

DAILY MCQs COMPILATION *with* **EXPLANATIONS**

JANUARY, 2025

NEXT IAS

Table of Contents

❖	History, Art & Culture.....	1
❖	Economy.....	18
❖	Indian Polity & Constitution	29
❖	Geography	42
❖	Government Schemes/Initiatives	60
❖	Defense/ Internal Security.....	70
❖	International Relations.....	74
❖	Science & Technology.....	77
❖	Environment & Ecology	93
❖	Miscellaneous	103

- 13.** Which of the following best describes the Arctic-Boreal Zone (ABZ)?
- A region encompassing deserts and savannahs near the Arctic Circle.
 - A zone comprising tundra, boreal forests, and wetlands along the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere.
 - A tropical biome located near the equator.
 - A region dominated by grasslands and temperate forests in the Southern Hemisphere.
- 14.** With reference to the Sarus crane, consider the following statements:
- It is the state bird of Madhya Pradesh and is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red list of threatened species.
 - It is the world's tallest flying bird.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 15.** Blue Baby Syndrome is most commonly associated with contamination of drinking water by;
- Arsenic
 - Fluoride
 - Nitrates
 - Mercury
- 16.** Which of the following is true about the Kashmir Chinar (*Platanus orientalis*)?
- It is native to Greece and commonly found in the Eastern Himalayas.
 - The tree is evergreen and reaches a maximum height of 15 meters.
 - Char Chinar, an island in Dal Lake, is named after this tree.
 - Its wood is used for medicinal purposes and making dyes.
- Choose the correct answer using the code given below
- 1, 2, and 3 only
 - 1, 3, and 4 only
 - 2 and 4 only
 - 1 and 4 only
- 17.** With reference to the Coral Bleaching, consider the following statements:
- Corals are formed by multiple small, soft organisms known as polyps.
 - Coral bleaching occurs when corals expel the colourful algae living in their tissues.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 19.** Which of the following statements about the Corpse Flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) is correct?
- It is known for its sweet fragrance.
 - It is native to the tropical rainforests of Indonesia.
 - The plant blooms every year and lasts for several weeks.
 - It has the largest flowering structure of any plant in the world.
- Choose the correct answer using codes below:
- 1 and 2 only
 - 2 and 4 only
 - 1, 3, and 4 only
 - 2, 3, and 4 only
- 20.** Which among the following are the first Indian cities to join the global list of accredited wetland cities.
- Indore
 - Bhopal
 - Udaipur
 - Chennai

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

21. Consider the following statements with reference to Polar Bear:

1. They are the largest bears in the world and top predators of the Arctic.
2. They are found only in Canada and the United States.
3. The IUCN Red List of threatened species classifies them as Endangered species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Context: The Alappuzha district administration will conduct a mega plastic cleaning drive as part of the Vembanad lake rejuvenation project.

About the Vembanad Lake

- **Name & Location:** Locally known as **Vembanad Kayal**, it is the longest lake in India and the largest lake in Kerala (covering the districts of Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Ernakulam).
- **Rivers and Sea:** Formed from **four rivers** – the Meenachil, Achankovil, Pampa, and Manimala, the lake also has an outlet to the **Arabian Sea** in the west.
 - It serves as a major source of **freshwater** for the state but also has brackish water areas.
- **Ramsar site:** The lake is a **Ramsar site** and the second-largest wetland system in India, also housing the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary.
- **Snake Boat Race:** It is a hub of backwater tourism in the state and hosts the renowned **Nehru Trophy Boat Race**, popularly known as the Snake Boat Race, in one of its sections.

2. (c)

Context

- The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation has utilized the Miyawaki technique to transform barren areas into lush green forests.

Miyawaki Technique

- **Origin:** The Miyawaki technique, Often referred to as the '**pot plantation method**', was developed by renowned Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki** in the 1970s.
 - It is a revolutionary method for creating **dense forests in small urban spaces**.
- **Principle:** It involves planting trees and shrubs close to one another to accelerate their growth.
 - **Plants grow 10 times faster** with this technique, making it a practical solution for urban areas.
- **Significance:** In urban areas, the method is known to have successfully converted barren, polluted lands into thriving green ecosystems, simultaneously managing industrial waste and curbing pollution.

3. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark (FEE) accords the globally recognized eco-label - Blue Flag certification.

- There are over 4000 Blue Flag certified beaches across the world, with **Spain leading with a total of 729 blue flag sites, followed by Greece**.

Statements 2 and 3 are correct: India has 13 such beaches, the **Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha** is the **first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification**.

- The certification is **updated annually**, and locations must continue to meet the criteria to retain their Blue Flag status.

4. (d)

Context

- The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, have signed a memorandum of understanding to train animal welfare volunteers in animal care laws and procedures.

Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)

- It was established in 1962 under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
- It was founded under the leadership of humanitarian **Rukmini Devi Arundale**.
- **Composition:** The Board consists of **28 members**, including 6 Members of Parliament (2 from **Rajya Sabha** and 4 from **Lok Sabha**).
- **Term of Office:** The term of office for members is **3 years**.
- **Functions:** It ensures the enforcement of animal welfare laws.
 - It provides grants to Animal Welfare Organizations.
 - It advises the Government of India on animal welfare issues.

5. (c)

Recently, rare carnivorous plant *Utricularia* (Bladderworts) were found in large numbers in Rajasthan's Keoladeo National Park, showcasing the park's rich wetland biodiversity.

About *Utricularia* (Bladderworts)

- **About:** Known for its tiny bladder-like structures called **utricles that trap prey**.
- **Mechanism:** The Hair-like projections near the bladder opening are sensitive to movement, triggering a vacuum-like action to suck in prey.
- **Prey:** Feeds on small organisms like protozoa, insects, larvae, mosquitoes, and even tadpoles.
- **Habitat:** Found in lakes, streams, and waterlogged soils, requiring aquatic or semi-aquatic conditions.

Significance

- Contributes to ecological diversity by controlling insect populations.
- Helps maintain balance by naturally regulating small organism populations.

6. (a)

Context: The Standing Committee of the **National Board for Wildlife** has approved oil and gas exploration in the eco-sensitive zone of the **Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary**.

About Hollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Situated in the Jorhat district, Assam.
 - It officially includes Dissoi Valley Reserve Forest, Dissoi Reserve Forest, and Tiru Hill Reserve Forest.
- **Establishment:** Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1997.
- **Significance:** Home to India's only gibbons, the Hoolock Gibbons.
- Hosts Northeast India's only nocturnal primate, the Bengal Slow Loris.

7. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Emission Reduction: India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by **45% by 2030**, compared to 2005 levels.

Statement 2 is not correct: Renewable Energy: The country seeks to achieve **50%** of its energy needs from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, with a target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity.

- **Carbon Sink:** India plans to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through afforestation and reforestation efforts.
- India pledged to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2070** at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in 2021.

8. (a)

Context: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, inaugurated the **National Turmeric Board** in New Delhi.

About Turmeric

- **Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*)** is a flowering plant belonging to the ginger family, **Zingiberaceae**.
- It is a **perennial, rhizomatous, herbaceous** plant native to the **Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia**.
 - Turmeric is also known as '**Golden Spice**'.
- **Geographical Condition:** Turmeric thrives in temperatures ranging between **20°C and 30°C** with high annual rainfall.
- Turmeric farmers are spread across 20 states, including **Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, and Meghalaya**.

9. (d)

Black Tigers

- **About:** Black tigers are not a distinct species or subspecies but a rare color variant of the Bengal tiger.
 - Their distinctive fur pattern arises from **melanism, a genetic condition (mutation)**. The white fur results from a lack of the pigment **pheomelanin**.
 - Melanistic tigers tend to grow faster and are often heavier than their non-melanistic counterparts.
- **Genetic Drift:** Geographic isolation has led to inbreeding within Similipal, where genetically related tigers have mated for generations, amplifying the mutation.
- **Black Tigers Beyond Similipal:** Found in captivity at Nandankanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi Zoo, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai

Similipal National Park

- Similipal is one of India's largest biospheres, designated as a tiger reserve under Project Tiger (1973).
- Named after the Simul tree (silk cotton), abundant in the region.
- Recognized as a Biosphere Reserve by the Indian government in June 1994.
- Added to UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve list in May 2009.
- Similipal has the world's highest rate of black tiger sightings, making it a significant habitat for this rare variant.

10. (a)

Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is **native to South America** and was introduced to Kenya in the 1980s as an ornamental plant.

- It is an **aquatic weed** common in waterbodies across **South Asia, including India**.

- It was introduced to India during the British colonial rule as an **ornamental aquatic plant**.
- It is considered the **most invasive aquatic plant species in the world**.

11. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Paris Agreement is a **legally binding international treaty** on climate change, adopted in **2015**, at the **COP21** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- It aims to **limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- The Paris Agreement emphasizes **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** and encourages all countries to take climate action.
 - Countries must **review and update their NDCs every five years** to enhance their efforts and increase ambition over time.

Statement 2 is not correct: **Article 28 of the Paris Agreement** lays out the procedure and timeline for a country's withdrawal from the treaty.

- Any time after **three years from the date on which this Agreement has entered into force** for a Party, that Party may withdraw from this Agreement by giving written notification.

12. (a)

Statement 1 is correct: Ethanol blending refers to the **practice of mixing ethanol with gasoline** to create a fuel mixture that can be used in internal combustion engines.

- **There are a few common blends:**
 - **E10:** This is a mixture of 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. It is the most common blend and is used widely in many countries.
 - **E15:** This blend contains 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline.
 - **E85:** This is a high-ethanol blend, consisting of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline. It's used in flex-fuel vehicles designed to run on higher ethanol content.

Statement 2 is not correct: There is a significant increase in the overall ethanol blending percentage of India, rising from **1.53% in 2014** to an impressive **15% in 2024**.

- After achieving **15% ethanol blending in 2024**, the government set an ambitious target of achieving **20% blending by 2025-26**.

13. (b)

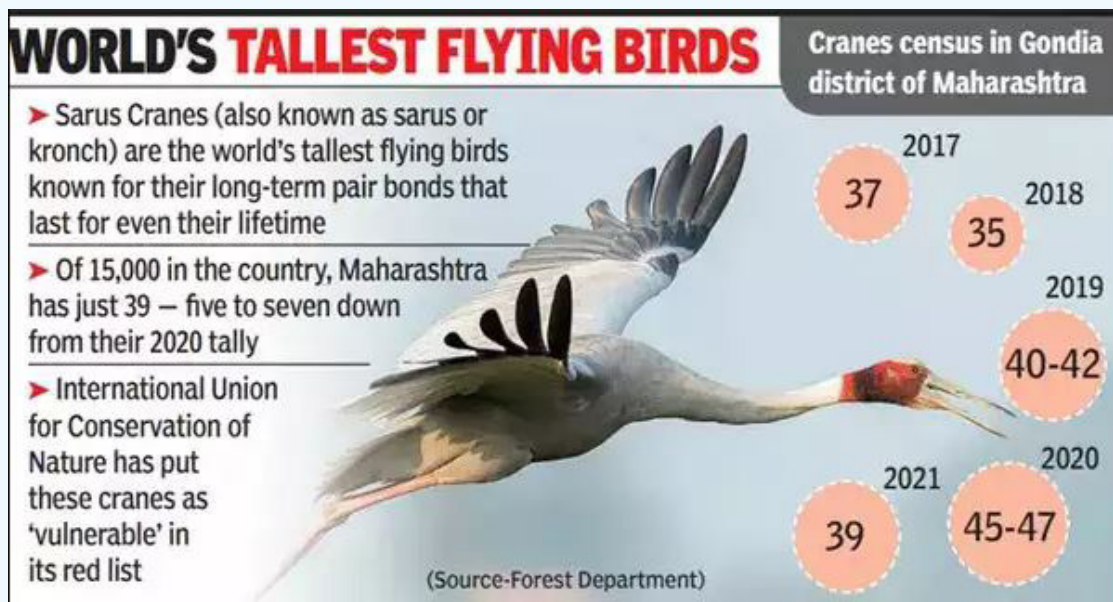
The Arctic-Boreal Zone (ABZ) is a vast ecological and geographical region that plays a critical role in Earth's climate system and biodiversity. The ABZ encompasses treeless tundra, boreal forests (taiga), and wetlands. It spans regions along the Arctic Circle in the Northern Hemisphere, including parts of North America, Europe, and Asia.

14. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: **Dhanauri Water Body** is nestled within the **floodplains of Yamuna Basin within 15 kms of River Yamuna**.

- It is a **Sarus crane hotspot** which is **Uttar Pradesh's state bird and is vulnerable (IUCN Status)**.

Statement 2 is correct: **Sauras Crane** is the world's tallest flying bird.



15. (c)

Context

- A report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), highlighted that the rise in nitrogen fertilizers has resulted in biodiversity loss and exacerbated climate change.

Impacts of Nitrogen Pollution

- **Health Impacts:**
 - It causes **methemoglobinemia (blue baby syndrome)** in infants by reducing blood's oxygen-carrying capacity.
 - It is linked to **cancers, reproductive issues**, and thyroid problems from long-term nitrate exposure.
- **Environmental Impacts:**
 - It leads to **eutrophication**, harmful algal blooms, and oxygen-depleted **"dead zones"** in water bodies.
 - It contributes to climate change through **nitrous oxide** emissions, **300 times** more potent than carbon dioxide.

16. (b)

In News

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has launched a **"Digital Tree Aadhaar"** program to conserve the iconic Chinar trees.

About Kashmir Chinars (*Platanus orientalis*)

- The **Kashmir Chinar (*Platanus orientalis*)**, native to Greece and Southern Europe, thrives throughout Kashmir, particularly in the **Eastern Himalayas**.
- It is famously associated with **Char Chinar**, an island on Dal Lake, Srinagar, named after the **four Chinar trees present there**.
- They can grow up to 30 meters tall, taking approximately 150 years to reach full height.

Applications

- **Medicinal Use:** Various parts of the tree, such as bark and leaves, are used in traditional medicine.
- **Wood:** The wood is prized for making interior furniture due to its durability and aesthetic appeal.

- **Dye Production:** The tree is also utilized in the preparation of natural dyes.
- **Cultural Significance:** The Chinar tree is often considered a symbol of Kashmir, deeply rooted in its history, culture, and natural beauty.

18. (c)

Both the statements are correct: Corals are **invertebrates** that belong to a large group of animals called **Cnidaria**.

- Corals are formed by **multiple small, soft organisms known as polyps**.
- They secrete a **rocky chalk-like (calcium carbonate) exoskeleton** around themselves for protection.
- **Coral reefs** are therefore created by **millions of tiny polyps forming large carbonate structures**.
- **Appearance:** Corals range in colour from **red to purple and even blue**, but are most commonly shades of **brown and green**.
 - Coral are bright and colorful because of microscopic algae called **zooxanthellae**.
- Coral bleaching occurs when **corals expel the colourful algae** living in their tissues.
 - Without these helpful algae, the **corals become pale** and are vulnerable to **starvation and disease**.
 - A bleached coral is not dead, but **ocean temperatures need to cool off for any hope of recovery**.

19. (b)

In News: A rare plant known as the corpse flower bloomed in Sydney for the first time in more than a decade.

Corpse Flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) doesn't attract bees with a sweet fragrance. Instead, it emits a foul odor resembling rotting flesh to attract pollinators like flies and beetles. It is native to the tropical rainforests of Indonesia, it boasts the largest unbranched flowering structure in the plant kingdom. Its blooming period is infrequent and short-lived, lasting only a few days after years of dormancy.

20. (a)

Indore and Udaipur have become the **first two Indian cities** to join the **global list of accredited wetland cities**.

- **Sirpur Lake, a Ramsar Site in Indore**, has been recognised for water bird congregation and is being developed as a bird sanctuary.
- **Udaipur in Rajasthan** is surrounded by **five major wetlands**, namely, Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai.
- It is part of the **Ramsar Convention**, and was approved during **COP12** held in the year **2015**.
- **Accreditation is granted to only those cities** which satisfy all the **six international criteria** including adopting measures for conservation of wetlands and their ecosystem services.
- **Aim:** To promote conservation and wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands.
- **Validity:** It is valid for **6 years**, after which it must be renewed, providing that it continues to fill each of the 6 criteria.
- **The global list of 74 accredited wetland cities** comprises the **highest 22 from China** followed by nine from France.

21. (a)

In News: A recent study revealed that polar bear fur contains an **oily substance(sebum)** that helps them stay dry despite sliding on ice and diving into water.

Statement 1 is correct : Polar bears are the **largest bears in the world and top predators of the Arctic**.

- Their Latin name, **Ursus maritimus**, meaning “sea bear,” reflects their life spent predominantly on sea ice in the Arctic.

Statements 2 and 3 are not correct : Polar Bears occur at low densities throughout the circumpolar Arctic and are more abundant in shallower, ice-covered waters associated with the continental shelf

- The species is found in **Canada, Greenland/Denmark, Norway , Russian ,United States (Alaska)**.
- **IUCN Status : Vulnerable**

■■■■



MISCELLANEOUS

1. Future of Jobs Report 2025, recently seen in the news, was released by which of the following?
(a) United Nations (UN) (b) International Labour Organization (ILO)
(c) World Economic Forum (WEF) (d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
2. The Bibek Debroy Committee, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
(a) Minimum Support Price (b) Banking Mergers
(c) Defence Modernization (d) Railway Reforms
3. With reference to the Beating Retreat Ceremony in India, consider the following statements:
1. The ceremony is presided over by the Chief of Defence Staff.
2. It was first held in the 1950s, during the state visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
4. The Kampala Declaration, recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
(a) Advancing agri-food systems (b) Promoting digital literacy
(c) Enhancing healthcare infrastructure (d) Strengthening maritime cooperation
5. The case of Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab (1980), recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
(a) Police Reform (b) Sedition Law
(c) Transgenders (d) Death Penalty
6. Consider the following statements regarding the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER):
1. It is a nationwide citizen-led household survey released by the Ministry of Education.
2. It has been conducted annually since 2005.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
7. Consider the following International conventions:
1. Convention on Psychotropic Substances
2. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs
3. UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances
What is the correct order of the adoption of the above conventions?
(a) 1-2-3 (b) 2-1-3
(c) 2-3-1 (d) 3-1-2

8. World Development Report 2024, recently seen in the news, is released by which of the following?
- (a) World Bank
 - (b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
 - (d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
9. The 'Hotan Prefecture' (also known as Khotan), sometimes appeared in the news is in the context of:
- (a) Space Docking Experiment
 - (b) Point on Surface of Moon
 - (c) Mantle Beneath Reunion Hotspot
 - (d) Issue with India and China
10. Which one of the following international institutions is responsible for publishing the 'Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers' report?
- (a) International Organization for Migration (IOM)
 - (b) International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - (d) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
11. The 'Project 39A' in India, sometimes appeared in the media, is primarily related to:
- (a) Capital Punishment
 - (b) Submarines Acquisition
 - (c) Safeguarding Western Ghats
 - (d) Space Docking
12. What is the primary purpose of the Idate Commission in India?
- (a) To review and recommend policies for digital education.
 - (b) To study the financial relations between the Centre and States.
 - (c) To address socio-economic issues of nomadic and semi-nomadic communities.
 - (d) To evaluate and regulate the use of biometric data in governance.
13. World Economic Outlook, recently seen in the news, is released by which of the following?
- (a) World Bank
 - (b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - (c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - (d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
14. The Abraham Accord and Oslo Accord, recently seen in the news, are related to which of the following?
- (a) Peace agreements involving Israel
 - (b) Climate action plans in the Middle East
 - (c) Trade agreements in the Mediterranean region
 - (d) Regional military alliances
15. The report titled 'Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025,' recently seen in the news, was released by which of the following?
- (a) Ministry of Finance
 - (b) Reserve Bank of India
 - (c) Comptroller and Auditor General of India
 - (d) NITI Aayog

- 16.** What is the primary purpose of “hush money”?
- To silence a person regarding illegal, unethical, or immoral actions
 - To compensate for financial loss due to defamation
 - To bribe a government official
 - To pay for legal defense
- 17.** Recently, India’s first glass bridge over the sea was inaugurated in which of the following states?
- Kerala
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
- 18.** The ‘123 Agreement’, sometimes appeared in the news, is primarily in the context of:
- Combating Climate Change
 - Nuclear Energy Use
 - Issues of Human Rights
 - Arms Race in Outer Space
- 19.** Which of the following sports personalities were recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2024?
- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Gukesh D | 2. Harmanpreet Singh |
| 3. Manu Bhaker | 4. Renu Kohli |
- Select the correct answer using the codes given below:
- 1, 2, and 3 only
 - 2, 3, and 4 only
 - 1 and 4 only
 - 1, 2, 3, and 4
- 20.** World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report, recently seen in the news, was released by which of the following?
- United Nations (UN)
 - International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - World Economic Forum (WEF)
- 21.** Which of the following best describes the objective of the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA)?
- Promoting green bonds and sustainable investments.
 - Mobilizing private capital to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - Aligning banking sector activities with the goals of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
 - Establishing carbon taxes for international financial institutions.
- 22.** Consider the following statements with reference to the World Braille Day:
- The day was adopted in 2018 by the United Nations General Assembly.
 - The Braille system was developed by Louis Braille for people with impaired hearing.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2
- 23.** The Carter Doctrine, announced in 1980, primarily aimed to:
- Contain the spread of communism in Southeast Asia.
 - Deter Soviet expansionism in the Persian Gulf region.
 - Resolve the ongoing Iranian hostage crisis.
 - Promote democracy and human rights in the Middle East.

24. Which among the following has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), succeeding Dr. S. Somanath?
- (a) Dr. K. Sivan (b) Dr. V. Narayanan
(c) Dr. R. Shankar (d) Dr. A. N. Prakash
25. India's first organic fisheries cluster was launched in which of the following states?
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) West Bengal
(c) Sikkim (d) Andhra Pradesh
26. Which organization is responsible for the implementation and coordination of the ONOS initiative?
- (a) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
(b) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)
(c) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)
(d) Department of Science and Technology (DST)
27. He was an Indian mathematician and physicist known for his work on quantum mechanics and was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1954. Rabindranath Tagore dedicated his only book on science, *Visva-Parichay*, to him.
Which of the following personalities has been described above?
- (a) C. V. Raman (b) Srinivasa Ramanujan
(c) Satyendra Nath Bose (d) Jagadish Chandra Bose
28. Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, recently seen in the news, was released by which of the following?
- (a) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
(b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
(d) World Economic Forum (WEF)
29. The Business Ready (B-READY) Report is published by which of the following organizations?
- (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
(c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
(d) World Bank
30. Binodini Dasi, recently seen in news, is associated with which of the following?
- (a) Indian independence movement
(b) Bengali theatre and acting
(c) Indian classical dance
(d) Women's suffrage movement
31. Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report 2025, recently seen in the news, was released by which of the following?
- (a) International Monetary Fund (b) United Nations
(c) World Bank (d) World Economic Forum

32. The Saraswati River is mentioned in which of the following?
- (a) Rigveda (b) Yajurveda
(c) Samaveda (d) Atharvaveda
33. Which has become the first state of India to link forest ecosystems with Green GDP?
- (a) Jharkhand (b) Mizoram
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
34. Consider the following statements:
- Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is an apex body established under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
 - Bt Cotton and Bt Brinjal are the only crops permitted for cultivation in India by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC).
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
35. India's first-ever census of coastal and wader birds is being conducted by which of the following states?
- (a) Odisha (b) Gujarat
(c) Maharashtra (d) Tamil Nadu
36. Community Notes recently seen in the news, is related to which of the following?
- (a) Mental Well Being (b) Cyber Bullying
(c) Fact Checking (d) Crypto currency
37. Which among the following countries has launched the "Stargate Project" to strengthen its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities?
- (a) India (b) U.S.A
(c) Japan (d) Australia

EXPLANATIONS

1. (c)

Context: The **Future of Jobs Report 2025** is released by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.

Key Takeaways

- Job Disruption and Creation:** By 2030, 22% of jobs are expected to face disruption. 170 million new jobs will be created, driven by technological advancements and other factors.
- Fastest Growing Jobs:** Employers are increasingly looking to automation and AI to reduce workforce size and upskill employees.
 - AI and big data skills will rise by 87%, followed by cybersecurity (70%).
- Fastest Declining Jobs:** Roles such as postal service clerks, bank tellers, data entry clerks, cashiers, and telemarketers are expected to experience the greatest decline.
- India-Specific Insights:** Digital access, geopolitical tensions, and climate change efforts will drive job trends in India.
 - There is significant investment in AI, robotics, autonomous systems, and energy technologies.

2. (d)

Context: The Budget, tabled in Parliament by the Finance Minister, is the Government's blueprint on expenditure, taxes it plans to levy, which affect the economy and lives of citizens.

About

- The Union Budget of India, referred to as the **annual Financial Statement in Article 112** of the Constitution of India, is the annual budget of the Republic of India, presented each year by the Finance Minister.
- The budget has to be **passed by the House** before it can come into effect on April 1, the start of India's financial year.
- After being presented separately for 92 years, the Railway budget was merged in the Union Budget in 2017 and presented together on the recommendation of the **Bibek Debroy Committee**.
 - The committee also recommended concessioning of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties.

3. (b)

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a ceremony that marks the **end of Republic Day festivities**.

- **Held on:** January 29, three days after Republic Day, at the Vijay Chowk, New Delhi.
- It features a musical performance by the bands of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Delhi Police, and the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).
- The ceremony is **presided over by the President of India**.

Statement 2 is not correct: It was first held in the **1950s**, during the **state visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip**.

- Since then, the ceremony has become an annual event to pay tribute to the valour and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.

4. (a)

Context: The **Kampala Declaration** for Africa's agri-food systems from 2026 to 2035 was adopted in the Extraordinary African Union Summit on the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP)**.

About

- The new declaration is the successor to the **Malabo Declaration**.
- During the summit, African leaders endorsed the **ten-year CAADP action plan (2026–2035)**, outlining a detailed roadmap for transforming agriculture across Africa.

Objectives of Kampala Declaration

- **Intensifying sustainable food production**, agro-industrialization, and trade,
- **Boosting Investment and Financing** for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation,
- Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security,
- Strengthening Agrifood Systems Governance.

5. (d)

Context: A sessions court in Kolkata sentenced Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment for the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, rejecting demands for the death penalty.

- It is a **crowdsourced fact-checking model** that **allows** users to add facts and context below a specific post.
- A Community Note shows up below a post **only if enough contributors vote that the context it provides is helpful**.
- As a result, the **model is said to become better** as more users participate.

37. (b)

Context

- The United States has launched a significant initiative under the “Stargate Project” to strengthen its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.

What is Stargate?

- Stargate is a **\$500 billion** initiative designed to establish a comprehensive **artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure** in the United States over the next **four years**.
 - It is a collaborative effort between **OpenAI, SoftBank, and Oracle**, with an initial \$100 billion investment.
- The project involves constructing **massive data centers** and campuses across the country to support the development and deployment of AI technologies at scale.
- Stargate is envisioned as a critical step toward re-industrializing the United States and enhancing its technological capabilities.

