

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Weekly Compilation

For UPSC CSE Prelims

February, 2025 4th Week

INDEX

Art & Culture	2
Modern Indian History	2
Geography	3
Polity	4
Acts & Policies	6
Index & Reports	7
International Relations/Organizations	7
Economy	8
Environment	9
Science & Technology	10
Answer Key	11
Answers & Explanations	11

Art & Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Kashi Tamil Sangamam:

1. It aims to strengthen the cultural bond between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
2. It aligns with Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative.
3. Adi Shankara is the central theme of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0.
4. It emphasizes integrating Indian knowledge systems with modern education.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.2) Which one of the following organizations is responsible for evaluating natural heritage sites nominated for World Heritage status?

- a) International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- d) World Bank

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Abhinaya Darpana is the primary source of theoretical foundation for Odissi dance.
2. Mayadhar Raut is considered the father of Odissi.

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.4) Which one of the following tribes primarily celebrates the Nyokum Yullo festival?

- a) Adi
- b) Apatani
- c) Nyishi
- d) Galo

Modern Indian History

Q.5) With reference to the Neuve Chapelle Indian War Memorial, consider the following statements:

1. It honours the sacrifices of Indian soldiers and labourers who served in the British Indian Army during the First World War.
2. It features a large dome as a central element of the structure.
3. The central column of the memorial was inspired by Emperor Ashoka's inscribed columns.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.6) With reference to Hansa Jivraj Mehta, a prominent Indian freedom fighter, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. She was the first woman vice-chancellor in India.
2. She argued for equality and justice for women without special privileges in the Indian Constitution.
3. She led armed rebellions against British rule.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Geography

Q.7) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Makhana is recognized as a superfood.

Statement-II: Makhana grows in stagnant water bodies.

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.8) Primordial magma refers to:

- a) Magma formed due to recent volcanic activity on the Moon.
- b) Magma found only in the Earth's mantle and not on other celestial bodies.
- c) A type of molten rock that forms exclusively from meteorite impacts.
- d) Ancient molten rock from the early stages of a celestial body's formation.

Q.9) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: A leap year has 366 days instead of 365.

Statement-II: A day is added in February to adjust for the extra days lost each year.

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.10) Which one of the following countries does NOT share a land border with Honduras?

- a) Nicaragua
- b) Costa Rica
- c) El Salvador
- d) Guatemala

Q.11) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the Philadelphi Corridor?

- a) It connects the Gaza Strip to the West Bank.
- b) It serves as a buffer zone between Gaza and Egypt.
- c) It links Israel to the Mediterranean Sea.
- d) It is a trade route between Egypt and Israel.

Polity

Q.12) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'gag order'?

- a) A legal directive restricting individuals or media from publicly discussing details of an ongoing legal case.
- b) An order issued by the government to ban public protests and demonstrations.
- c) A directive allowing unrestricted media coverage of court proceedings.
- d) A law prohibiting judges from making public statements about their rulings.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 allow the government to issue emergency orders to block content on social media, news websites, and streaming services.
- 2. The government has the authority to block websites in cases related to India's sovereignty and integrity.

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.14) With reference to Zonal Councils in India, which of the following statements are correct?

- 1. It aims to facilitate economic planning and policy formulation for each state individually.
- 2. The States Reorganisation Act, 1956 established five Zonal Councils in India.
- 3. Each Zonal Council consists of the Chief Ministers of the member states.
- 4. Prime Minister of India is the Chairman of the Zonal Council.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.15) Consider the following statements:

- 1. Article 370 granted special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir, allowing it to have its own constitution and limited legislative powers.
- 2. The Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh allowed India control over all the matters of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

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

Q.16) Consider the following statements:

- 1. State legislatures are constitutionally equal to Parliament within their respective domains.
- 2. In the context of the Simultaneous Elections Bill, shortening the tenure of State Assemblies will violate the Basic Structure Doctrine of the Constitution.

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.17) Which one of the following best describes the primary function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)?

- a) Examining the financial policies of the government
- b) Scrutinizing the budget before its presentation in Parliament
- c) Auditing public expenditure to ensure it aligns with parliamentary grants
- d) Evaluating the impact of government schemes on economic growth

Q.18) With reference to the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992, consider the following statements:

- 1. It establishes Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as a part of Directive Principles of State Policy.
- 2. It mandated one-third reservation for women in panchayats.
- 3. As per the 73rd Amendment, the Gram Sabha has the authority to dissolve a Panchayat.

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

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

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC):

- 1. It provides financial grants to universities and colleges.
- 2. It has been established by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA).
- 3. A++ is the highest grade awarded by NAAC to an institution based on its assessment.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Constitution of India declares Hindi as the official language of the Union and the States.
- 2. The Constitution directs the Union to promote the spread of Hindi so that it can become a medium of expression for India's diverse culture.

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) With reference to the safeguards provided by Indian laws for arresting women, consider the following statements:

- 1. Women cannot be arrested after sunset and before sunrise unless there are exceptional circumstances.
- 2. Indian law mandates that the arrest of a woman should be conducted by a male police officer in the presence of a female constable.

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

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

Q.22) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) officers have the same powers as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Statement-II: The GST officers are police officers and can arrest individuals based on suspicion.

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

Acts & Policies

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs):

- 1. It aims to offer quality education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas.
- 2. These school are funded through public-private partnerships.
- 3. The scheme was launched under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.24) "Kota Cares" initiative, seen in the news recently, aims to:

- a) Establish Kota as a global hub for technology startups.
- b) Provide financial subsidies to coaching institutes in Kota.
- c) Improve student welfare and well-being in Kota through community-driven support.
- d) Support local artisans in Kota by providing them with marketing platforms.

Q.25) With reference to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:

- 1. It does not impose any particular language on any state.
- 2. It states all the three languages taught in schools must be Indian languages.

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.26) With reference to the North East Transformative Industrialisation Scheme (UNNATI), consider the following statements:

- 1. It aims to develop urban infrastructure in state capitals of the northeastern states.
- 2. North-Eastern Development Financial Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) is responsible for disbursing incentives under the scheme.

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

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

Q.27) With reference to the National Natural Farming Mission (NNFM), consider the following statements:

1. It encourages chemical-free and sustainable farming practices.
2. It aims to upscale the vertical farming to promote natural farming practices nationwide.
3. A five-kilometre-wide belt along the Ganga River has been prioritized under NMNF for promoting natural farming practices.

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.28) Consider the following statements regarding the draft rules for the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023:

1. It aims to balance privacy rights and the need for lawful data processing.
2. It mandates that a guardian's consent is needed only for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) who cannot make legally binding decisions.

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.29) World Social Protection Report' is published by:

- a) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Q.30) Consider the following statements:

1. The "One Nation-One Port Process" (ONOP) initiative aims to merge all port authorities into a single entity.
2. The Sagar Ankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) aims to enhance the efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability of Indian ports.

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

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

International Relations/Organizations

Q.31) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540' is related to:

- a) Preventing the financing of terrorism through international banking regulations.
- b) Strengthening global cooperation in cybersecurity and data protection.
- c) Establishing guidelines for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- d) Preventing non-state actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

Q.32) With reference to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), consider the following statements:

1. It is a specialized agency of the UN that provides humanitarian aid during conflicts.
2. The UN Security Council focuses on international peace and security, while the UNHRC primarily deals with human rights issues.

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.33) Which one of the following best describes the role of the European Commission within the European Union (EU)?

- a) It acts as the legislative body responsible for passing laws.
- b) It functions as the executive body responsible for implementing policies and enforcing EU laws.
- c) It serves as the judicial authority of the EU, ensuring legal compliance.
- d) It represents national governments in negotiations within the EU.

Economy

Q.34) With reference to the rupee depreciation, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It reduces the oil import bill.
2. It increases competitiveness of Indian exports.
3. The rupee value of remittances increases.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is responsible for appointing the Chairperson of the SEBI.
2. The SEBI Chairperson is appointed for a tenure of up to 5 years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, and is eligible for reappointment.

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.36) Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs):

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits, while banks can accept.
2. NBFCs are regulated by SEBI.
3. Agriculture is a significant focus area for infrastructural funding by NBFCs.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Environment

Q.37) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Indian carbon market requires industries to reduce their total carbon emissions.

Statement-II: The Indian carbon trading system focuses on improving emissions intensity.

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.38) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Voluntary carbon markets allow private businesses to generate and trade carbon credits.

Statement-II: Private businesses can undertake activities like afforestation and carbon capture to generate carbon credits.

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.39) Glacier ice algae' was seen in the news recently for:

- a) Producing oxygen that contributes to the formation of ozone holes.
- b) Releasing nutrients that support the growth of other marine organisms.
- c) Emitting greenhouse gases that accelerate global warming.
- d) Darkening glacier surfaces leading to increased melting rates.

Q.40) False killer whales are species of:

- a) Baleen whales
- b) Oceanic dolphins
- c) Sharks
- d) Sea turtles

Q.41) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports are legally binding for all member countries of the United Nations.

Statement-II: The IPCC was established under the United Nations to provide scientific guidance on climate change policies.

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.42) Consider the following statements:

1. Deforestation and soil erosion are the major source of nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere.
2. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a primary component of photochemical smog.
3. A higher concentration of NO₂ in the atmosphere lowers the crop yields.

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.43) The primary objective of Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) in India is to:

- a) Promote foreign investment in the renewable energy sector
- b) Mandate a minimum percentage of electricity from renewable sources
- c) Subsidize renewable energy producers
- d) Phase out fossil fuel-based power generation completely

Q.44) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: The Gulf of Mannar region has been included in the hydrocarbon exploration.

Statement-II: The Gulf of Mannar is known for its rich marine biodiversity and is home to endangered species.

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.45) Consider the following statements:

1. India, Mexico, and Costa Rica host the world's most significant mass nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles.
2. In India, Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram are among the largest nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles in the entire world.

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

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

Science & Technology

Q.46) With reference to India's defence, consider the following statements:

1. Project-75I involves the acquisition of six advanced diesel-electric submarines.
2. Project-76 involves developing nuclear-powered submarines to ensure strategic dominance in the naval domain.

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 pairs:

Quantum Concepts-----Description

1. Superposition-----Correlation between particles regardless of distance
2. Entanglement-----Existence in multiple states simultaneously
3. Wavefunction collapse-----Conversion to a definite state upon measurement

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.48) 'Project Farm Vibes' was in the news recently for:

- a) Launching a new social media platform for farmers.
- b) Introducing a blockchain-based system for agricultural supply chains.
- c) Creating genetically modified crops resistant to climate change.
- d) Developing AI-powered tools to assist farmers in sustainable agriculture.

Q.49) Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: National Science Day is celebrated annually on February 28.

Statement-II: Sir C.V. Raman discovered the Raman Effect on February 28, 1928.

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

Answer Key

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

Answers & Explanations

Art & Culture

1. Correct Answer is (D)
 - Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The Kashi Tamil Sangamam celebrates the historical and cultural connection between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, highlighting their shared heritage and fostering unity in diversity. The event is aligned with the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, which promotes cultural and linguistic unity across India. The event aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which emphasizes integrating Indian knowledge systems with modern education, fostering academic collaboration and cultural understanding.
 - Statement 3 is incorrect. The central theme of Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0 is based on "Legacy of Sage Agastya," not Adi Shankara.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

2. Correct Answer is (B)

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the official advisory body responsible for evaluating natural and mixed heritage sites nominated for UNESCO World Heritage status. Since the inception of the World Heritage Convention in 1972, IUCN has played a key role in assessing the technical, ecological, and conservation aspects of natural sites to determine their Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and suitability for inclusion on the World Heritage List. It also monitors the conservation status of existing natural and mixed heritage sites.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Odissi draws extensively from texts like the "Abhinaya Chandrika" by Rajmani Patra and the "Abhinaya Darpana Prakasha" by Jadunatha Sinha and Natyashastra.
- Statement 2 is correct. Guru Mayadhar Raut is widely regarded as the "Father of Odissi Dance" for his pivotal role in reviving, codifying, and restructuring Odissi into a classical dance form during the 1950s. He introduced elements like Mudra Viniyoga, Sanchari Bhava, and Rasa Theory, which enriched Odissi's vocabulary and performance style. He helped establish Kala Vikas Kendra in Cuttack, which was the first institute to officially teach Odissi. He co-founded the Jayantika Association in 1959, which worked on codifying and developing Odissi by structuring its movements, expressions (Abhinaya), and vocabulary.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Nyokum Yullo is a festival celebrated by the Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh, India. It is a harvest and community festival that seeks prosperity, harmony, and well-being for the people.

Source: [AIR](#)

Modern Indian History

5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The memorial commemorates over 4,700 Indian soldiers and labourers who lost their lives on the Western Front during World War I and have no known graves. It was specifically built to honour their contributions, particularly in battles such as Neuve Chapelle. The 15-meter-high column at the centre of the memorial was inspired by Emperor Ashoka's famous inscribed columns from the 3rd century BCE. It is topped with a lotus capital, the Star of India, and the Imperial British Crown.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The memorial does not have a large dome as its central feature. Instead, its central element is a 15-meter-high column inspired by Emperor Ashoka's inscribed pillars. The memorial includes two small domed structures (chattris) at either end of the semicircular enclosure, but these are not central elements.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Hansa Mehta was the first woman Vice-Chancellor in India, serving at SNDT Women's University from 1946 to 1948. She later became the Vice-Chancellor of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda (1949–1958), making her the first woman to lead a co-educational university in India. In the Constituent Assembly, Hansa Mehta strongly advocated for gender equality and opposed reserved seats or quotas for women, emphasizing equality on merit. She believed in social, economic, and political justice for women without special privileges. She presented India's National Flag to the Constituent Assembly on behalf of Indian women on August 15, 1947. As President of the All-India Women's Conference (1945–46), she drafted the Indian Women's Charter of Rights and Duties, demanding equal rights for women in education, property, suffrage, and pay.

- Statement 3 is incorrect. Hansa Mehta was a Gandhian who participated in non-violent movements like the Non-Cooperation Movement and Salt Satyagraha. She was arrested during these protests but did not lead armed rebellions. She actively participated in movements like picketing foreign goods and liquor shops. She founded the Desh Sevika Dal (a group of female freedom fighters) in 1930. She played a key role during the campaign against the Simon Commission. She opposed religious-based personal laws and pushed for a Uniform Civil Code, emphasizing secularism in governance.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Geography

7. Correct Answer is (B)
- Makhana (also known as fox nuts or lotus seeds) is recognized as a superfood due to its high nutritional value. It grows in stagnant water bodies such as ponds and wetlands. However, the fact that it grows in stagnant water bodies is not the reason it is considered a superfood. The superfood status comes from its nutritional properties, not its growing conditions. It has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag as "Mithila Makhana" and is part of the "One District One Product" scheme. The makhana board will work on branding, packaging, and export promotion to make makhana globally popular.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

8. Correct Answer is (D)
- Primordial magma refers to the molten material that existed during the early stages of a celestial body's formation, such as Earth or other planets. This magma formed when the body was still hot and partially or fully molten, often resulting in a global magma ocean before cooling and solidifying into layers like the crust and mantle.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

9. Correct Answer is (A)
- Statement I is correct. A leap year includes an extra day (February 29), making it 366 days long instead of the usual 365 days. This adjustment occurs every four years to account for the Earth's orbit around the Sun, which takes approximately 365.24 days.
 - Statement II is correct. The Earth's orbit around the Sun takes about 365 days and 6 hours. These extra hours accumulate over four years to form a full day (6 hours \times 4 = 24 hours). To correct this discrepancy and keep the calendar in sync with the Earth's orbit, an extra day is added to February every four years.
 - Therefore, the addition of an extra day in February (Statement-II) is the reason why a leap year has 366 days (Statement-I).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10. Correct Answer is (B)
- Honduras, officially known as the Republic of Honduras (República de Honduras), is a Central American country. Honduras is situated in Central America, bordered by: Guatemala to the west, El Salvador to the southwest, Nicaragua to the southeast, the Caribbean Sea to the north, and the Pacific Ocean (via the Gulf of Fonseca) to the south. Costa Rica does not share a land border with Honduras.

Source: [AIR](#)

11. Correct Answer is (B)
- The Philadelphi Corridor is a narrow strip of land along the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, functioning as a buffer zone to prevent smuggling and maintain security. It spans approximately 14 kilometres and has been a critical area for Israeli security operations and ceasefire negotiations. It was established under Camp David Accords (1979). Rafah Crossing is located within the Philadelphi Corridor.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Polity

12. Correct Answer is (A)

- A gag order is a legal directive issued by a court or authority to restrict individuals, such as lawyers, parties involved in a case, or the media, from publicly disclosing or discussing details of an ongoing legal case. This is done to ensure a fair trial, protect sensitive information, and avoid undue influence on public opinion or jurors.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 govern the blocking of entire websites by the government. However, the authority to issue emergency content blocking orders on social media, news websites, and streaming services falls under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- Statement 2 is correct. The government has the authority to block websites under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which allows blocking in the interest of India's sovereignty and integrity, national security, public order, and friendly relations with foreign states.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

14. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect. Zonal Councils are not focused on individual state economic planning. Instead, they aim to promote cooperation, coordination, and resolution of inter-state disputes, fostering regional development and effective governance among member states. The Union Home Minister is the Chairman of all Zonal Councils, while the Chief Ministers of member states act as Vice-Chairmen on a rotational basis for one year at a time.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Zonal Councils were established under Part-III of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. These councils include the Northern, Central, Southern, Eastern, and Western Zonal Councils. Each Zonal Council includes the Chief Ministers of the member states as members, along with two other ministers nominated by the Governor of each state.

Source: [AIR](#)

15. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Article 370 provided Jammu & Kashmir with special constitutional status, allowing it to have its own constitution and significant autonomy in governance. The Indian Parliament's legislative powers over J&K were limited to three subjects: defense, external affairs, and communications, as per the Instrument of Accession. Any extension of additional central laws required the concurrence of the J&K government.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh on October 26, 1947, granted India jurisdiction only over three subjects: defense, external affairs, and communications. All other matters remained under the control of the state government unless explicitly agreed upon later.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. State legislatures and Parliament are separate but equal entities within their respective domains under India's federal structure. While Parliament legislates on Union List subjects, state legislatures legislate on State List subjects, as outlined in the Constitution. Both bodies are fundamental to India's federal governance and operate independently within their jurisdictions. The Basic Structure Doctrine, established in the Kesavananda Bharati judgment, protects fundamental principles of the Constitution, such as democracy and federalism. Shortening the tenure of State Assemblies to align elections with Lok Sabha polls undermines their democratic mandate and autonomy, which are core elements of federalism and democracy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

17. Correct Answer is (C)

- The primary function of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is to examine the audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) after they are presented in Parliament. The PAC ensures that public funds granted by Parliament are spent by the government within the scope of the approved demands and in accordance with legal and financial propriety. It scrutinizes cases of excess expenditure, financial irregularities, and the overall economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of public spending.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. While Article 40 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) originally directed states to organize village panchayats, the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act gave PRIs constitutional status, moving them beyond just a directive principle. The Gram Sabha does not have the authority to dissolve a Panchayat. Panchayats are given a fixed five-year tenure under Article 243E, and dissolution is governed by state legislation, not by the Gram Sabha.
- Statement 2 is correct. The 73rd Amendment Act mandated the reservation of one-third of seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions, including the positions of chairpersons at all levels.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) does not provide financial grants. Instead, it assesses and accredits higher education institutions. Financial grants are provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), often based on NAAC accreditation status. NAAC was established in 1994 by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The NBA is a separate body that accredits technical programs, while NAAC focuses on institutional accreditation.
- Statement 3 is correct. A++ is the highest grade awarded by NAAC to institutions with a CGPA between 3.51 and 4.00 on its grading scale.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Constitution of India, under Article 343, declares Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union, not the States. States have the freedom to choose their own official languages based on their linguistic preferences (Article 345).
- Statement 2 is correct. Under Article 351, the Constitution mandates that the Union must promote the spread and development of Hindi to serve as a medium of expression for India's composite culture. It also emphasizes enriching Hindi by assimilating elements from other Indian languages.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

21. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Section 46(4) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and its corresponding provision in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, states that women cannot be arrested during this time period unless there are exceptional circumstances. In such cases, prior written permission from a magistrate is required, and the arrest must be conducted by a woman police officer.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Indian law does not mandate that a male police officer must arrest a woman. Instead, it specifies that arrests of women should generally be conducted by female police officers. If circumstances require otherwise, male officers may arrest a woman, but they must not touch her unless absolutely necessary.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

22. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement I is correct. The Supreme Court ruled that GST officers must follow a "higher threshold" before making an arrest, similar to Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). This means they must have a "reason to believe" that an offence has been committed rather than acting on mere suspicion. GST officers have the same powers as the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- Statement II is incorrect. The Supreme Court clarified that GST officers are not police officers and cannot arrest individuals based on suspicion like police officers under Section 41 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). Instead, they must meet a stricter standard before making arrests.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Acts & Policies

23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. EMRSs are designed to provide high-quality education to ST students in remote tribal areas, enabling them to access opportunities at par with the general population. The scheme focuses on bridging the educational gap and promoting holistic development.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. EMRSs are fully funded by the Central Government under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, with additional support from state governments. Funding is provided through grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The EMRS scheme was introduced in 1997-98 as a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

24. Correct Answer is (C)

- The "Kota Cares" initiative is a community-driven effort launched by the Kota District Administration and the Kota Students Welfare Society (KSWS) to redefine student welfare and support in the city. It focuses on creating a supportive environment for students, addressing their mental health, and ensuring their overall well-being.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. NEP 2020 upholds linguistic freedom and ensures that no language is imposed on any state or community. It allows states, regions, and students to choose the languages they wish to learn, promoting flexibility in implementation while respecting India's linguistic diversity.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. NEP 2020 emphasizes the three-language formula, where at least two of the three languages must be Indian languages, but the third language can be English or another foreign language. This approach promotes multilingualism while ensuring flexibility for students and states to select their preferred languages.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

26. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The UNNATI scheme is primarily focused on fostering industrial growth, generating employment, and promoting sustainable development in the manufacturing and service sectors across the northeastern region. While it supports industrial infrastructure development, it does not specifically target urban infrastructure in state capitals.
- Statement 2 is correct. NEDFi has been designated as the nodal agency for disbursing incentives under various components of the UNNATI scheme. It facilitates financial assistance and ensures smooth implementation through e-transfers to eligible units.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

27. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. NMNF promotes natural farming, which is a chemical-free and sustainable agricultural practice based on locally available resources, livestock integration, and traditional methods. NMNF has prioritized areas within a 5-kilometer corridor along the Ganga River under the Namami Gange scheme for promoting natural farming.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. NMNF focuses on natural farming practices like biomass recycling, use of cow dung-urine formulations, and multi-cropping systems. It does not specifically aim to promote vertical farming.

Source: [AIR](#)

28. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, aims to strike a balance between protecting individuals' privacy rights and enabling lawful data processing for legitimate purposes. The draft rules specify that a guardian's consent is only required for PwDs who cannot make legally binding decisions, rather than all PwDs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Index & Reports

29. Correct Answer is (A)

- The World Social Protection Report is a flagship publication of the International Labour Organization (ILO). It provides a global overview of developments in social protection systems, including coverage, benefits, and public expenditures, and highlights progress toward achieving universal social protection.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

30. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The ONOP initiative focuses on standardizing and streamlining operations across India's major ports to eliminate inefficiencies, reduce costs, and minimize operational delays by harmonizing documentation and processes.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Sagar Ankalan LPPI evaluates the performance of Indian ports based on metrics like cargo handling, turnaround time, and berth idle time. Its goal is to improve port efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability while aligning with global benchmarks.

Source: [AIR](#)

International Relations/Organizations

31. Correct Answer is (D)

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, adopted in 2004, focuses on preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as their delivery systems, to non-state actors such as terrorist groups. It imposes binding obligations on all UN member states to establish domestic controls, enforce laws, and take measures to prevent such proliferation.

Source: [AIR](#)

32. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is not a specialized agency of the UN, nor does it provide humanitarian aid during conflicts. Instead, it is a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, tasked with promoting and protecting human rights globally, addressing violations, and making recommendations.
- Statement 2 is correct. The UN Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, while the UNHRC's primary focus is on human rights issues, including investigating violations and promoting universal respect for human rights.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

33. Correct Answer is (B)

- The European Commission is the executive arm of the EU, responsible for drafting legislation, implementing decisions, enforcing EU laws, and managing policies. The European Council nominates the President of the European Commission, who must then be approved by the European Parliament through a vote.

Source: [AIR](#)

Economy

34. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. A depreciating rupee increases the cost of imports, including crude oil, as oil is priced in U.S. dollars. India, which imports over 85% of its crude oil needs, faces higher import bills when the rupee weakens.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. A weaker rupee makes Indian goods cheaper in global markets, improving their competitiveness and boosting export potential. A depreciating rupee benefits non-resident Indians (NRIs) sending money back to India because they receive more rupees for the same amount of foreign currency. This increases the value of remittances in rupee terms.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

35. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The SEBI Chairperson is not appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Rather, the appointment is made by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC).
- Statement 2 is correct. The SEBI Chairperson is appointed for a tenure of up to 5 years or until the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, and is eligible for reappointment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

36. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. NBFCs are prohibited from accepting demand deposits under RBI regulations. Demand deposits (such as savings and current accounts) are a feature exclusive to banks as they are part of the payment and settlement system.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. NBFCs are primarily regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, certain NBFC activities, such as venture capital or merchant banking, may fall under SEBI's purview. The overarching regulatory authority for NBFCs remains the RBI. While NBFCs may provide some financing for agriculture-related activities, their primary focus in infrastructure funding is on sectors like real estate, power, roads, and urban infrastructure. Agriculture is not a major focus area for infrastructural funding by NBFCs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Environment

37. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statement I is incorrect. The Indian carbon market does not mandate industries to reduce their absolute carbon emissions. Instead, it focuses on improving emissions efficiency by setting greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity targets (emissions per unit of production). Industries are required to produce goods more efficiently, such as using less energy or adopting cleaner technologies, rather than reducing total emissions.
- Statement II is correct. The Indian Carbon Market (ICM) emphasizes improving emissions intensity (GHG emissions per unit of output) through compliance mechanisms. Obligated entities must meet specific intensity targets, and those exceeding the targets can trade carbon credits, while others may need to purchase them to comply.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

38. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I is correct. Voluntary carbon markets enable private entities to develop projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as afforestation or carbon capture, and generate carbon credits. These credits can then be traded or sold to individuals or companies seeking to offset their emissions.
- Statement II is correct. Private businesses can engage in activities such as planting trees (afforestation), reforestation, or implementing technologies for carbon capture and storage to produce carbon credits. These projects are verified by third parties, and the resulting credits are sold in voluntary markets.

- Statement-II provides the reasoning behind Statement-I by explaining how private businesses generate carbon credits through specific mitigation activities. Therefore, both statements are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

39. Correct Answer is (D)

- Recent studies have highlighted that microscopic alga growing on glacier surfaces, particularly on the Greenland Ice Sheet, darken the ice due to their pigmentation. This darkening reduces the ice's reflectivity (albedo), causing it to absorb more sunlight and, consequently, melt faster. These algae are highly efficient at nutrient uptake, allowing them to thrive in harsh glacial environments and potentially expand their coverage, further accelerating ice melt.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

40. Correct Answer is (B)

- False killer whales (*Pseudorca crassidens*) are a species of oceanic dolphins belonging to the family Delphinidae. Despite their name, they are not related to killer whales (which are also dolphins) but are named for their similar skull shape. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists false killer whales as "Near Threatened".

Source: [DD News](#)

41. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statement I is incorrect. IPCC reports are not legally binding. They provide scientific assessments and guidance on climate change, which serve as inputs for international climate negotiations and policymaking, but they do not impose legal obligations on member countries.
- Statement II is correct. The IPCC was created in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide governments with scientific information to develop climate policies.

Source: [DD News](#)

42. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Nitrogen oxides are primarily emitted from combustion processes such as vehicle emissions, industrial activities, and power plants, rather than deforestation or soil erosion. While deforestation and soil erosion disrupt natural nitrogen cycles, they are not significant direct sources of NO₂ emissions.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is a key component of photochemical smog. It reacts with sunlight and other pollutants to form secondary pollutants like ozone, which contribute to smog formation. NO₂ is a phytotoxin that directly damages plant cells and reduces crop yields. It also contributes to the formation of ozone, which further harms crops. Studies show that reducing NO₂ levels can significantly improve crop yields.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

43. Correct Answer is (B)

- Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) is a regulatory mechanism in India that mandates certain entities, such as electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs), open access consumers, and captive power producers, to purchase a specific percentage of their electricity from renewable energy (RE) sources. This policy aims to promote the adoption of renewable energy, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and support India's climate action goals.

Source: [DD News](#)

44. Correct Answer is (B)

- **Statement-I:** The Gulf of Mannar region has been included in the hydrocarbon exploration under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas's 10th round of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy. This decision is based on the identification of potential hydrocarbon reserves in the deep-sea areas off the coasts of Tamil Nadu.

- **Statement-II:** The Gulf of Mannar is renowned for its rich marine biodiversity and is home to several endangered species, such as dugongs, turtles, and marine mammals. It is a protected Biosphere Reserve with significant ecological importance.
- While both statements are factually correct, the rich biodiversity of the Gulf of Mannar (Statement-II) does not explain why the region was included in hydrocarbon exploration (Statement-I).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

45. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India (Odisha's Gahirmatha, Rushikulya, and Devi River mouth), Mexico (La Escobilla), and Costa Rica (Nancite and Ostional beaches) are globally recognized as the largest mass nesting sites (arribadas) for Olive Ridley turtles.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu are important nesting sites for Olive Ridley turtles within India, they are not among the largest globally or even within India. The largest mass nesting sites in India are located in Odisha (Gahirmatha, Rushikulya, and Devi River mouth).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Science & Technology

46. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Project-75I is a military procurement initiative aimed at acquiring six next-generation diesel-electric attack submarines equipped with advanced technologies like Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP) systems to enhance stealth and operational range.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Project-76 focuses on the development of indigenous conventional diesel-electric submarines, not nuclear-powered submarines. These submarines will have advanced features, such as AIP systems and Land Attack Cruise Missiles (LACMs), and aim for high indigenous content to boost self-reliance in submarine technology.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

47. Correct Answer is (A)

- Superposition refers to a quantum system existing in multiple states simultaneously until it is measured. For example, a qubit can exist as a combination of both $|0\rangle|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle|1\rangle$ states at the same time.
- Entanglement refers to a phenomenon where the quantum states of two or more particles become correlated, such that the state of one particle is dependent on the state of the other(s), even if they are separated by large distances.
- Wavefunction collapse occurs when a quantum system, initially in a superposition of states, reduces to a single definite state due to measurement or observation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

48. Correct Answer is (D)

- Project Farm Vibes, led by Microsoft Research, focuses on using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technologies to help farmers improve agricultural practices. The initiative includes tools like FarmVibes.AI, which uses data from satellites, drones, and soil sensors to provide actionable insights for sustainable farming. These insights help farmers optimize crop yields, reduce costs (e.g., fertilizers and water), and minimize environmental impact.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

49. Correct Answer is (A)

- National Science Day is celebrated on February 28 specifically to honor Sir C.V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect, which he announced on this date in 1928. Hence, Statement-II directly explains why Statement-I is true.

Source: [AIR](#)