

General Studies

Current Affair Test (November-2024)

1. Ans: (c)

Article 39(e) and (f) direct the State to protect children from abuse and provide them with opportunities for healthy development.

Article 39(e) mandates that children should not be exploited in harmful employment, while Article 39(f) ensures that children grow up with dignity, freedom, and a healthy environment.

These provisions are part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, guiding the State to create policies for the welfare and protection of children, although not enforceable in a court of law.

2. Ans: (a)

Tomb of Balban contains India's first true arch and dome (A-2).

- Jamali Kamali Mosque reflects the transition from Lodi to Mughal architectural elements (B-1).
- Rajon Ki Baoli is a stepwell reflecting water management (C-3).
- Gandhak ki Baoli is a Mughal-era structure with advanced design (D-4).

3. Ans: (d)

The NAMASTE Programme, launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, focuses on empowering sanitation workers by turning them into "sanipreneurs" and eliminating manual hazardous cleaning practices. It provides them with entrepreneurial training, mechanized equipment, and safety gear, ensuring a dignified livelihood and safer working conditions.

4. Ans: (b)

Article 15(3) allows for special provisions for the welfare of children and women.

Article 21 includes the right to life and personal liberty, encompassing protection from exploitation.

Article 47 focuses on public health and nutrition but does not specifically focus on children.

5. Ans: (a)

The Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus transmitted from fruit bats to humans, which can cause severe neurological symptoms, including encephalitis. Human-to-human transmission is possible, but no vaccine has been developed for Nipah, making statement 4 incorrect.

6. Ans: (d)

The Pusa-44 rice variety has a long maturation period, which leads to delayed wheat sowing and contributes to stubble burning. This has been a significant factor

in the air pollution issues faced in Northern India, especially in Punjab and Haryana.

7. Ans: (c)

Statement 4 is incorrect.

The Mehrauli Archaeological Park contains over 100 historically significant monuments from different eras, including structures from the Tomar Rajputs, Khaljis, Lodis, Mughals, and British. It is located near the Qutb complex in Delhi, but it is not a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

8. Ans: (b)

One of the key objectives of the PLI scheme for the textile sector is to increase India's textile exports to \$100 billion by 2030. The scheme focuses on promoting the production of man-made fibers and technical textiles, enhancing India's global competitiveness in the textile industry.

9. Ans: (b)

The LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ) experiment is designed to detect dark matter particles. The concept of neutrino fog refers to interference caused by neutrinos, which complicates the detection of dark matter. The experiment is based in the U.S., not India, making statement 3 incorrect.

10. Ans: (d)

Pillboxes were small concrete defense structures built during World War II. These structures were strategically placed along coastlines, including Visakhapatnam, to protect against enemy invasions. They provided soldiers with protection while allowing them to fire through small loopholes.

11. Ans: (b)

The Konark Sun Temple was indeed constructed in the 13th century by King Narasimhadeva I. The temple is a massive stone chariot with twelve pairs of intricately carved wheels, not seven on each side. This symbolism represents the Sun God Surya's chariot. Khondalite stones were used to build the temple, allowing artisans to create highly detailed carvings that depict mythological and cultural narratives, establishing the temple as an architectural masterpiece of its era.

12. Ans: (d)

The Konark wheel has 24 spokes, not 12, which symbolize the passage of time and democratic principles, representing timeless wisdom and progression. It was indeed used as a sundial in the Konark Temple, exemplifying ancient astronomical knowledge. The wheel's design with 24 spokes was adapted in India's

national flag to signify justice, equality, and the flow of time, reinforcing its symbolic value.

13. Ans: (a)

PMMY indeed aims to extend financial support to small-scale enterprises across manufacturing, trading, and services. The Tarun loan limit, however, goes up to 10 lakh, contrary to the 5 lakh mentioned in the statement. The MUDRA card provides working capital on an overdraft basis, allowing entrepreneurs easier access to credit, promoting financial flexibility for business operations.

14. Ans: (d)

Statement 1 is incorrect because over 60% of the FPVs' components are indigenously sourced, aligning with India's goal of self-reliance in defense production.

Statement 2 is incorrect as these FPVs are primarily designed for patrolling the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and coastal areas, rather than deep-sea operations beyond the EEZ. They focus on fisheries protection, anti-smuggling operations, and search and rescue missions within Indian maritime territory.

Statement 3 is also incorrect as the FPVs have a top speed of 27 knots, which enables them to undertake both short and medium-range missions effectively. This combination of high-speed, maneuverability, and indigenization reflects the Indian Coast Guard's emphasis on enhanced maritime security, agile response capabilities, and support for India's domestic defense industry.

15. Ans: (a)

The Vessel Communication and Support System, launched on August 30, 2024, with a 364 crore budget, primarily aims to improve the safety of fishermen by allowing communication beyond mobile network limits. The transponders used were developed by ISRO, not NSIL.

The Nabhmitra application, part of the system, is designed to provide weather alerts, cyclone data, and other critical information, ensuring safer navigation and quick response in emergencies.

16. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is incorrect because Dholavira is the fifth largest Indus Valley Civilization site, not the largest; Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa are larger.

Statement 2 is incorrect because Dholavira's layout includes not only residential areas but also a Castle with a Bailey, a Ceremonial Ground, and distinct Middle and Lower Towns, offering both ceremonial and public spaces.

Statement 3 is correct; Dholavira's water management system is a hallmark feature, with reservoirs, step wells, and public baths, demonstrating advanced water conservation techniques.

Statement 4 is incorrect as Dholavira is located

between the seasonal streams of Mansar and Manhar, not near perennial rivers. This site's layout and water management system offer insights into Indus urban planning, adaptation to arid environments, and societal organization.

17. Ans: (b)

The Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card provides free health coverage up to 5 lakh annually for Indian citizens aged 70 and above. It was introduced under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, not Finance. Registration for the card involves signing up through the PM-JAY portal or Ayushman Bharat mobile application to ensure proper verification and coverage.

18. Ans: (a)

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, known for its tiger population density, lies between the Vindhyan and Satpura ranges and was declared a tiger reserve in 1993. While bamboo is found in the lower slopes, it does not predominantly cover the upper slopes, which are known for tropical moist deciduous forests and sal trees.

19. Ans: (a)

Maitri Dwar is located at Petrapole Land Port in North 24 Parganas on the India-Bangladesh border and facilitates the majority of India-Bangladesh land trade. It handles both passenger and cargo traffic, significantly contributing to the economic exchange between the two nations and enhancing customs and immigration infrastructure.

20. Ans: (a)

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana aims to boost fish production and income for fishermen and improve safety through the Vessel Communication and Support System. The scheme supports both inland and marine fisheries, making it a comprehensive fisheries development initiative.

21. Ans: (a)

- Swing states, also known as battleground states, hold a pivotal position in U.S. presidential elections because their electoral outcomes can vary between parties across different election cycles.
- Unlike reliably partisan states, swing states lack consistent party dominance; this unpredictability makes them highly contested as they can swing the overall electoral college outcome.
- These states receive substantial attention from candidates who invest heavily in campaigning efforts, tailoring messages to appeal to the state's diverse demographics.
- Their undecided or mixed political orientation means that even small shifts in voter preference can determine the allocation of all their electoral votes, potentially altering the election result.

22. Ans: (d)

- The Dinosaur Fossil Park in Balasinor, located in Raiyoli, Gujarat, is renowned for its extensive collection of Late Cretaceous dinosaur fossils, especially eggs, which ranks it among the largest dinosaur egg hatcheries in the world.
- Discovered in the 1980s by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), this site includes fossils of *Rajasaurus narmadensis*, a unique dinosaur species indigenous to India.
- The park contributes crucial insights into dinosaur reproductive behavior and ecosystem conditions during the Late Cretaceous period.

23. Ans: (c)

- Tardigrades are known for their extraordinary ability to endure extreme environmental stresses, which include high levels of radiation, intense temperatures, and extended periods without food or water.
- They can survive temperatures ranging from as high as 150°C to as low as -272°C, close to absolute zero.
- They are also capable of entering a dehydrated, cryptobiotic state where they can withstand nearly all environmental extremes and revive even after years of desiccation.
- This resilience is largely due to their unique cellular mechanisms that protect DNA and cell structures from damage under extreme conditions.



24. Ans: (a)

- The primary benefit of electric propulsion technology in ISRO's TDS-1 is the significant reduction in satellite weight by minimizing the need for heavy chemical fuel.
- Traditional chemical propulsion systems require a large amount of fuel for maneuvering satellites into their designated orbits, which increases satellite mass.
- By using electric propulsion, ISRO aims to achieve more efficient use of fuel through ionized gas propulsion, where gases like Argon are ionized

using solar energy to produce thrust.

- This approach drastically reduces fuel mass, effectively lowering the satellite's overall weight by up to half.
- The lighter weight allows the satellite to carry more payloads or additional instruments, enhancing its utility.

25. Ans: (c)

- The G20 Pandemic Fund, established with an initial \$25 million during Indonesia's G20 presidency in 2022, is focused on enhancing pandemic preparedness in low- and middle-income countries, specifically targeting animal health risks to prevent zoonotic diseases.
- Zoonotic diseases, those that spread from animals to humans, have caused significant public health emergencies, with 5 out of 6 WHO-declared health crises being of zoonotic origin.

This fund aims to prevent similar future outbreaks by addressing animal health risks, improving early detection systems, and expanding lab and vaccine production capacities.

26. Ans: (b)

- Digital arrest scams target a broad range of individuals, not specifically those with a history of cybercrime, which makes statement 1 incorrect.
- Scammers use psychological manipulation to instill fear, often via video calls that make their impersonation seem more authentic (statement 2).
- In these calls, scammers adopt official attire or use official-looking backgrounds to enhance credibility, a tactic designed to trap victims into compliance.
- They also apply pressure by threatening immediate arrest, leading victims to divulge personal information, making statement 3 correct.
- Additionally, scammers cite fabricated legal provisions, creating a sense of urgency and fear, making statement 4 correct.

27. Ans: (b)

- Swing states operate on a "winner-takes-all" basis, meaning the candidate who wins a simple majority receives all of that state's electoral votes, regardless of how narrow the margin might be. This mechanism intensifies the importance of swing states since a small number of votes can decide the electoral allocation, as correctly stated in statement 1.
- Statement 2 is also correct; candidates often focus on specific demographic groups within swing states (e.g., Latino voters in Arizona or Black voters in Georgia) to address the issues and preferences that resonate with these communities, thereby increasing their chances of winning.
- Statement 3 is incorrect because swing states are characterized by their fluctuating political

inclinations, which prevents consistent party loyalty over multiple elections.

28. Ans: (d)

None of these statements accurately describe the TDS-1 mission or the workings of electric propulsion. The electric propulsion system in TDS-1 does not simply release compressed gases to create thrust; instead, it ionizes gases like Argon using solar energy. This ionization process charges the gas particles, allowing them to be accelerated by electric fields to produce propulsion—significantly different from releasing compressed gas directly, as stated in statement 1.

Statement 2 is also incorrect, as TDS-1 is not intended primarily for communication but rather as a technology demonstrator for electric propulsion, with the goal of advancing ISRO's capability in satellite propulsion.

Statement 3 inaccurately suggests chemical reactions for propulsion; in reality, the electric propulsion system relies solely on the ionization process and electric fields to create thrust, without the use of combustion or chemical reactions.

29. Ans: (d)

- Statement 1 is false because zoonotic diseases affect both domesticated animals and wildlife, with wildlife often being significant reservoirs of zoonotic pathogens. Many zoonotic diseases, such as Ebola and avian influenza, originate in wildlife before spreading to humans.
- Statement 2 is also incorrect; mosquito-borne diseases are indeed classified as zoonotic, as mosquitoes act as vectors for pathogens that can infect both animals and humans. Examples include dengue, Zika, and malaria.
- Statement 3 is inaccurate as well; climate change has a considerable influence on zoonotic disease transmission by altering ecosystems, expanding the range of disease vectors, and increasing human-wildlife interactions.
- The warmer climates and altered rainfall patterns allow vectors like mosquitoes to thrive in new areas, contributing to the spread of diseases.

30. Ans: (b)

- The TRID1 protein in *Hypsibius henanensis* is a critical component that enables the tardigrade to withstand high radiation levels by repairing DNA double-strand breaks—one of the most severe forms of DNA damage caused by radiation exposure.
- When DNA strands are broken by radiation, this protein quickly activates to mend the breaks, preserving the genetic integrity of the organism. This unique repair mechanism, coupled with other genetic adaptations, significantly enhances the survival of *Hypsibius henanensis* in radiation-rich environments, such as space or nuclear sites.

31. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is correct. The Kondh tribe maintains a clan-based social structure with strong community ties and local governance.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Kondh tribe practices animism, which involves reverence for nature and forest deities; they have not widely converted to Buddhism.

Statement 3 is correct. The Kondh religion is deeply connected to nature, focusing on animistic worship of forest deities and ancestral spirits, though some also practice Hindu rituals.

32. Ans: (a)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Emission Gap Report is published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), not the UNFCCC.
- Statement 2 is correct. The report analyzes the gap between current emissions and required reductions to meet the Paris Agreement targets.
- Statement 3 is correct. The 2024 Emission Gap Report highlights the importance of updating Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2025, especially for developed countries.

33. Ans: (c)

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Indian flapshell turtle is a freshwater species typically found in rivers, ponds, lakes, and canals, not in saltwater environments.

Statement 2 is correct. The turtle is called "flapshell" because of the flaps of skin on its plastron, which can cover its limbs when retracted, providing protection.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Indian flapshell turtle is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List, not Critically Endangered.



34. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Livestock Census is conducted every five years, not ten. This has been a regular practice since 1919.

Statement 2 is correct. The census covers data on various livestock and poultry species, including indigenous breeds across several categories.

Statement 3 is correct. The 21st Livestock Census marks the first time that independent data on livestock holdings by pastoralists will be captured.

35. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Great Indian Bustard is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List, indicating an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The species prefers dry grasslands and scrublands and is mainly found in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, not in forested regions.

Statement 3 is correct. The Great Indian Bustard is an opportunistic feeder, consuming grass seeds, insects, small rodents, and reptiles.

36. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is correct. The EBP has a target to achieve 20% ethanol blending by 2025, moved up from the original 2030 target.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The EBP is led by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, not the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Statement 3 is correct. By promoting ethanol blending, the program generates additional demand for sugarcane-derived ethanol, benefiting sugarcane farmers through enhanced income.

37. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is correct. One of the NPPA's roles includes acting as an advisory body by providing recommendations to the government on drug price revisions and policies related to the pharmaceutical sector.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The NPPA does not solely rely on data from companies; it conducts independent data collection on drug production, imports, exports, and market shares to ensure fair pricing.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The NPPA was specifically established to regulate prices of pharmaceutical drugs and medical devices, not food items.

38. Ans: (d)

Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest wildlife reserve, recently became the center of attention due to the discovery of three poached lions.

About Hwange National Park:

- Location: Situated in northwest Zimbabwe, near the main road between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls.
- Size: Covers approximately 14,600 sq. km, making it the largest natural reserve in Zimbabwe.
- History: Established in 1928; formerly known as Wankie Game Reserve.
- Wildlife: Home to over 100 mammal species and 400 bird species, including 19 large herbivores and eight large carnivores. It houses half of Zimbabwe's elephant population (around 50,000) and over 500 lions.



39. Ans: (c)

Statement 1 is incorrect. While the birth of a Great

Indian Bustard chick through artificial insemination is a significant achievement, it is not the first instance of artificial insemination in any bird species. Similar techniques have been applied to other bird species, such as the houbara bustard.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) team learned the artificial insemination technique from a project in Abu Dhabi focused on the houbara bustard, rather than developing it independently.

Statement 3 is correct. The captive breeding program for the Great Indian Bustard, initiated in 2019, aims to eventually release bred individuals into the wild as part of conservation efforts for this critically endangered species.

40. Ans: (d)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The NPPA has the authority to revise prices as necessary, including in extraordinary situations, and not only once a year.
- Statement 2 is correct. Under the Essential Commodities Act, NPPA enforces price controls on essential drugs to ensure availability and affordability.
- Statement 3 is correct. NPPA has the power to initiate legal action against companies that do not comply with pricing regulations, as mandated under the DPCO, 2013.

41. Ans: (c)

India is on the brink of eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem. To achieve certification from the World Health Organization (WHO), it must maintain fewer than one case per 10,000 people for two consecutive years. In 2023, the country recorded 595 cases, and in 2024, this number decreased to 339.

The statement about achieving zero cases is incorrect, as cases still exist, and the transmission is via the bite of the sandfly, not water contamination.

Moreover, the fatality rate of untreated Kala-azar is over 95%, not 50%, underscoring the severe impact of the disease.

42. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is correct; Ariyanatha Mudaliar renovated the Sri Singeeswarar temple in the 16th century, specifically erecting the main tower (Raja Gopuram).

Statement 2 is incorrect; the copper-plate inscriptions were written in Sanskrit and Nandinagari script, not Tamil.

Statement 3 is also false; the temple is particularly noted for depicting Anjaneya (Hanuman) playing the Veena, not the flute.

43. Ans: (d)

A quarter century after Kamarajar Port was named the country's 12th major port, the mega international

container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in the Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal has been notified as the 13th major port.

Galathea Bay, located on Great Nicobar Island, is strategically positioned near the Malacca Strait, which handles about 35% of global sea trade. This makes it vital for Indo-Pacific maritime logistics.

44. Ans: (c)

Statement 1 is correct; the Bahmani kingdom was indeed known for its relatively tolerant policies toward different religions, including Hinduism and Islam.

Statement 2 is incorrect; while the Vijayanagar kingdom faced significant challenges and eventually fell due to a combination of internal strife and the Deccan Sultanates' coalition in the 16th century, the Mughal Empire's direct involvement in its decline is overstated.

Statement 3 is also correct; Gulbarga was the initial capital of the Bahmani kingdom before it was moved to Bidar.

45. Ans: (d)

The Azores Archipelago is indeed situated above the Azores Triple Junction, where the Eurasian, North American, and African tectonic plates converge, which plays a significant role in the region's volcanic activity.

46. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is correct; Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is indeed the largest container port in India, handling a significant portion of the country's container traffic.

Statement 2 is incorrect because Tuticorin Port is located in Tamil Nadu, not Karnataka.

Statement 3 is correct, as Mormugao Port is situated in Goa, serving as a key port for the region.

47. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is correct as Kala-azar is indeed caused by the protozoan parasite *Leishmania donovani*. Statement 2 is incorrect because the primary vector is the *Phlebotomus* sandfly, not the *Aedes* mosquito. Statement 3 is also correct, as severe anemia is a key symptom associated with Kala-azar. This disease manifests through several symptoms, including fever, weight loss, and enlargement of the spleen and liver, with severe anemia indicating advanced disease progression.

48. Ans: (d)

Statement 1 is false because e-Shram specifically targets unorganized workers, not organized sector workers.

Statement 2 is also incorrect, as the platform integrates information from 12 central schemes, not just five. This extensive integration aims to ensure that unorganized workers can benefit from multiple government initiatives.

Statement 3 is wrong; the nodal ministry for e-Shram

is the Ministry of Labour & Employment, not the Ministry of Rural Development.

49. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is correct, as the new statue is indeed dressed in a saree, which reflects India's cultural heritage and identity.

However, statement 2 is incorrect; the statue's eyes are open, symbolizing an understanding of social diversity rather than representing a blind justice approach.

Statement 3 is also incorrect because the sword has been replaced with the Indian Constitution in the statue's other hand, emphasizing constitutional supremacy over the use of force.



50. Solution: (a)

Statement 1 is incorrect; NASEEM AL BAHR involved naval forces from India and Oman, not Pakistan.

Statement 2 is correct, as the Sagar Kavach exercise did involve aerial surveillance support from Coast Guard aircraft and drones.

Statement 3 is also false, as the NASEEM AL BAHR exercise was conducted off the coast of Goa and was focused on enhancing security in the Indian Ocean region, rather than the Bay of Bengal.

51. Ans: (d)

The declining production of water chestnuts in Wular Lake is primarily due to environmental factors such as dry weather and the expansion of marshland around the lake, which affect the harvesting process and local livelihoods.

52. Ans: (c)

Roopkund Lake is located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, India, at the base of Mt. Trishul in the Garhwal Himalayas. It lies within the Nanda Devi National Park and is part of a significant pilgrimage route. Roopkund Lake is primarily fed by melting snow and glaciers surrounding the area. As a glacial lake, it relies on the snowmelt from the Garhwal Himalayas, making it vulnerable to changes in precipitation patterns and climate change.

53. Ans: (a)

The IPU is primarily funded by member contributions

from public funds. Each member parliament contributes to the budget, which finances the organization's operations and activities.

54. Ans: (b)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Tele MANAS offers 24/7 toll-free helpline services and operates in a two-tier system, with Tier 1 providing initial counselling and referrals, and Tier 2 providing specialist consultations.

Statement 3 is incorrect because Tele MANAS is designed for both remote and urban areas and is intended to be a long-term initiative.

55. Ans: (d)

The THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system is specifically designed to intercept and destroy short- to medium-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase (the final flight phase). It aims to protect regions from missile threats by neutralizing them before they reach their target.

56. Ans: (a)

The primary reason for the shrinking of Roopkund Lake is climate change, which is altering precipitation patterns and causing increased silting from moraine slides. This process is reducing both the depth and surface area of the lake, impacting its ecosystem and historical significance.

57. Ans: (c)

The X-band radar has a shorter range compared to lower frequency bands because its higher frequency leads to greater attenuation of the signal. Despite this limitation, it is highly effective for localized studies, such as monitoring landslides and flood-prone areas.

58. Ans: (b)

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The IPU Assembly is the main body that brings together parliamentarians to discuss global issues and make recommendations. Statement 2 is incorrect because budget and administration matters are the responsibility of the Governing Council, not the Assembly.

59. Ans: (d)

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: Water chestnuts are harvested in autumn, and the edible part is dried and ground into flour.

Water chestnuts are widely consumed during festivals like Navaratri and are rich in potassium, carbohydrates, and low in sodium and fat.

60. Ans: (a)

Statements 1 and 3 are correct: THAAD uses a radar to detect incoming missiles and relies on kinetic energy to destroy missiles, making it a safer system.

Statement 2 is incorrect because THAAD covers a wider area of defense compared to the Patriot missile defense system.

61. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is correct because auroras are primarily

visible near the poles where Earth's magnetic field directs charged particles.

Statement 2 is also correct as strong solar activity, such as solar flares and CMEs, can expand auroras to mid-latitudes.

Statement 3 is incorrect because solar flares and CMEs actually increase the likelihood of auroras being visible, not reduce it.

62. Ans: (c)

CDSCO does not regulate the export of Indian drugs. It focuses on approval, import control, and clinical trial oversight within India to maintain drug safety and standards.

63. Ans: (c)

UNIFIL's (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) mandate includes confirming the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, which was one of the primary objectives of the UN mission following the 1978 invasion.

64. Ans: (a)

The guided missile system of the T-90 Bhishma is designed to destroy armored targets, including those with explosive reactive armor (ERA), at a range of up to 5 kilometers.

65. Ans: (d)

All statements are incorrect. LSAM 12 was indigenously designed by an Indian shipyard (SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd) and is used for logistics operations, not combat. It is the sixth barge in a series of eight, not the first in a series of 12.

66. Ans: (d)

Green auroras are caused by charged particles interacting with oxygen, while purple hues are produced by nitrogen.

Statement 3 is incorrect as carbon dioxide does not produce blue auroras; rather, nitrogen can also emit blue light.

67. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect as UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) was established by the UN Security Council, not the General Assembly, to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces and restore peace in southern Lebanon.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct, as UNIFIL's mandate was expanded in 2006 to monitor the ceasefire and prevent hostilities, and the force includes a maritime task force to prevent arms smuggling.

68. Ans: (a)

The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution focuses on the protection of tribal welfare, land rights, and the establishment of advisory councils in Scheduled Areas to safeguard the interests of indigenous populations.

69. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is correct as the T-90 Bhishma has an advanced digital fire control system (FCS) that enhances its targeting capabilities.

Statement 2 is incorrect because the T-90 Bhishma can reach a maximum speed of 60 km/h on different terrains.

Statement 3 is incorrect because the T-90 Bhishma features a Nuclear-Biological-Chemical (NBC) protection system, which protects against nuclear, biological, and chemical threats.

70. Ans: (d)

UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) peacekeepers are allowed to use force only in self-defense or to protect civilians, not pre-emptively. UNIFIL conducts joint operations with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), meaning it does not operate independently. Its personnel come from 48 countries globally, not exclusively from the Middle East.

71. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect.

Halari donkeys are indeed used by the Bharwad and Rabari pastoralists during migration, and they are known for their resilience and strength in carrying heavy loads. However, they are native to the Halar region, not the Kutch region of Gujarat.

72. Ans: (c)

In the 2024 revision, the requirement for original literary tradition, which was not borrowed from another speech community, was dropped. The revision focused more on the inclusion of knowledge texts, epigraphical, and inscriptional evidence.

73. Ans: (d)

The Godavari River flows through Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, along with the Dayyam Vagu stream, which divides the sanctuary.

74. Ans: (b)

While SMRs have the potential to be cost-effective with large-scale production, they are not yet widely used for power generation. Although SMRs are smaller, their initial costs can be high due to the complex regulatory processes and the need for scaled production to lower costs.

75. Ans: (b)

The 2024 revision introduced the inclusion of inscriptional and epigraphical evidence. However, the language does not need to be distinct from its modern form to qualify, and Classical Language status is not restricted to languages with ancient texts in Sanskrit.

76. Ans: (d)

The Doddalathur site is located in Chamaraajanagar district, Karnataka, not in Gujarat. It does not contain stone temples but rather megalithic burial structures. The site was discovered by C. Krishnamurti of the

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1961, not in the early 20th century.

77. Ans: (c)

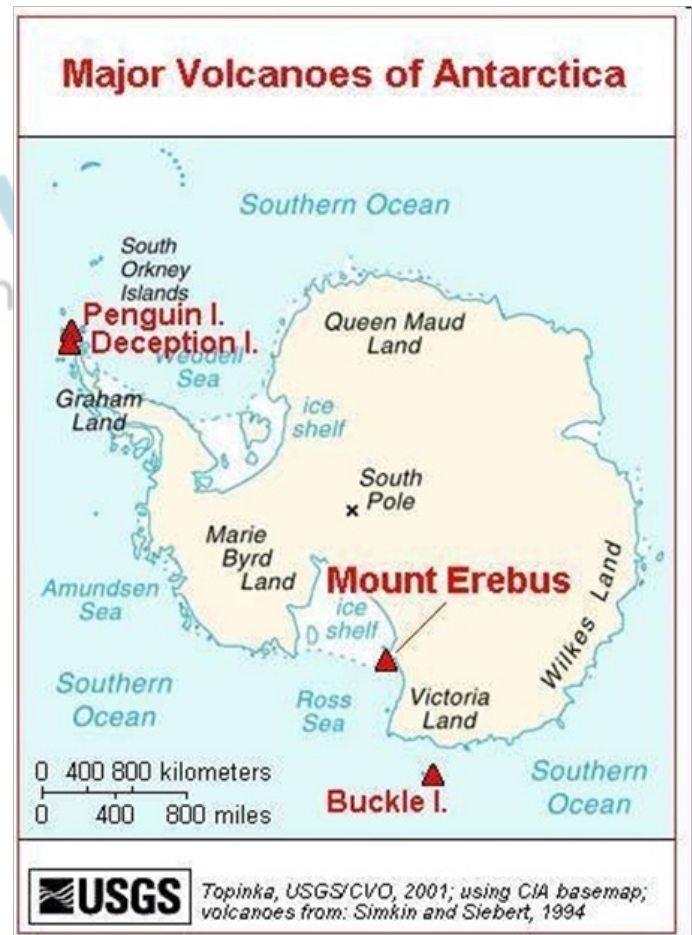
SMRs are designed to provide low-carbon electricity and can be paired with renewable energy in hybrid systems. They require less fuel compared to traditional reactors due to their smaller size and higher efficiency, making statements 2 and 3 incorrect.

78. Ans: (a)

Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Telangana, not Chhattisgarh, and it was declared a sanctuary in 1952, well before the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. The Dayyam Vagu stream does divide the sanctuary, making statement 2 correct.

79. Ans: (b)

Diego Garcia is the largest island in the Chagos Archipelago and is strategically significant due to the U.S. military base established there. It has been a focal point of the dispute between the U.K. and Mauritius, with Mauritius claiming sovereignty over the island group.



80. Ans: (a)

The second statement is correct. India's membership in the IMDRF will help align its medical device regulations with global standards, which will strengthen the regulatory system.

The first statement is incorrect because India is not a founding member of the IMDRF.

The third statement is also incorrect, as membership in the IMDRF does not automatically allow Indian medical devices to be exported to all member countries without regulatory scrutiny.

81. Ans: (b)

According to the government's criteria for recognizing a Classical Language, the language must have a documented history of at least 1,500–2,000 years (Statement 1). It must also have an original literary tradition, not borrowed from another community (Statement 2).

Statement 3 is incorrect because Classical Language status is not limited to languages spoken by a majority population in India; it is based on the historical, cultural, and literary richness of the language, not the number of speakers. Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali were recently granted this status due to their rich heritage, reflecting their contributions over millennia.

82. Ans: (d)

Statement 1 is correct; the PM Internship Scheme targets providing 1 crore youth with hands-on work experience over five years.

Statement 2 is also correct as the internships are offered across various sectors like agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles.

However, Statement 3 is incorrect because the stipend is not entirely funded by the companies. The government contributes 4,500 of the 5,000 monthly stipend, and the remaining 500 is provided by the companies.

83. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is correct; USCIRF reviews religious freedom violations worldwide and provides policy recommendations to the U.S. President, Secretary of State, and Congress.

However, Statement 2 is incorrect because USCIRF does not have enforcement powers to impose sanctions; it only provides recommendations.

Statement 3 is also incorrect as the policy recommendations of USCIRF are not mandatory for the U.S. government to implement; they are advisory in nature.

84. Ans: (c)

The NMEO-Oilseeds mission promotes oilseed cultivation on fallow lands and also encourages intercropping practices to maximize land use. Therefore, intercropping is not limited to non-fallow lands, and Statement c is incorrect. The mission also aims to increase oilseed production, reduce edible oil imports, and enhance post-harvest infrastructure for efficient oil extraction from sources like cottonseed and rice bran, as outlined in the other options.

85. Ans: (b)

Statement 1 is incorrect; the National Leopard Census (2022) revealed an 8% increase in India's leopard

population, rising from 12,852 in 2018 to 13,874 in 2022.

Statement 2 is correct as Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of leopards (3,907) in India.

Statement 3 is incorrect because the census methodology relied on camera traps and foot surveys to estimate leopard populations, not satellite imagery.

86. Ans: (d)

All three statements are correct. Once a language is recognized as a Classical Language, international awards are conferred annually to scholars for their contributions (Statement 1).

The government also establishes a Centre of Excellence for each recognized language to promote research and study (Statement 2).

Languages like Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia have already been granted Classical Language status, highlighting their antiquity and cultural significance (Statement 3). This status facilitates the preservation and promotion of the language's rich literary tradition.

87. Ans: (c)

The Chagos Archipelago is located in the central Indian Ocean, approximately 1,600 km south of India's southern tip.

88. Ans: (c)

About National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)

Origin: Announced in 2024 as part of India's broader self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) agenda.

To promote self-reliance, the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) was launched in 2021 with an outlay of Rs 11,040 crore.

Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

Funds: Total outlay of Rs 10,103 crore (Central Share: Rs 7,150 crore; State Share: Rs 2,953 crore).

Aims:

Increase domestic oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.

Reduce dependence on edible oil imports, targeting 25.45 million tonnes of domestic production by 2030-31.

Boost production of key oilseeds like rapeseed, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, and sesame.

Promote cultivation of oilseeds on fallow lands and enhance intercropping practices.

Utilize modern technologies like genome editing to boost seed quality and production.

Key features:

Introduction of Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers for EV buyers to ease the demand incentive process.

Allocation of Rs 500 crore for promoting e-ambulances.

Creation of 65 seed hubs and 50 storage units to improve seed infrastructure.

Formation of over 600 Value Chain Clusters across 347 districts, covering over 10 lakh hectares annually.

Expansion of oilseed cultivation in rice and potato fallow lands by 40 lakh hectares.

Enhancement of post-harvest infrastructure to extract more oil from sources like cottonseed and rice bran.

Mission will introduce SATHI Portal enabling States to coordinate with stakeholders for timely availability of quality seeds

Current status:

India relies on imports for 57% of its edible oil demand.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) for oilseeds has been significantly increased to ensure better prices for farmers.

The Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) supports farmers through price support and deficiency payment schemes.

A 20% import duty on edible oils has been imposed to protect domestic producers and promote local cultivation.

89. Ans: (b)

Odisha's leopard population increased by 22%, rising from 568 in 2022 to 696 in 2024, showing an encouraging growth despite ongoing concerns about poaching and habitat loss.

90. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is correct because Classical Language Status guarantees government support for academic activities in universities and research institutes.

Statement 3 is also correct as one of the criteria for Classical Language Status is a clear distinction between the classical form and its later evolved forms.

Statement 2 is incorrect because there is no requirement that only Indian citizens are eligible for the awards; they are given to eminent scholars, irrespective of nationality, for their contributions to the study of the classical language.

91. Ans: (c)

The IndiaAI Mission focuses on building a robust AI ecosystem in India through initiatives such as the IndiaAI Compute Capacity, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, etc. There is no mention of a "Global AI Governance Body" as a key component of the mission. The mission emphasizes local innovation, public-private partnerships, and responsible AI practices, with a particular focus on ethical AI and India's AI capabilities.

92. Ans: (b)

The Musaned platform does not allow foreign workers to change employers without legal process. It is primarily aimed at wage protection, employment contract verification, and monitoring financial

transactions to safeguard worker rights. The system is designed to improve working conditions and ensure that employers meet their obligations, but the ability to change employers is governed by labor laws and regulations, not the Musaned platform itself.

93. Ans: (b)

The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) aims to promote India's political, economic, and strategic interests by providing Lines of Credit (LoCs) on concessional terms to developing countries. It funds projects in sectors like infrastructure, education, water, and healthcare, often strengthening India's ties with nations in the Global South. It does not focus on domestic growth or grants to NGOs.

94. Ans: (c)

Statement 1 is incorrect because tar balls can travel significant distances from the site of oil spills, often being carried by ocean currents to shorelines far away.

Statement 2 is incorrect because tar balls can persist in the environment for long periods and continue to pose environmental hazards, especially if they contain toxic substances like PAHs.

Statement 3 is correct, as tar balls vary in size depending on environmental exposure and conditions, ranging from small pebbles to larger, fist-sized clumps. Their surface texture can also be smooth or rough based on environmental factors.

95. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is incorrect because the campaign is led by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), not the Ministry of Home Affairs or RBI.

Statement 2 is incorrect because the campaign targets the broader population, including India's vast rural and urban internet users, with over 900 million internet users in focus.

Statement 3 is correct, as the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) plays a role in the campaign, highlighting the coordination between government agencies to tackle rising cyber fraud and online scams.

96. Ans: (d)

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) is appointed by the President of India under Article 124 of the Constitution. Typically, the outgoing CJI recommends the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court as their successor, following the principle of seniority and the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP).

The Law Ministry processes the recommendation, and the President formalizes the appointment. While seniority is a crucial criterion, factors like merit and integrity are also considered, although deviations from the seniority norm are rare and would require strong justification.

97. Ans: (c)

Section 6A of the Citizenship Act stipulates that

Bangladeshi migrants who entered Assam between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971, were required to register and could obtain Indian citizenship after 10 years, provided they fulfilled the necessary conditions. Migrants before 1966 were granted citizenship retroactively, while those after March 25, 1971, were to be detected and deported under the law.

98. Ans: (d)

The Safe & Trusted AI initiative focuses on promoting indigenous AI tools and frameworks to ensure responsible and ethical AI practices. The initiative does not rely on global tools, supports AI in both public and private sectors, and is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), not the Ministry of Science and Technology.

99. Ans: (d)

Statement 1 is incorrect because Musaned is designed specifically for foreign domestic workers, not Saudi citizens. It focuses on wage protection, contract verification, and ensuring employer compliance with labor laws.

Statement 2 is incorrect because Musaned is not primarily for filing legal complaints. Its main function is wage protection and ensuring transparency in

financial transactions between employers and foreign workers. While it aids in worker protection, legal disputes must still follow the formal judicial process.

Statement 3 is incorrect because Musaned directly supports Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which aims to improve labor market conditions and ensure a more secure working environment for foreign workers by providing technological solutions for wage protection and contract enforcement.

100. Ans: (a)

Statement 1 is incorrect because there is no provision for reappointment or a second term for the Chief Justice of India. Once a CJI retires at the age of 65, they are no longer eligible for reappointment.

Statement 2 is incorrect because the principle of seniority is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution. It has developed as a convention, and while it is a key consideration, the President technically has the power to appoint any qualified judge.

Statement 3 is correct because the seniority principle has evolved as a convention and is articulated through the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), which guides the selection process of the CJI.



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