have significant academic contributions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) aims to make India a global leader in technical textiles by increasing domestic production, promoting exports, and enhancing the use of technical textiles across industries. The Ministry of Textiles is the nodal agency responsible for implementing the National Technical Textiles Mission.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Technical textiles are not designed for aesthetic purposes or fashion but are engineered for functional and technical applications, such as in agriculture, healthcare, infrastructure, defense, and transportation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Panchayat Se Parliament 2.0 programme is a women-centric awareness and empowerment initiative aimed at enhancing the leadership capacity of elected women representatives, particularly from Scheduled Tribes (STs). The programme focuses on providing training in constitutional provisions, parliamentary procedures, and governance, enabling these women leaders to contribute effectively to decision-making processes.

Source: [AIR](#)

### Index & Reports

28. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) is a robust system developed by the Ministry of Education to collect and analyze school education data across India. It tracks enrolment, infrastructure, teacher availability, and other key indicators, making it one of the largest education databases in the country. The UDISE+ report for 2023-24 shows a significant decline in student enrolment compared to pre-pandemic levels. Total enrolment dropped from around 26 crores in 2018-19 to 24.8 crore in 2023-24, representing a loss of over 1 crore students.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- As per the report, forest cover refers to areas of at least one hectare with a tree canopy density of 10% or more, **regardless of ownership or legal status**. This includes all forests, whether natural or man-made, irrespective of their use or protection status. Whereas, tree cover refers to tree patches **outside designated forest** areas that are less than one hectare in size. It includes scattered trees in rural and urban areas, such as those along roadsides, in parks, or on agricultural lands, which are not part of the forest cover assessment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



### International Relations/Organizations

30. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Torrijos-Carter Treaties, signed in 1977 by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos, were two agreements that marked a significant shift in control over the Panama Canal:
- **Panama Canal Treaty:** This treaty provided for the gradual transfer of control over the Panama Canal from the United States to Panama. The process began in 1979 and culminated in full Panamanian sovereignty over the canal on December 31, 1999.
- **Neutrality Treaty:** This treaty guaranteed that the canal would remain neutral and open to ships of all nations, even after Panama assumed control. It also allowed the United States to defend the canal if its neutrality was threatened.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

31. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Quad originated as a coordination mechanism among India, the U.S., Japan, and Australia to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. This initial collaboration laid the foundation for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad).
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Exercise Malabar is a joint military exercise closely associated with the Quad. While it is not officially conducted under the Quad framework, it involves all four Quad nations—India, the United States, Japan, and Australia.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The agreement effectively normalized India's status as a de facto nuclear weapon state outside the NPT. While India did not sign the NPT, the deal allowed India to access nuclear technology and engage in international nuclear trade, similar to NPT-recognized nuclear-weapon states, without binding it to the treaty's disarmament obligations.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary focus of the agreement was on enabling civil nuclear cooperation between India and the U.S., particularly for energy generation. It aimed to address India's growing energy needs by facilitating access to nuclear fuel, reactors, and technology for civilian purposes. Advancing research facilities was not a central objective of the deal.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

33. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct. India and the United States are collaborating to co-produce sonobuoys to enhance the Indian Navy's Undersea Domain Awareness (UDA). This partnership involves U.S.-based Ultra Maritime and India's Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- Statement-II is correct. The U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) is a strategic framework launched to enhance bilateral cooperation in critical and emerging technologies, including defense technologies like sonobuoys.
- Hence, the co-production of sonobuoys aligns with the objectives of iCET, which aims to deepen collaboration in advanced defense technologies. Therefore, Statement-II provides the correct explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

34. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on January 9th to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India in 1915. Ministry of External Affairs is primarily responsible for organizing the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is referred to as Non-Resident Indian Day. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honor given to NRIs, PIOs, or organizations established by them for outstanding contributions in diverse fields.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### Economy

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. UPI allows instant real-time payments for both peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions, making it a widely used payment system in India. The UPI system was developed by the NPCI under the guidance of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and launched in 2016.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. While OTP is used during initial registration or linking of a bank account, UPI transactions are primarily authenticated using a UPI PIN, which is set by users during registration. The VPA is a unique identifier used to send or receive money without sharing bank details, but it does not replace the UPI PIN, which is required for transaction authentication.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. A high Gross NPA (GNPA) ratio reflects a large proportion of loans that have become non-performing, indicating poor asset quality and higher credit risk for the bank.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Doubtful assets are those that remain in the substandard category for over 12 months. Loans classified as NPAs for less than 12 months are termed substandard assets.

Source: [DD News](#)

37. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a survey-based economic indicator that measures the health and performance of the manufacturing and services sectors. It provides insights into business conditions by evaluating key factors such as production levels, new orders, employment, supplier deliveries, and inventory levels. A PMI reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 signals contraction.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

38. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. A cyclical economic slowdown occurs due to regular ups and downs in the business cycle, such as changes in demand, investment, or production. These slowdowns are temporary and typically follow periods of expansion.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While central banks raise interest rates to curb inflation, doing so during a cyclical downturn would worsen the slowdown. Higher interest rates increase borrowing costs, reducing consumer spending and investment, which could deepen the economic contraction. Instead, during a cyclical downturn, central banks often lower interest rates to stimulate demand and encourage borrowing and investment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

39. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Galathea Bay:** It is part of the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve and a key site for the International Container Transshipment Port, not a National Park.
- **Campbell Bay:** It is not associated with an International Container Transshipment Port. Instead, it serves as the administrative headquarters of Great Nicobar Island and hosts INS Baaz, a key naval airbase. The transshipment port is planned at Galathea Bay, not Campbell Bay.
- **Atlanta Bay:** Atlanta Bay, located in North Andaman near Diglipur, is being considered for a Bulk Cargo Transshipment Hub.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. If the demand for a currency rises while its supply remains constant, its value appreciates, not depreciates. Increased demand leads to higher value in any market-driven system.

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- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. A tighter monetary policy (e.g., higher interest rates) reduces the supply of money in the market and attracts foreign investments, increasing demand for the currency and leading to its appreciation. Higher inflation in India compared to the U.S. makes Indian goods and services less competitive globally, reducing demand for the rupee and causing its depreciation against the dollar.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### Environment

41. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Incineration is not a biological process; it is a thermal process where waste is burned at high temperatures to reduce it to ash, gases, and heat. It involves combustion, not biological decomposition.
- Statement 2 is correct. The heat produced during incineration can be used to generate steam, which can drive turbines to produce electricity. This is a common practice in waste-to-energy plants.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

42. Correct Answer is (A)

- Nitrates are commonly associated with the use of fertilizers in farming. Synthetic nitrogenous fertilizers, manure, and agricultural runoff contribute significantly to nitrate contamination in groundwater. Excessive nitrates can leach into the soil and contaminate groundwater.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

43. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Article 9 of the Paris Agreement explicitly states that developed countries are obligated to provide financial resources to assist developing countries in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The NCQG is not a fund for developed nations but rather a new financial target aimed at supporting climate action in developing countries. It seeks to address their needs for mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building, replacing the \$100 billion target with a more ambitious goal.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) is a semi-high-speed rail network designed specifically for the National Capital Region (NCR), connecting smaller towns and suburbs to major cities like Delhi, Ghaziabad, and Meerut. The RRTS operates on dedicated tracks, separate from freight or traditional railway lines, ensuring uninterrupted and efficient high-speed commuter services.
- Statement 3 is correct. One of the key goals of the RRTS is to encourage public transport usage by providing a fast and reliable alternative to private vehicles, thereby reducing traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (B)

- Organic fisheries or aquaculture refers to the farming of aquatic species like fish and shrimp using sustainable practices. This involves avoiding synthetic chemicals, antibiotics, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), as well as using natural or certified organic feed.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

46. Correct Answer is (C)

- Grey Hydrogen, Blue Hydrogen, and Black Hydrogen are generated from fossil fuels. Green Hydrogen is not generated from fossil fuels. According to McKinsey's Global Energy Perspective 2023, nearly all currently used hydrogen is grey.

Source: [DD News](#)

### Science & Technology

47. Correct Answer is (A)

- Scorpene-class submarines are diesel-electric attack submarines built under Project-75 in collaboration with France's Naval Group. They are designed for stealth and versatility, capable of launching torpedoes and missiles.
- Project-15B refers to advanced stealth guided-missile destroyers, not frigates. These destroyers, also known as the Visakhapatnam class, are an upgraded version of the Kolkata-class destroyers and are being built indigenously under the 'Make in India' initiative.
- Project-17A involves the construction of advanced stealth guided-missile frigates, not destroyers. These frigates are an improved version of the Shivalik-class and are being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

48. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The MACPS provides financial upgradations after 10, 20, and 30 years of service if regular promotions are unavailable, but it does not eliminate the need for departmental exams. In fact, departmental exams and training are often prerequisites for promotions or financial benefits under MACPS.
- Statement 2 is correct. Honorary senior ranks are symbolic promotions granted to retiring personnel who fulfill promotion criteria but were not promoted due to factors like lack of vacancies. These ranks are meant to boost morale and recognize their service.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

49. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Chandrayaan-4 is designed as a lunar sample-return mission. It will use two LVM-3 rockets to launch its five modules, including the Ascender, Descender, Transfer, Propulsion, and Re-entry modules. The mission involves docking and undocking in lunar orbit to transfer collected samples to the Re-entry Module for their safe return to Earth.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Space docking refers to the process of connecting two spacecraft in orbit, enabling them to function as a single unit for purposes like crew transfer, cargo exchange, or mission operations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

50. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Suryakiran Exercise is conducted annually between the armies of India and Nepal. The 18th Edition (2024) of the exercise is scheduled from December 29, 2024, to January 13, 2025, at Saljhandi, Nepal.
- Statement 2 is correct. The primary focus of the Suryakiran Exercise includes jungle warfare, counter-terrorism in mountainous terrain, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) under the UN mandate.

Source: [AIR](#)

51. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The GEAC was established under the Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells, 1989, which were notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The GEAC is not involved in research or development; its role is regulatory. It appraises activities involving GMOs from an environmental perspective and grants approvals for their release or use.
- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. The GEAC functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). Recent amendments mandate that expert members disclose potential conflicts of interest and take necessary measures to ensure such conflicts do not influence GEAC decisions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



52. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Injectable hydrogels are specifically designed for localized delivery at the tumour site through injection, not oral administration. They are intended to remain at the site of injection to deliver drugs in a controlled manner.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Injectable hydrogels act as a reservoir for drugs, ensuring sustained and controlled release at the tumour site, which prolongs drug retention and minimizes systemic toxicity. Hydrogels are designed to be biocompatible, non-toxic, and biodegradable, making them suitable for biomedical applications such as cancer therapy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

53. Correct Answer is (B)

- Classical bits can only exist in one of two states, either 0 or 1, at any given time. Quantum bits (qubits), due to the principle of quantum superposition, can exist in a combination of both 0 and 1 states simultaneously. This gives quantum computers their potential for having exponentially greater computational power compared to classical computers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

54. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Zoonotic viruses are those that are transmitted from animals to humans, but HMPV spreads exclusively through human-to-human transmission via respiratory droplets or contact with contaminated surfaces. Antibiotics are ineffective against HMPV because it is a viral infection, not a bacterial one.
- Statement 3 is correct. HMPV is a significant cause of both upper and lower respiratory tract infections, particularly in children, older adults, and immunocompromised individuals. It circulates seasonally, primarily in late winter and spring.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

55. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Exercise Varuna is a bilateral naval exercise between India and France. Exercise Varuna is primarily conducted in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) or sometimes in the Mediterranean Sea, reflecting the maritime interests of India and France.
- Statement 3 is correct. The primary objective of Exercise Varuna is to enhance maritime cooperation between India and France, ensuring security, stability, and peace in key maritime zones, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

56. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Baanknet portal is a revamped e-auction platform launched by the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to consolidate property listings from all Public Sector Banks (PSBs). Its primary purpose is to facilitate property auctions, including residential, commercial, industrial lands, and other assets, to help banks recover distressed assets and improve their balance sheets. The portal aims to simplify the auction process, enhance transparency, and boost investor confidence by integrating advanced technological features.

Source: [AIR](#)

57. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Relocatable Robotic Manipulator-Technology Demonstrator (RRM-TD) is India's first space robotic arm with inchworm-like walking capability, developed by ISRO's Inertial Systems Unit (IISU). It was successfully demonstrated during the PSLV-C60 SpaDeX mission. The RRM-TD features advanced robotic manipulation, obstacle-aware motion, and precision assembly, making it ideal for tasks like satellite servicing and in-orbit assembly. These capabilities are crucial for future missions such as the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS).
- Statement 3 is incorrect. While the RRM-TD is optimized for operations in microgravity (as demonstrated on the POEM-4 platform), its design allows it to perform tasks beyond microgravity-

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specific environments, such as satellite servicing and debris management. Its versatility makes it applicable to broader space robotics applications, not limited to microgravity alone.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

58. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies (CROPS), developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), was responsible for the experiment that successfully germinated cowpea seeds and supported their growth to the two-leaf stage in space. This achievement occurred aboard the PSLV-C60 POEM-4 platform.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Chairman of ISRO is appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), which is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
- Statement 2 is correct. The tenure of the ISRO Chairman is typically two years, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

60. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Gene silencing refers to the suppression of gene expression, which can occur at the transcriptional or post-transcriptional level. This prevents the production of proteins encoded by the gene, either by blocking mRNA synthesis or by degrading mRNA or inhibiting its translation into protein. miRNAs are small, non-coding RNA molecules that regulate gene expression by binding to complementary sequences on target mRNAs. This interaction leads to mRNA degradation or translational repression, making miRNAs key players in post-transcriptional gene silencing.

Source: [The Hindu](#)