

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

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*For UPSC CSE Prelims*

**January, 2025 4<sup>th</sup> Week**

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### Art & Culture and Ancient India

Q.1) Sivagalai, Adichanallur, and Mayiladumparai are archaeological sites of Southern India associated with:

- a) Buddhist monastic complexes
- b) Medieval temples
- c) Indus Valley Civilization
- d) Iron Age

Q.2) Consider the following:

- 1. Science and Engineering
- 2. Medicine
- 3. Social Work
- 4. Trade and Industry

How many of the above categories are recognized for the Padma Shri award?

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

Q.3) In Buddhism, Dharma Chakra Pravartana refers to:

- a) The Buddha's attainment of enlightenment
- b) The Buddha's first sermon at Sarnath
- c) The establishment of monastic rules for followers
- d) The initiation of the Mahayana tradition

Q.4) In the context of music, symphony refers to:

- a) A solo performance by a single musician.
- b) A small musical piece played only on string instruments.
- c) A type of opera performed with vocalists and orchestras.
- d) A large-scale composition for an orchestra.

### Modern Indian History

Q.5) Veer Surendra Sai, a freedom fighter, is associated with which one of the following rebellions?

- a) Sambalpur Rebellion
- b) Santhal Rebellion
- c) Revolt of 1857
- d) Indigo Rebellion

### Geography

Q.6) The Kishenganga Hydropower Plant is constructed on which one of the following rivers basins?

- a) Chenab Basin
- b) Beas Basin
- c) Sutlej Basin
- d) Jhelum Basin

Q.7) The South China Sea is connected to the Indian Ocean through:

- a) Sunda Strait
- b) Strait of Malacca
- c) Lombok Strait
- d) Makassar Strait

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Nano-urea is applied to the soil.
2. Nano-urea is a liquid fertilizer developed by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited) in India.
3. Nano-urea reduces greenhouse gas emissions and groundwater pollution.

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 Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), consider the following statements:

1. The Himalayas is the most vulnerable to GLOFs due to its high concentration of glaciers.
2. The sudden flood caused by a GLOF leads to groundwater discharge in urban areas.

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.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Coal is a fossil fuel produced by the decomposition of dead plants trapped in layers of soil.
2. Western India holds a significant portion of the nation's coal reserves.

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

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

Q.11) In which one of the following layers of the atmosphere are jet streams primarily found?

- a) Stratosphere
- b) Mesosphere
- c) Thermosphere
- d) Troposphere

Q.12) The Kurdistan region extends into several countries in the Middle East. Which one of these countries does not include a part of Kurdistan?

- a) Iraq
- b) Turkey
- c) Iran
- d) Jordan

Q.13) Which one of the following Indian states has the largest known tungsten reserves?

- a) Odisha
- b) Karnataka
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Chhattisgarh

Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is located in central Africa.
2. Uganda shares a border with the DRC.
3. Niger River system runs through the DRC.

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.15) The Cretaceous Period is known for which one of the following events?

- a) The rise of mammals as the dominant terrestrial animals
- b) The extinction of dinosaurs at the end of the period
- c) The formation of the supercontinent Pangaea
- d) The first appearance of early humans

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. The Sea Surface Temperature (SST) refers to the temperature of the ocean floor.
2. Higher SST leads to coral bleaching.
3. SST is higher in equatorial regions compared to polar regions.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. Point Nemo is the northernmost point on the Earth.
2. Point Nemo is located in the Pacific Ocean.

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.19) Consider the following statements:

1. The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
2. The tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner is 5 years or up to 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner's salary and perks are equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA):

1. It was established under the Competition Act, 2002.
2. It can initiate action against both manufacturers and advertisers for misleading claims.

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:

Statement-I: National Voters Day is celebrated every year on January 25.

Statement-II: The first election in independent India was held on January 25, 1951.

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) Consider the following statements:

1. As per the Indian Constitution, the Governor is empowered to act as the Chancellor of State universities.
2. The President, as the Visitor of Central universities, performs functions in close consultation with the Ministry of Education.

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) Which one of the following is NOT a restriction on the freedom guaranteed under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution?

- a) Public order
- b) Morality
- c) Health
- d) Economic equality

Q.24) Consider the following statements:

1. Parole is for convicted prisoners, while bail is for accused awaiting trial.
2. Parole is granted by a High Court Judge 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.25) Consider the following statements regarding the Beating Retreat ceremony:

1. The Beating Retreat ceremony marks the official beginning of Republic Day celebrations in India.
2. It was inspired by ancient Indian war practices.
3. Its timing coincides with midnight to honour India's independence declaration time.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.26) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Domestic workers in India often experience workplace exploitation and unfair treatment.

Statement-II: There is no central law to protect exploitation of domestic workers in 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.27) With reference to the ad hoc judge in High Court, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Ad hoc judges have the same jurisdiction, powers, and privileges as permanent judges while in office.
2. Ad hoc judges can be appointed from among practicing senior advocates.
3. The number of ad hoc judges in a High Court cannot exceed 10% of its total sanctioned strength.
4. Ad hoc judges receive emoluments and allowances equal to permanent judges of that High Court, including pension.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.28) Which one of the following correctly explains the term "Compounding of offences"?

- a) A process where an offender is sentenced to imprisonment without any option for settlement.
- b) A legal mechanism that mandates a court trial for all offences, regardless of their severity.
- c) A procedure where minor offences are ignored without any penalty or resolution.
- d) A legal process where certain offences are settled by paying a penalty or fulfilling conditions, avoiding a court trial.

### Acts & Policies

Q.29) With reference to the PM Suryagarh Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote sustainable energy, reduce electricity costs for households, and encourage the adoption of solar energy.
2. A household can receive 200 units free electricity under the scheme.
3. All rural households with rooftops are eligible under the scheme.

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.30) With reference to the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), consider the following statements:

1. It guarantees 50% of the average basic pay from the last 12 months before retirement as a pension for employees with at least 25 years of service.
2. Pension amounts will be indexed to inflation using the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) to maintain purchasing power.
3. It offers market-linked returns like National Pension System (NPS) and guaranteed pensions like Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

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.31) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran), consider the following statements:

1. It aims to promote the production of Second Generation (2G) ethanol from agricultural residues and other renewable feedstocks.
2. One of the environmental benefits of JI-VAN Yojana is that it decreases the use of chemical fertilizers in crops.

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) National Career Service (NCS) Portal and Model Career Centres (MCCs) were seen in the news recently, are associated with:

- a) Facilitating employment and skill development in India
- b) Regulating labour laws and industrial disputes
- c) Promoting entrepreneurship and startup funding
- d) Overseeing vocational education in higher institutions

Q.33) With reference to the PM Surya Ghar Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to facilitate the production of solar panels in India for export purposes.
2. It is a part of India's aim towards clean energy and reducing carbon emissions.

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) Consider the following statements regarding the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM):

1. The Mission aims to boost the domestic production of all minerals in India.
2. Coal is considered a critical mineral under the Mission.

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



### Index & Reports

Q.35) Which off the following are the five sub-indices used in the NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index 2025 to evaluate states?

- a) Revenue Deficit, Public Debt, Capital Expenditure, Tax Compliance, and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) Growth
- b) Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilization, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability
- c) Infrastructure Spending, Revenue Collection, Public Services, Debt Ratio, and Fiscal Deficit
- d) Education Spending, Healthcare Allocation, Revenue Surplus, Debt Management, and Taxation

Q.36) The Occupational Shortage Index (OSI) aims to:

- a) Regulate workplace safety and occupational health standards
- b) Rank countries based on employment rates and job security
- c) Monitor wage disparities and employment benefits across industries
- d) Align workforce supply with industry demand to bridge skill gaps

### International Relations/Organizations

Q.37) With reference to SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative, consider the following statements:

- 1. It promotes collective action among Indian Ocean Region littoral states to address shared challenges.
- 2. It includes fostering partnerships with extra-regional powers like the USA and Japan to ensure freedom of navigation.
- 3. It has led to the creation of a formalized regional maritime security framework.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.38) Which one of the following organizations has allocated India a site in the Central Indian Ocean Basin for resource exploration under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)?

- a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- b) World Maritime Organization (WMO)
- c) International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- d) Global Oceanic Research Council (GORC)

Q.39) Which one of the following is NOT a founding member of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) Vietnam
- d) Singapore

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding the World Health Organization (WHO):

- 1. It is a specialized UN agency.
- 2. Its headquarters is located in New York, USA.
- 3. The United States leads as the major contributor to the WHO's funding.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.41) 'Exercise Samudra Shakti' is a bilateral naval exercise between:

- a) India and Sri Lanka
- b) India and Indonesia
- c) India and Malaysia
- d) India and Singapore

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding the Raisina Dialogue:

1. It is India's flagship annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics.
2. It is seen as an initiative that seeks to improve diplomatic relations between India and China.

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

### Economy

Q.43) Which one of the following organizations is responsible for implementing the Aadhaar-Based Payment System?

- a) Reserve Bank of India
- b) State Bank of India
- c) National Payments Corporation of India
- d) Ministry of Finance

Q.44) Which one of the following is the primary reason behind a decline in forex reserves during periods of rupee depreciation?

- a) Outflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- b) Increase in remittances from abroad
- c) Rising global crude oil prices
- d) RBI's intervention in the forex market

Q.45) Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) uses \$2.15/day as an international poverty line.
2. In India, poverty is assessed by calculating the expenditure required to sustain a minimum calorie intake.
3. Bank accounts and maternal health are two exclusive indicators used in calculating India's Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.46) Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulates Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
2. Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) are classified as standard assets if they remain unpaid for more than 90 days.

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.47) Consider the following statements regarding the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

1. The SEBI Chairman holds office for a maximum period of 5 years from the date of assumption of charge.
2. The President of India appoints the chairperson of SEBI.
3. SEBI Board of Directors is responsible for recommending candidates for the SEBI chairperson position.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.48) In how many of the following ways does the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) inject liquidity into the banking system?

1. Open Market Operations
2. Repo Transactions
3. Reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio
4. Increase in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio
5. Reverse Repo Transactions

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.49) Which one of the following correctly explains the 'Farm to Consumer Model', seen in the news recently?

- a) It is a model that allows farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers, ensuring better profits for farmers.
- b) It focuses on increasing agricultural exports by connecting farmers with international buyers through government channels.
- c) It is a government initiative to promote organic farming by providing subsidies to farmers for adopting sustainable practices.
- d) It involves creating a centralized marketplace where farmers sell their produce only through state-run procurement agencies.

Q.50) Which one of the following organizations is responsible for developing the organic fisheries cluster in Sikkim?

- a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- c) National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
- d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

### Environment

Q.51) Which of the following best defines Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) innovation?

- a) The use of advanced technologies for water recycling in factories
- b) The development of global sanitation policies
- c) A focus on increasing water tariffs to reduce wastage
- d) Novel approaches to improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene

Q.52) Consider the following statements:

1. Sundarbans is the world's largest mangrove forest in the Ganges Delta.
2. The Sundarbans ecosystem has only aquatic species due to frequent flooding.

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.53) Consider the following statements regarding the Wetland City Accreditation program:

1. It designates cities with the highest number of wetlands globally.
2. The city must have at least three artificial wetlands to qualify as a Wetland Accredited City.
3. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat manages the Wetland City Accreditation program.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.54) Which of the following statements about the Corpse Flower are correct?

1. It undergoes photosynthesis through its flowers instead of leaves.
2. It emits a foul odour resembling rotting flesh to attract carrion insects for pollination.
3. It is native to the Amazon rainforest.
4. It generates heat during blooming.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.55) With reference to the Arittappatti Biodiversity Heritage Site, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is a tropical rainforest with high-endemic flora and fauna.
2. It is the first Biodiversity Heritage Site in Tamil Nadu.
3. The Anaikondan tank, built during the Pandya dynasty, is present at the site.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.55) Which one of the following is a major economic benefit of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme?

- a) Increased vehicle sales
- b) Higher tax revenue
- c) Foreign exchange savings
- d) Reduced vehicle maintenance

**Science & Technology**

Q.56) Consider the following statements:

1. Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology in submarines reduces the need for refuelling during operations.
2. Project-75I aims to modernize India's submarine fleet and enhance maritime capabilities.

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.57) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: India has banned the use of Rhodamine B in food items.

Statement-II: The use of Rhodamine B leads to various health issues.

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

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

Q.58) Which of the following statements about ballistic missiles are correct?

1. It maintains a constant altitude throughout its flight.
2. They rely on Earth's gravity to descend toward the target after propulsion ends.
3. Pralay is India's first ballistic missile designed for conventional strikes.

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.59) Consider the following statements regarding the Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS) – SANJAY:

1. It is an automated system that integrates data from ground and aerial sensors, ensuring accuracy and eliminating duplication, to create a unified Common Surveillance Picture of the battlefield.
2. It has been developed under the "Buy (Indian)" category.

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 regarding the chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) infection:

1. It is caused by a fungus.
2. In India, it mainly affects tea plantation workers in Assam.

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

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

Q.61) Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) leads to which one of the following disorders?

- a) Neurological disorder
- b) Cardiovascular disorder
- c) Endocrine disorder
- d) Gastrointestinal disorder

Q.62) Which one of the following statements best explains the formation of lightning?

- a) A direct connection between clouds and the sun
- b) A flow of charged particles from the Earth's core
- c) A rapid flow of electrons between regions of opposite charge
- d) The movement of high-speed winds through clouds

Q.63) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends reducing sodium intake to less than 2 grams a day.

Statement-II: Consuming excessive amounts of sodium increases the risk of cardiovascular disease.

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.64) Which one of the following is the primary difference between Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) in terms of capability?

- a) GSLV is used for Earth observation missions, while PSLV is used for interplanetary missions.
- b) GSLV can carry heavier payloads to GTO, while PSLV is designed for LEO and polar orbits.
- c) GSLV is reusable, while PSLV is not.
- d) GSLV uses only solid fuels, while PSLV uses a combination of liquid and solid fuels.

Q.65) With reference to the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) system, consider the following statements:

1. It offers comprehensive global navigation services similar to the Global Positioning System (GPS).
2. It consists of a combination of geostationary and geosynchronous satellites positioned to provide better coverage.
3. The Government of India has mandated NavIC-based navigation systems in commercial and public transport vehicles to improve safety and fleet management.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.66) Consider the following statements:

1. Navika Sagar Parikrama-II is a circumnavigation expedition by an all-women crew of the Indian Navy.
2. INS Vikrant is used for Navika Sagar Parikrama-II expedition.

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

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

Q.67) Consider the following statements:

1. Leprosy is a neglected tropical disease (NTD).
2. India has completely eradicated leprosy.

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.68) Consider the following statements:

1. Axiom Mission 4 is a private spaceflight mission to the International Space Station (ISS).
2. The Axiom Mission 4 includes various scientific experiments focusing on asteroid mining and mars colonization.

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.69) With reference to the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor, consider the following statements:

1. It is referred to as China's artificial Sun.
2. It aims to study and advance nuclear fission technology.

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

### Answers & Explanations

#### Art & Culture and Ancient India

1. Correct Answer is (D)

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

- Sivagalai, Adichanallur, and Mayiladumparai are archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu, Southern India, that are associated with the Iron Age. Recent excavations and dating methods have provided significant evidence for early Iron Age activity in these locations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Padma Shri is awarded in various disciplines, including: Art (e.g., music, dance, painting), Literature and Education, Science and Engineering, Medicine, Social Work, Public Affairs, Sports, Trade and Industry, Civil Service, and Others (e.g., preservation of cultural heritage).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Dharma Chakra Pravartana, or "Turning of the Wheel of Dharma," refers to the first sermon delivered by Gautama Buddha after attaining enlightenment. This event took place at Sarnath, near Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. During this sermon, Buddha introduced the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path, laying the foundation of his teachings and marking the beginning of his public mission to spread wisdom and enlightenment.

Source: [DD News](#)

4. Correct Answer is (D)

- A symphony is a large-scale musical composition typically written for an orchestra, consisting of multiple sections called movements. It is one of the most significant forms in Western classical music. A symphony is designed to showcase the expressive power of an orchestra. It often conveys a wide range of emotions and ideas through its movements. The first Indian, and likely the first Asian musician, to compose a full symphony is Ilaiyaraaja.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### Modern Indian History

5. Correct Answer is (A)

- Veer Surendra Sai was a prominent freedom fighter and tribal leader from Odisha. He played a significant role in the Sambalpur Rebellion, which took place in the mid-19th century against British rule. The rebellion was primarily driven by opposition to British interference in the traditional succession practices of the Sambalpur kingdom and their exploitation of local resources. Veer Surendra Sai led the tribal and local communities in resisting British forces and is celebrated for his courage and determination in the fight for independence.

Source: [AIR](#)

### Geography

6. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Kishanganga Hydropower Plant is constructed on the Kishanganga River, which is a tributary of the Jhelum River. The project diverts water from the Kishanganga River through a tunnel to an underground powerhouse, and the water eventually joins the Jhelum River basin. This makes it part of the Jhelum River basin system.

Source: [The Print](#)

7. Correct Answer is (B)

- The South China Sea is connected to the Indian Ocean via the Strait of Malacca, a narrow and strategically significant waterway located between the Indonesian island of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. It serves as the main shipping route linking the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, making it one of the busiest and most critical maritime chokepoints in the world.



Source: [The Print](#)

8. Correct Answer is (B)
- Statement 1 is incorrect. Nano-urea is not applied to the soil like conventional urea. Instead, it is sprayed directly onto the leaves of plants at specific stages of growth, as this method is believed to make nitrogen more bioavailable to the plants.
  - Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Nano-urea is a liquid fertilizer developed by IFFCO in India as a technological innovation aimed at reducing conventional urea usage and improving nitrogen efficiency. Nano-urea has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., nitrous oxide) and groundwater pollution caused by the overuse of conventional urea, as it requires smaller quantities for application.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (A)
- Statement 1 is correct. The Himalayas are particularly susceptible to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) due to their high concentration of glaciers, rapid glacier retreat caused by climate change, and the formation of numerous glacial lakes. These factors, combined with the region's steep terrain and seismic activity, make it highly vulnerable to such events.
  - Statement 2 is incorrect. GLOFs primarily result in the sudden release of water from glacial lakes, causing flash floods in downstream rivers and valleys. They do not directly lead to groundwater discharge in urban areas but instead cause catastrophic flooding, infrastructure damage, and loss of life in affected regions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (A)
- Statement 1 is correct. Coal is formed from the remains of prehistoric plants that were buried under layers of soil and water millions of years ago. Over time, heat and pressure converted this plant material into carbon-rich coal through processes such as peatification and coalification.
  - Statement 2 is incorrect. The majority of India's coal reserves are located in the eastern and south-central regions, particularly in states like Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh, which together account for about 70% of the total coal reserves. Western India has relatively smaller coal reserves, with Maharashtra contributing only about 3% of the total.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

11. Correct Answer is (D)
- Jet streams are high-velocity winds primarily found in the upper levels of the troposphere, near the tropopause (the boundary between the troposphere and the stratosphere). They occur at altitudes of about 8 to 14 kilometers above Earth's surface and are driven by temperature differences between air masses, as well as the Earth's rotation. These winds play a significant role in weather patterns and are used by airplanes to reduce flight times.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

12. Correct Answer is (D)
- The Kurdistan region, historically inhabited by the Kurdish population, spans parts of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. It does not extend into Jordan. The region is significant due to its abundant reserves of oil.

Source: [DD News](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)
- Karnataka holds the largest share of tungsten-bearing mineral resources in India, accounting for approximately 42% of the total resources, followed by Rajasthan (27%), Andhra Pradesh (17%),

and Maharashtra (9%). Wolframite is the primary ore of tungsten that is mined in India. Tungsten has the highest melting point of any metal, making it ideal for high-temperature applications.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The DRC is geographically situated in central Africa. It is bordered by nine countries and occupies a significant portion of the Congo Basin. By land area, the country is the second-largest country in Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) borders Angola, Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of the Congo, with a short Atlantic Ocean coastline at the Congo River's mouth.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Niger River flows through West Africa, including countries such as Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, but it does not pass through the DRC. Instead, the Congo River system dominates the DRC's geography.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

15. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Cretaceous Period (145–66 million years ago) is most famously known for ending with the Cretaceous-Paleogene (K-Pg) extinction event, which caused the extinction of nearly 75% of all species on Earth, including all non-avian dinosaurs. This mass extinction was primarily triggered by a massive asteroid impact near the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico, creating the Chicxulub crater. The event led to global climate disruptions, blocking sunlight, and collapsing ecosystems.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Sea Surface Temperature (SST) refers to the temperature of the ocean's surface, not the ocean floor. SST is typically measured in the uppermost layer of the ocean, within the top 20 meters.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Higher SST can lead to coral bleaching. When water temperatures rise above normal levels, corals expel the symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae) living in their tissues, causing them to turn white. This stress response, known as coral bleaching, often results from prolonged exposure to elevated temperatures. SST is higher in equatorial regions compared to polar regions. This is because equatorial regions receive more direct sunlight throughout the year, leading to warmer surface waters, whereas polar regions receive less sunlight and are colder.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Point Nemo is not the northernmost point on Earth. It is located in the South Pacific Ocean and is known as the Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, the most remote location from any landmass. The region is a "biological desert" with very limited marine life due to scarce nutrients and weak ocean currents.
- Statement 2 is correct. Point Nemo is located in the South Pacific Ocean, approximately 2,688 kilometers from the nearest landmass.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Polity

18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President of India, as per Article 324(2) of the Constitution, on the recommendation of a selection committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, and a Cabinet Minister.

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

- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. As per the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, the CEC holds office for a term of six years from the date on which he assumes office or until he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier. The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, states that the salary, allowances, and other conditions of service of the CEC and Election Commissioners shall be equal to those of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- Statement 2 is correct. The CCPA has the power to take action against manufacturers, advertisers, and endorsers for false or misleading advertisements under Section 21 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. It can impose penalties, order discontinuation of such advertisements, and take other corrective measures.

Source: [DD News](#)

20. Correct Answer is (C)

- **Statement-I is correct:** National Voters Day is celebrated every year on January 25. It was established in 2011 to encourage more young voters to participate in the electoral process. The date marks the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, which was established on January 25, 1950.
- **Statement-II is incorrect:** The first general election in independent India was not held on January 25, 1951. Instead, the first general elections were conducted between October 25, 1951, and February 21, 1952.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Indian Constitution does not explicitly empower the Governor to act as the Chancellor of State universities. Instead, this role is conferred on the Governor by State laws governing universities, not by the Constitution. The powers and functions of the Governor as Chancellor are defined in these specific State statutes.
- Statement 2 is correct. The President, as the Visitor of Central universities, works in coordination with the Ministry of Education. Functions such as appointing Vice-Chancellors, nominating members to university bodies, and approving statutes are carried out in consultation with the Ministry.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (D)

- Article 25 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate religion. However, this right is subject to certain reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order, morality, and health. These restrictions ensure that religious practices do not disrupt societal harmony or infringe on others' rights.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Parole is granted to individuals who are already convicted and serving their sentence, allowing temporary conditional release for specific reasons like rehabilitation or

emergencies (e.g., illness or family events). Bail, on the other hand, is granted to accused individuals awaiting trial to ensure their temporary release while the legal proceedings continue.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. Parole is primarily an administrative process, not a judicial one. It is usually granted by jail authorities or state government officials, or other designated administrative authorities, depending on the state's rules.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The Beating Retreat ceremony marks the end of the Republic Day celebrations. It is held on January 29, three days after Republic Day, to formally conclude the festivities. The Beating Retreat ceremony has its origins in 17th-century England, where it was used to signal troops to disengage from battle and return to their camps at sunset. It was later adopted by India in the 1950s as part of Republic Day celebrations. The Beating Retreat ceremony takes place at sunset. It features performances by bands from all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces: Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct. Domestic workers in India frequently face challenges such as low wages, long working hours, lack of job security, and various forms of exploitation. Their work is undervalued, underpaid, and poorly regulated.
- Statement-II is correct. As of now, India lacks a specific central legislation dedicated to safeguarding the rights of domestic workers. While the Ministry of Labour & Employment is considering formulating a National Policy on Domestic Workers, it remains in the draft stage.
- The absence of a central law leaves domestic workers vulnerable to exploitation and unfair treatment, as there is no comprehensive legal framework to protect their rights. Therefore, Statement-II explains the reason behind the situation described in Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Ad hoc judges appointed under Article 224A of the Constitution have the same jurisdiction, powers, and privileges as sitting High Court judges during their tenure, ensuring they can perform their duties effectively. The Supreme Court has clarified that the number of ad hoc judges in a High Court should not exceed 10% of its total sanctioned strength, typically allowing for 2-5 such appointments depending on the size of the court.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. Ad hoc judges are appointed from retired High Court judges, not practicing advocates. Article 224A specifically allows for the appointment of retired High Court judges with the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the President. While ad hoc judges receive emoluments and allowances equal to permanent judges during their tenure, they do not receive pensions as part of these benefits. Their tenure is temporary and subject to the requirement of the High Court to clear pending cases.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (D)

- Compounding of offences is a legal process where certain offences are settled between the offender and the authority (or aggrieved party) without the need for a prolonged court trial. It allows the offender to pay a fine or fulfil certain conditions to resolve the matter, avoiding further legal proceedings.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Acts & Policies

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

28. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana focuses on promoting solar energy adoption, reducing household electricity costs, and fostering sustainability through rooftop solar installations.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The scheme provides 300 units of free electricity per month. The eligibility is limited to households with valid electricity connections, suitable rooftops, and those that have not availed of other solar subsidies. It is not automatically applicable to all rural households.

Source: [AIR](#)

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), employees with at least 25 years of service are guaranteed a pension equal to 50% of their average basic pay from the last 12 months before retirement. To ensure that pensions keep pace with inflation, the UPS links pension amounts to CPI-IW, providing periodic adjustments.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) is contributory like the National Pension System (NPS) but provides defined benefits like the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Source: [DD News](#)

30. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana aims to promote the production of Second Generation (2G) ethanol from agricultural residues, lignocellulosic biomass, and other renewable feedstocks. This helps reduce environmental pollution and provides an alternative to fossil fuels.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The scheme focuses on reducing environmental pollution by utilizing agricultural waste (e.g., crop residues) to produce bioethanol and reducing stubble burning. However, it does not directly aim to decrease the use of chemical fertilizers in crops.

Source: [DD News](#)

31. Correct Answer is (A)

- The National Career Service (NCS) Portal and Model Career Centres (MCCs) are initiatives by the Ministry of Labour and Employment aimed at providing employment-related services, career counseling, and skill development opportunities. They focus on connecting job seekers with employers, offering career guidance, and organizing job fairs to enhance employability in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

32. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The PM Surya Ghar Scheme is focused on promoting rooftop solar installations in Indian households to increase domestic renewable energy capacity and reduce reliance on conventional energy sources. It does not specifically aim to produce solar panels for export purposes.
- Statement 2 is correct. The scheme aligns with India's broader goals of transitioning to clean energy, reducing carbon emissions, and meeting renewable energy targets. By encouraging rooftop solar installations, it contributes directly to these objectives.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

33. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) focuses specifically on critical minerals, which are essential for high-tech industries, clean energy technologies, and defense. These include minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth

elements, not all minerals. Non-critical minerals like coal, iron ore, or limestone are not part of this mission. The mission aims to decrease India's reliance on imported critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and rare earth elements, which are vital for clean energy technologies.

Source: [AIR](#)

### Index & Reports

34. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025, introduced by NITI Aayog, is a comprehensive framework designed to evaluate the fiscal performance of 18 major Indian states. According to NITI Aayog's Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025, the five sub-indices used to evaluate the fiscal performance of states are: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilization, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index and Debt Sustainability. Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Jharkhand emerged as the top-performing achievers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Occupational Shortage Index (OSI) is designed to identify labour market shortages and align job seekers' skills with industry demands. It uses data-driven insights to address skill mismatches and enhance employment outcomes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### International Relations/Organizations

36. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. SAGAR primarily focuses on regional cooperation and promotes collective action among littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to address challenges such as maritime security, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable economic growth.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. SAGAR emphasizes cooperation among Indian Ocean littoral states and focuses on regional collaboration. While India engages with extra-regional powers like the USA and Japan to uphold freedom of navigation, this is done through separate frameworks like the Quad, not as part of SAGAR. SAGAR has not resulted in a formalized regional maritime security framework. Instead, it has enhanced bilateral and multilateral cooperation among IOR states, focusing on capacity building and mutual assistance without creating a structured framework.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

37. Correct Answer is (C)

- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) has allocated India a site in the Central Indian Ocean Basin for resource exploration under the Deep Ocean Mission (DOM). Specifically, India holds a contract with the ISA for the exploration of polymetallic nodules in this region. The ISA is an autonomous international organization established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It is responsible for regulating mineral-related activities in the international seabed area beyond national jurisdiction, ensuring that such activities are conducted for the benefit of mankind as a whole.

Source: [DD News](#)

38. Correct Answer is (C)

- The founding members of ASEAN were: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. These five countries signed the ASEAN Declaration (also known as the Bangkok Declaration) on August 8, 1967, establishing the organization. Vietnam joined ASEAN later.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

39. Correct Answer is (C)

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- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations, established in 1948, responsible for international public health. The United States has historically been the largest contributor to WHO's funding, providing significant assessed and voluntary contributions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The headquarters of the WHO is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Source: [DD News](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- Exercise Samudra Shakti is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Indonesia, established in 2018 under India's Act East Policy. It aims to enhance interoperability, mutual cooperation, and maritime security between the two navies.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

41. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship annual conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics. It brings together global leaders, policymakers, and experts to discuss pressing international challenges and opportunities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Raisina Dialogue is not specifically focused on improving diplomatic relations between India and China. While China is often discussed in the context of global geopolitics, the Dialogue addresses a wide range of international issues and is not aimed at bilateral relations between India and China.

Source: [AIR](#)

### Economy

42. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) is implemented by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). NPCI is responsible for developing and managing payment systems in India, including ABPS, which facilitates Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) using Aadhaar as a financial address. It ensures seamless electronic payments to beneficiaries' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts. NPCI also oversees other Aadhaar-enabled payment systems like AEPS and Aadhaar Pay.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

43. Correct Answer is (D)

- The primary reason behind a decline in India's forex reserves during periods of rupee depreciation is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s intervention in the forex market. To stabilize the rupee and curb excessive volatility, the RBI sells dollars from its foreign exchange reserves. This reduces the reserves but helps prevent a sharp depreciation of the rupee.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The international poverty line is currently set at \$2.15 per day, based on 2017 purchasing power parity (PPP). This benchmark is utilized by organizations like the UNDP to assess extreme poverty globally. India's MPI includes 12 indicators, two of which—bank accounts and maternal health—are additions to the 10 indicators in the global MPI, reflecting India's national priorities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While earlier poverty assessments in India were based on calorie intake (e.g., 2,400 calories for rural and 2,100 for urban areas), modern methods like those of the Tendulkar and Rangarajan Committees have shifted to broader criteria, including essential goods and services, not just calorie intake.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The RBI is the primary regulatory authority overseeing NBFCs in India, ensuring they operate within the established financial guidelines and maintain systemic stability.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. NPAs are loans or advances where interest or principal payments have been overdue for more than 90 days. Such assets are classified into categories like substandard, doubtful, or loss assets, depending on the duration of non-payment and the asset's quality. Standard assets are those that continue to generate regular income and are not overdue.

Source: [DD News](#)

46. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. According to the SEBI Act and government rules, the SEBI Chairperson can hold office for a term not exceeding 5 years or until they reach the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The SEBI Chairperson is appointed by the Union Government, specifically based on recommendations from the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC). The recommendation for the SEBI Chairperson is made by the FSRASC, which includes members such as the Cabinet Secretary and other senior officials.

Source: [DD News](#)

47. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Open Market Operations (OMO):** The RBI injects liquidity by purchasing government securities in the open market, providing cash to banks in exchange for these securities. This is a common tool used by the RBI to manage liquidity deficits.
- **Repo Transactions:** Under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF), the RBI provides short-term funds to banks through repo transactions, where banks borrow money by pledging government securities as collateral.
- **Reduction in the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** When the RBI reduces the CRR, banks are required to keep a smaller portion of their deposits with the RBI, freeing up funds for lending and injecting liquidity into the system.
- **Increase in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** Increasing the SLR requires banks to hold a higher proportion of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in government-approved securities, which reduces liquidity in the system rather than injecting it.
- **Reverse Repo Transactions:** Reverse repo transactions are used by the RBI to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system, as banks park their surplus funds with the RBI in exchange for interest.

Source: [AIR](#)

48. Correct Answer is (A)

- The "Farm to Consumer Model" aims to reduce the role of intermediaries, allowing farmers to sell directly to consumers, thereby ensuring better profit margins for farmers and more affordable prices for consumers.

Source: [AIR](#)

49. Correct Answer is (C)

- The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, is responsible for developing the organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District, Sikkim. This initiative falls under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and focuses on promoting sustainable aquaculture practices, avoiding harmful chemicals, and supporting eco-friendly fish farming systems. In Sikkim, the Soreng district has started producing organic fish, becoming the country's first organic fisheries cluster.

Source: [AIR](#)



### Environment

50. Correct Answer is (D)

- WASH innovation focuses on developing and implementing new solutions and approaches to address challenges in water, sanitation, and hygiene. It aims to enhance access to clean water, safe sanitation, and improved hygiene practices, particularly in resource-constrained or crisis-affected areas. This includes advancements in technology, processes, and community-driven strategies to ensure sustainability and equity in WASH services.

Source: [DD News](#)

51. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Sundarbans is the largest mangrove forest in the world, located in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta. It spans parts of India and Bangladesh and covers an extensive area of approximately 10,000 square kilometers, with 60% in Bangladesh and 40% in India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Sundarbans is prone to frequent flooding due to its low elevation and tidal influence, it supports a wide range of terrestrial, aquatic, and amphibian species. The ecosystem includes Bengal tigers, chital deer, crocodiles, snakes, birds, and other fauna, as well as diverse flora such as mangroves.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

52. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Wetland City Accreditation program does not focus on the number of wetlands a city has. Instead, it recognizes cities that demonstrate exceptional efforts in conserving and sustainably managing wetlands within their jurisdiction, whether natural or artificial. There is no requirement for a city to have three artificial wetlands to qualify for accreditation. The criteria emphasize wetland conservation, restoration, sustainable use, and public awareness rather than the number or type of wetlands.
- Statement 3 is correct. The Wetland City Accreditation program is managed by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, which oversees the nomination, evaluation, and accreditation process. Recently, Indore and Udaipur have joined the list of 31 Wetland Accredited Cities in the world.

Source: [AIR](#)

53. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The corpse flower does not perform photosynthesis through its flowers. Instead, it stores energy in an underground corm, and its single large leaf performs photosynthesis when the plant is not blooming. The corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is native to the tropical rainforests of Sumatra, Indonesia. It blooms every 7 to 10 years and lasts only for about 24 to 48 hours. It has the largest unbranched inflorescence in the plant kingdom.
- Statements 2 and 4 are correct. The corpse flower emits a stench similar to decaying meat to lure insects like carrion beetles and flies, which aid in its pollination process. The corpse flower undergoes thermogenesis, where its spadix heats up to around 36–40°C, helping to disperse the odour over long distances and attract pollinators. Conservation Status: Endangered (IUCN).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

54. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Arittapatti is not a tropical rainforest; it consists of barren granite hillocks that act as a watershed supporting lakes, springs, and check dams. The site contains numerous megalithic structures, Tamil Brahmi inscriptions, Jain beds, and rock-cut temples that are over 2,200 years old.

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- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Arittapatti was declared Tamil Nadu's first Biodiversity Heritage Site in 2022 under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The Anaikondan tank, constructed during the reign of the Pandya dynasty in the 16th century, is a significant feature of the Arittapatti site.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

55. Correct Answer is (C)

- One of the major economic benefits of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme is the foreign exchange savings achieved by reducing India's dependence on crude oil imports. By blending ethanol with petrol, the programme substitutes a portion of imported crude oil with domestically produced ethanol, thereby lowering the import bill and saving foreign currency.

Source: [DD News](#)

### Science & Technology

56. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. AIP technology does not reduce the need for refuelling; instead, it reduces the need for submarines to surface frequently to recharge their batteries. Conventional diesel-electric submarines must surface or use a snorkel to run their diesel engines and recharge batteries, which makes them vulnerable to detection. AIP allows submarines to stay submerged for longer periods by generating power underwater, enhancing stealth and operational endurance.
- Statement 2 is correct. Project-75I is part of India's efforts to modernize its submarine fleet by building six advanced conventional submarines equipped with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology. This project aims to strengthen India's maritime security and underwater combat capabilities, especially in the Indian Ocean Region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

57. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I is correct. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned the use of Rhodamine B in food products under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006. Additionally, several Indian states, including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Himachal Pradesh, have implemented bans on food items like cotton candy and Gobi Manchurian after detecting Rhodamine B in samples.
- Statement II is correct. Rhodamine B is a synthetic dye that poses significant health risks, including potential carcinogenic effects (cancer risk), DNA damage, oxidative stress, and other toxic effects on organs such as the liver and kidneys. It is not safe for human consumption and has been linked to long-term health risks like cancer.
- Hence, the ban on Rhodamine B in food products (Statement-I) directly stems from its harmful health effects (Statement-II). The health risks posed by this dye are the primary reason for its prohibition in food items.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

58. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. A ballistic missile does not maintain a constant altitude throughout its flight. It follows a parabolic trajectory, with phases that include a powered boost phase, an unpowered midcourse phase (often in space), and a terminal phase where it descends toward the target due to gravity.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Ballistic missiles rely on Earth's gravity for the descent phase after the propulsion ends, making their trajectory largely unpowered after the boost phase. Pralay is India's first conventional quasi-ballistic missile, designed specifically for tactical battlefield use and conventional strikes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

59. Correct Answer is (C)

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- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. SANJAY integrates inputs from various ground and aerial sensors, processes them to confirm accuracy, eliminates duplication, and provides a Common Surveillance Picture of the battlefield over secure networks. SANJAY has been indigenously developed by the Indian Army in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) under the 'Buy (Indian)' category.

Source: [AIR](#)

60. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (CPA) is caused by the fungus *Aspergillus fumigatus* and other species of *Aspergillus*. These fungi are commonly found in the environment and can infect individuals with pre-existing lung conditions, particularly those who have had tuberculosis (TB) or other chronic lung diseases.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While a recent study has highlighted a high prevalence of CPA among tea plantation workers in Assam due to factors like TB prevalence and poor living conditions, CPA is not exclusive to this group. It primarily affects individuals with pre-existing lung damage or weakened immunity, regardless of their occupation or location. CPA can affect individuals with pre-existing lung conditions across various regions and populations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

61. Correct Answer is (A)

- Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) is a rare neurological disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the peripheral nervous system. This leads to symptoms such as muscle weakness, numbness, and, in severe cases, paralysis. It does not affect the cardiovascular, endocrine, or gastrointestinal systems directly but can cause complications like blood pressure fluctuations or heart rhythm abnormalities due to autonomic nervous system involvement.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

62. Correct Answer is (C)

- Lightning forms due to the buildup of electric charges within a cloud or between a cloud and the ground. Positive charges accumulate at the top of the cloud, while negative charges gather at the bottom. When the difference in charge becomes extreme, electrons rapidly flow through the air to neutralize the imbalance. This creates a visible lightning strike, which is essentially a giant spark caused by the rapid movement of electrons between regions of opposite charge.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

63. Correct Answer is (A)

- **Statement I is correct.** WHO recommends that adults consume less than 2 grams of sodium per day (equivalent to 5 grams of salt) to reduce health risks associated with high sodium intake, such as hypertension and cardiovascular diseases.
- **Statement II is correct.** High sodium intake is strongly linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes, as it raises blood pressure and damages blood vessels over time.
- The WHO's recommendation to reduce sodium intake is aimed at lowering the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Therefore, Statement-II serves as the correct explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

64. Correct Answer is (B)

- GSLV is designed for heavier payloads and is capable of reaching Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO), which is crucial for launching communication satellites and other high-orbit missions. On the other hand, PSLV is more suited for lighter payloads, primarily targeting Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and polar orbits, making it ideal for Earth observation and interplanetary missions.

Source: [DD News](#)

65. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. NavIC is a regional satellite navigation system designed to provide coverage over India and a region extending up to 1,500 kilometers beyond its borders. Unlike GPS, which provides global coverage, NavIC is not a global navigation system.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. NavIC's constellation includes three satellites in geostationary orbit and four in inclined geosynchronous orbit. This configuration ensures optimal coverage and accuracy over India and its surrounding region. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has mandated the use of NavIC-based AIS-140-compliant vehicle trackers in all public and commercial vehicles. This initiative aims to enhance road safety, fleet management, and real-time vehicle tracking.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

66. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Navika Sagar Parikrama-II is being undertaken by an all-women crew consisting of two Indian Navy officers, Lieutenant Commander Roopa A. and Lieutenant Commander Dilna K., aboard the sailing vessel INSV Tarini.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The expedition uses INSV Tarini sailing vessel.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

67. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Leprosy is classified as a neglected tropical disease (NTD) by the World Health Organization (WHO). It is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae and primarily affects the skin, nerves, and mucous membranes.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. India has not completely eradicated leprosy. However, it achieved the status of "elimination as a public health problem" at the national level in 2005, which means fewer than 1 case per 10,000 people. Despite this, leprosy still exists in some regions, particularly in states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

68. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4) is a private spaceflight mission organized by Axiom Space in collaboration with NASA. It aims to send a multinational crew to the ISS for scientific research, technology demonstrations, and advancing commercial space activities.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Ax-4 focuses on scientific research, microgravity experiments, and technology demonstrations aboard the ISS. It does not include experiments related to asteroid mining or Mars colonization.

Source: [DD News](#)

69. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) is often called China's "Artificial Sun" because it aims to replicate the nuclear fusion process that powers the Sun, generating immense heat and energy.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. EAST is focused on nuclear fusion technology, not nuclear fission. Nuclear fusion involves combining hydrogen nuclei to form helium, releasing energy, while nuclear fission splits heavy atomic nuclei like uranium or plutonium.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)