

# AILET Current Affairs & General Knowledge

## Sample Paper – 2

Duration: 21 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 35

### Instructions

- This paper contains **35** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Current Affairs & General Knowledge portion of **AILET** entrance.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is a **deduction of 0.25 marks per wrong answer**. **Unattempted questions carry no penalty**.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **National and international current affairs (last 18 months); Indian Polity and Constitution; Geography; Economy; Science and Technology; Sports and Awards**.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

### Section A: National Current Affairs – Politics & Governance (Q.1–9)

**Q.1.** Which two ethnic communities were primarily involved in the prolonged violence that erupted in Manipur in May 2023, leading to large-scale displacement and direct intervention by the Centre?

- (A) Naga and Bodo
- (B) Meitei and Kuki-Zo
- (C) Garo and Khasi
- (D) Mizo and Chakma

**Q.2.** In the 2024 Indian general elections (18th Lok Sabha), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won how many seats – a number that fell short of the outright majority mark and compelled it to depend on coalition partners?



- (A) 303
- (B) 272
- (C) 240
- (D) 262

**Q.3.** The PM Internship Scheme, launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in October 2024, aims to provide internship opportunities in top Indian companies to how many youth over a period of five years?

- (A) 5 lakh
- (B) 10 lakh
- (C) 50 lakh
- (D) 1 crore

**Q.4.** The “Kavach” system being deployed on Indian Railways is an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Its primary purpose is to:

- (A) Automatically apply brakes to prevent head-on collisions and Signal Passing at Danger (SPAD)
- (B) Monitor track geometry and alert maintenance crews in real time
- (C) Automate ticket checking and gate management at major stations
- (D) Provide real-time GPS tracking of freight wagons across zones

**Q.5.** The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023 was enacted with which primary objective?

- (A) To strengthen consumer protection across digital commerce platforms
- (B) To decriminalise minor offences in 42 central laws, easing the burden on courts and improving the ease of doing business
- (C) To amend the Indian Penal Code and introduce stricter corporate governance norms
- (D) To regulate environmental violations committed by manufacturing industries



- Q.6.** The Vande Bharat Sleeper train, which began trial runs in 2024, differs from the existing Vande Bharat Express chair-car version primarily because it:
- (A) Runs exclusively on solar-powered electricity generated from rooftop panels
  - (B) Is designed to operate at 200 kmph on dedicated freight corridors
  - (C) Is designed for overnight long-distance travel with sleeper berths and can operate at speeds up to 160 kmph
  - (D) Uses Hyperloop technology for seamless inter-city connectivity
- Q.7.** The diplomatic standoff between India and the Maldives in early 2024 was primarily triggered by:
- (A) India's suspension of essential food and medicine supplies to the Maldives
  - (B) The Maldives joining the QUAD security grouping against India's wishes
  - (C) India's imposition of trade restrictions on Maldivian fish exports
  - (D) Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's demand for the withdrawal of Indian military personnel stationed on the islands
- Q.8.** The National Logistics Policy (NLP), launched in September 2022 under the PM GatiShakti framework, set a target to reduce India's logistics cost as a percentage of GDP to approximately:
- (A) 8% from the prevailing level of around 13–14%
  - (B) 5% to match the most efficient global benchmarks
  - (C) 10% over a ten-year planning horizon
  - (D) 12% as an interim milestone by 2025
- Q.9.** Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0), approved by the Union Cabinet in 2024, targets construction of affordable houses for how many urban poor and middle-class families over the next five years?



- (A) 50 lakh families
- (B) 1 crore families
- (C) 2 crore families
- (D) 3 crore families

**Section B: Indian Polity & Constitution (Q.10–14)**

- Q.10.** Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is President's Rule imposed in a state when the constitutional machinery of that state has failed?
- (A) Article 352
  - (B) Article 360
  - (C) Article 356
  - (D) Article 370
- Q.11.** In his capacity as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Vice President of India:
- (A) Has a general vote like any ordinary member of the House
  - (B) Presides over joint sittings of both Houses of Parliament
  - (C) Can introduce money bills in the Rajya Sabha for consideration
  - (D) Has only a casting vote, exercisable solely in the event of a tie
- Q.12.** The power of the Supreme Court of India to transfer any case or appeal pending before one High Court to another High Court is enshrined in:
- (A) Article 139A
  - (B) Article 136
  - (C) Article 32
  - (D) Article 141
- Q.13.** The 15th Finance Commission, chaired by N.K. Singh, recommended what share of the divisible pool of central taxes be devolved to the states for the award period 2021–26?



- (A) 40%
- (B) 41%
- (C) 42%
- (D) 45%

**Q.14.** Which of the following statements about Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committees in India is **NOT** correct?

- (A) They scrutinise bills referred to them by the respective House
- (B) They can call witnesses, including government officials, to depose before them
- (C) Their recommendations are constitutionally binding on the government and Parliament
- (D) They examine the demands for grants presented by various ministries

**Section C: International Current Affairs (Q.15–19)**

**Q.15.** The India–Canada diplomatic standoff that escalated sharply in 2023–24 was primarily sparked by:

- (A) Disputes over Canadian tariffs imposed on Indian steel and aluminium exports
- (B) Canada's open endorsement of Khalistan referendum activities conducted in Canadian cities
- (C) Differences on the text of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration regarding Ukraine
- (D) Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that Indian government agents were involved in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia

**Q.16.** India's consistent stance on the ongoing Russia–Ukraine conflict has been to:

- (A) Call for dialogue and diplomacy while abstaining from UN General Assembly resolutions that condemned Russia's military actions



- (B) Unconditionally support Russia's military operation and veto all Security Council resolutions against Russia
- (C) Lead a multilateral coalition to impose comprehensive economic sanctions on Russia
- (D) Request immediate NATO military intervention on behalf of Ukraine

**Q.17.** In January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued interim (provisional) measures in the case brought by South Africa against Israel under the Genocide Convention. These measures:

- (A) Ordered an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in the Gaza Strip
- (B) Directed Israel to take all measures within its power to prevent acts prohibited under the Genocide Convention, while stopping short of ordering a ceasefire
- (C) Expelled Israel from all UN bodies pending a full hearing on the merits
- (D) Recognised Palestine as a full member state of the United Nations

**Q.18.** The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which came into force on 1 May 2022, set a bilateral non-oil trade target of:

- (A) \$50 billion within three years of implementation
- (B) \$75 billion by the year 2027
- (C) \$100 billion within five years of implementation
- (D) \$150 billion by the year 2035

**Q.19.** The QUAD Leaders' Summit of September 2024, which issued a comprehensive joint statement on Indo-Pacific security and cooperation, was hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden in which American city?

- (A) Washington, D.C.
- (B) New York City
- (C) San Francisco, California



(D) Wilmington, Delaware

**Section D: Sports & Awards (Q.20–23)**

- Q.20.** At the Paris Olympics 2024, Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen's campaign ended when:
- (A) He reached the semifinals but lost to Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) and subsequently lost the bronze-medal match to Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia), finishing 4th
  - (B) He won the gold medal by defeating Viktor Axelsen in the final
  - (C) He was knocked out in the Round of 16 stage of the competition
  - (D) He won a bronze medal by defeating Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia) in the bronze-medal match
- Q.21.** D. Gukesh became the youngest-ever undisputed World Chess Champion in December 2024 by defeating which reigning champion in a match held in Singapore?
- (A) Magnus Carlsen (Norway)
  - (B) Ding Liren (China)
  - (C) Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia)
  - (D) Fabiano Caruana (USA)
- Q.22.** Shooter Manu Bhaker created history at the Paris Olympics 2024 by becoming the first Indian in the post-independence era to win two medals in a single Olympic Games. Her two medals came in:
- (A) 25m pistol (individual) and 50m rifle three positions (mixed team)
  - (B) 10m air rifle (individual) and 25m pistol (mixed team)
  - (C) 10m air pistol (individual) and 10m air pistol mixed team (with Sarabjot Singh)
  - (D) 50m pistol (individual) and 10m air pistol (mixed team)
- Q.23.** The Government of India announced five Bharat Ratna awards in 2024. Which of the following personalities was **NOT** among the recipients?



- (A) Lal Krishna Advani
- (B) M.S. Swaminathan (posthumous)
- (C) Karpoori Thakur (posthumous)
- (D) Manmohan Singh

**Section E: Persons in News (Q.24–26)**

- Q.24.** The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024 was awarded to David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John M. Jumper. The prize recognised their groundbreaking work on:
- (A) Computational protein design and AI-based prediction of protein three-dimensional structures
  - (B) Development of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing tools for therapeutic applications
  - (C) Synthesis of mRNA vaccines using lipid nanoparticle delivery systems
  - (D) Discovery of carbon nanotube-based catalysts for industrial chemistry
- Q.25.** Who won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2024, becoming the first South Korean and the 18th woman ever to receive this prestigious award?
- (A) Haruki Murakami
  - (B) Han Kang
  - (C) Kazuo Ishiguro
  - (D) Olga Tokarczuk
- Q.26.** Who was appointed as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das whose six-year tenure had ended?
- (A) Raghuram Rajan
  - (B) Urjit Patel
  - (C) Sanjay Malhotra



(D) T. Rabi Sankar

**Section F: Science & Technology (Q.27–30)**

- Q.27.** ISRO's XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite), launched on 1 January 2024 aboard PSLV-C58, is India's first dedicated space observatory designed to study:
- (A) Solar wind particles and coronal mass ejections from the Sun
  - (B) Variations in Earth's geomagnetic field from low Earth orbit
  - (C) Gravitational waves emitted by merging neutron star binaries
  - (D) X-ray polarisation from bright cosmic sources such as black holes, neutron stars, and active galactic nuclei
- Q.28.** Gaganyaan, India's first crewed orbital spaceflight mission being developed by ISRO, aims to place Indian astronauts – called "Gaganauts" – in:
- (A) A 400 km Low Earth Orbit for approximately 3 days before splash-down in the Bay of Bengal
  - (B) A 1,000 km orbit for 7 days before atmospheric reentry and recovery
  - (C) The International Space Station for a 6-month long-duration mission
  - (D) Lunar orbit for 14 days as part of an extended Chandrayaan programme
- Q.29.** The Pralay surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile, developed by DRDO and inducted into the Indian Army, has an operational range of approximately:
- (A) 100–150 km
  - (B) 150–500 km
  - (C) 600–800 km
  - (D) 1,000–2,000 km
- Q.30.** Regarding the BrahMos missile programme, which of the following statements is **correct**?



- (A) BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture in which India holds 75% equity and Russia holds 25%
- (B) The current production version of BrahMos travels at Mach 5, making it a hypersonic missile
- (C) India and Russia are jointly developing a hypersonic version called BrahMos-II, expected to achieve speeds of Mach 7–8 using scramjet propulsion
- (D) BrahMos can be launched exclusively from naval surface platforms and submarines

**Section G: Economy & Business (Q.31–33)**

- Q.31.** By calendar year 2024, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) reached a landmark in terms of annual transaction volume. Which of the following best captures this milestone?
- (A) UPI surpassed 50 crore registered user accounts across the country
  - (B) UPI became fully operational in 25 countries through bilateral payment linkages
  - (C) UPI recorded more than 1 billion (100 crore) transactions in a single day for the first time
  - (D) UPI crossed 100 billion (approximately 10,000 crore) transactions in a single calendar year
- Q.32.** India's foreign exchange reserves crossed a historic all-time high of nearly \$704 billion during which period, before moderating as the RBI intervened in the currency market?
- (A) September–October 2024
  - (B) January–February 2023
  - (C) March–April 2022
  - (D) December 2021–January 2022



- Q.33.** The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), unveiled by NITI Aayog in August 2021 to unlock value from brownfield public-sector infrastructure assets, set an aggregate monetisation target of:
- (A) Rs. 4 lakh crore over four years (FY2022–25)
  - (B) Rs. 6 lakh crore over four years (FY2022–25)
  - (C) Rs. 8 lakh crore over four years (FY2022–25)
  - (D) Rs. 10 lakh crore over four years (FY2022–25)

**Section H: Environment & Geography (Q.34–35)**

- Q.34.** Which international body designated 2024 as the “International Year of Camelids” to raise global awareness of the contribution of camels, llamas, alpacas, and related species to food security and sustainable livelihoods?
- (A) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
  - (B) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - (C) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
  - (D) World Health Organization (WHO)
- Q.35.** Cyclone Remal, which made landfall near the Bangladesh–West Bengal coast on 26–27 May 2024 and caused severe flooding across northeastern India, was notable because it was:
- (A) The strongest tropical cyclone ever recorded over the Bay of Bengal in recorded history
  - (B) A rare Category 5 super cyclone that produced an unprecedented storm surge of over 10 metres
  - (C) The first cyclone to simultaneously affect all eight states of northeast India
  - (D) The first pre-monsoon cyclone to make landfall over Bangladesh since 1965



## Detailed Solutions

Sol.1.

### Solution

The Manipur ethnic crisis that erupted on 3 May 2023 was primarily a conflict between the **Meitei** community (valley-dominant, largely Hindu, seeking Scheduled Tribe status) and the **Kuki-Zo** community (hill-dwelling, largely Christian tribes). The immediate trigger was a “Tribal Solidarity March” called by the All Tribal Students’ Union Manipur (ATSUM) to protest a Manipur High Court order directing the state government to recommend Scheduled Tribe status for the Meiteis. Violence spread rapidly: over 200 persons were killed, more than 60,000 were displaced, and thousands of homes, churches, and relief camps were attacked. The Centre deployed the Army and CRPF, imposed internet shutdowns, and the Supreme Court took *suo motu* cognisance of the situation. The Meitei–Kuki-Zo ethnic divide is the central cleavage, making option **(B)** correct. Options (A), (C), and (D) name communities primarily associated with other northeastern states.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q1](#)

Sol.2.

### Solution

In the 18th Lok Sabha General Elections held in April–June 2024, the BJP won **240 seats** – a significant decline from its 2019 tally of 303 seats and below the outright majority mark of 272. This made the BJP dependent on NDA coalition partners – notably the Telugu Desam Party (TDP, 16 seats) and the Janata Dal (United) (JDU, 12 seats) – to form the government. The NDA collectively won approximately 293 seats. Option (A) (303) reflects the 2019 BJP result; option (B) (272) is the Lok Sabha majority mark; option (D) (262) does not correspond to any actual figure from the election. The correct answer is **(C)**.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q2](#)



Sol.3.

**Solution**

The **PM Internship Scheme** was launched by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in October 2024 (pilot phase). It is designed to provide 12-month paid internship opportunities at India's top 500 companies to youth aged 21–24 years who are neither in full-time employment nor in full-time formal education. The government's stated target is to provide internships to **1 crore (10 million) youth** over five years. Each intern receives a monthly stipend of Rs. 5,000 (Rs. 4,500 from the government's PM Internship Scheme Fund + Rs. 500 from the company's CSR funds) along with a one-time grant of Rs. 6,000 for incidental expenses. Option **(D)** is correct; options (A), (B), and (C) significantly understate the scheme's ambitious target.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q3](#)

Sol.4.

**Solution**

**Kavach** (Sanskrit for “armour”) is an Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system developed indigenously by the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with Indian private industry. It works by equipping locomotives and track-side stations with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) readers and continuous radio communication. When two Kavach-equipped trains approach each other on the same track within a defined safety distance, the system **automatically applies brakes** to prevent a head-on collision. It also prevents a driver from passing a signal at danger (SPAD). The system came into sharp national focus after the tragic Balasore (Odisha) three-train collision of June 2023 (293 fatalities), which occurred on a stretch not yet covered by Kavach. Options (B), (C), and (D) describe functions not performed by ATP. The correct answer is **(A)**.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q4](#)

Sol.5.

**Solution**

The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023** amended **42 central laws** across 19 ministries/departments to convert minor, technical, or procedural violations – such as printing an incorrect label on a product, failing to display a shop licence number, or breaching notified timelines in administrative procedures – from criminal offences attracting imprisonment into civil penalties or compoundable fines. The core principle is that the coercive machinery of criminal law should not be deployed for regulatory infractions that cause no significant harm. This reduces unnecessary litigation, judicial burden, and regulatory risk for businesses, directly improving the *Ease of Doing Business* and *Ease of Living* indices. Options (A), (C), and (D) describe unrelated legislative actions. The correct answer is **(B)**.

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q5](#)

Sol.6.

**Solution**

The **Vande Bharat Sleeper** (also called Train Set Sleeper, TSS) is an evolution of the semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express platform, reconfigured for overnight long-distance routes. Key features of the prototype include: **automatic plug-type doors**, ergonomically designed AC sleeper berths across 16 AC 3-tier and 1 AC 2-tier coaches in the 16-car configuration, emergency talk-back systems, integrated Braille displays, and bio-vacuum toilets. Its design allows operation at speeds up to **160 kmph**. Trial runs were conducted on various routes including Chennai–Mysuru in 2024. The train is not solar-powered (A), does not run on freight corridors (B), and has no connection to Hyperloop (D). The correct answer is **(C)**.

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q6](#)

Sol.7.

**Solution**

After Mohamed Muizzu won the Maldivian presidential election in November 2023 on an explicit “**India Out**” platform, relations deteriorated markedly. The immediate flashpoint was Muizzu’s formal diplomatic request – delivered in January 2024 – for India to **withdraw its military personnel** (approximately 88 personnel operating two helicopters and a Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft



donated by India). India complied by the Maldivian deadline of 10 May 2024, replacing military operators with civilian technical staff. Separately, three Maldivian deputy ministers made derogatory social media comments about Prime Minister Modi, triggering a public and influencer-led boycott of Maldivian tourism by Indians. Options (A), (B), and (C) do not accurately describe the diplomatic trigger. The correct answer is **(D)**.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q7](#)

Sol.8.

### Solution

India's logistics costs have long been estimated at **13–14% of GDP**, compared to the global benchmark of **8%** for developed and advanced developing economies. High logistics costs inflate the cost of goods, reduce export competitiveness, and slow down supply chain efficiency. The **National Logistics Policy (NLP)**, released on 17 September 2022, sets the explicit target of reducing India's logistics cost to **approximately 8% of GDP** in line with global benchmarks. The NLP is implemented through the Comprehensive Logistics Action Plan (CLAP) and is integrated with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for multimodal infrastructure connectivity. None of the other options (5%, 10%, 12%) reflects the official NLP target. The correct answer is **(A)**.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q8](#)

Sol.9.

### Solution

The Union Cabinet approved **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0)** in August 2024 with a total outlay of Rs. 10 lakh crore, including central assistance of Rs. 2.30 lakh crore. The scheme targets construction of **1 crore (10 million) affordable houses** for urban poor, EWS (Economically Weaker Section), LIG (Lower Income Group), and MIG (Middle Income Group) families over five years (FY2025–FY2029). PMAY-U 2.0 supplements PMAY-U 1.0 (2015–2024) under which approximately 1.18 crore houses were sanctioned. Option (A) (50 lakh) understates the target; options (C) and (D) overstate it. The correct answer is **(B)**.

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q9](#)



Sol.10.

**Solution**

**Article 356** of the Constitution empowers the President, acting on the receipt of a report from the Governor (or otherwise), to issue a Proclamation assuming the functions of the state government when satisfied that the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution. This is commonly called “President’s Rule” or “Central Rule.” The Proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months and subsequently every six months. The Supreme Court, in *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* (1994), laid down important limitations on its use. For reference: Article 352 = National Emergency; Article 360 = Financial Emergency; Article 370 = (erstwhile) special status of Jammu and Kashmir. The correct answer is **(C)**.

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q10](#)

Sol.11.

**Solution**

Under **Article 89(1)** of the Constitution, the Vice President is the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. In this capacity, the Vice President does **not** possess a general (ordinary) vote on any question – that right belongs to elected and nominated members. The Vice President may exercise a **casting vote** (also called a “second vote”) only when there is a **tie** (equal votes on both sides) under Article 100(1). This mirrors the position of the Lok Sabha Speaker. The Vice President does **not** preside over joint sittings (that is the Speaker’s constitutional prerogative under Article 118 read with Rule 255). Money bills cannot be introduced in the Rajya Sabha at all (Article 109). Option **(D)** is the only accurate statement.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q11](#)

Sol.12.

**Solution**

**Article 139A** was inserted into the Constitution by the **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**. It empowers the Supreme Court, if it is expedient so to do in the interest of justice, to **transfer any case, appeal, or other proceedings pending before any High Court to any other High Court**. The Article also permits the Supreme Court to withdraw a case from a High Court and dispose of it itself. This power has been exercised in sensitive cases involving inter-state disputes, communal violence trials, and high-profile criminal matters. Contrast with:



Article 136 (Special Leave Petition – discretionary appellate jurisdiction over any court or tribunal), Article 32 (writ jurisdiction for enforcement of fundamental rights), Article 141 (declarations of the Supreme Court are binding on all courts). The correct answer is (A).

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q12](#)

Sol.13.

### Solution

The **15th Finance Commission** (Chairman: N.K. Singh), which submitted its final report covering FY2021–22 to FY2025–26, recommended **41%** of the net divisible pool of central taxes be devolved to the states (vertical devolution). This was a marginal reduction from the 14th Finance Commission's award of 42%, attributable primarily to the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories (Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh) – which were previously counted as a state but no longer receive a share from the divisible pool. The 15th FC also introduced performance-linked grants tied to parameters such as power sector reforms, solid waste management, and health expenditure. The correct answer is (B).

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q13](#)

Sol.14.

### Solution

Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs) are **consultative, advisory bodies** – their reports and recommendations are **not constitutionally or legally binding** on the government or Parliament. The executive can accept, partially accept, or reject their recommendations without formal consequence. This distinguishes their reports from judicial orders. In contrast: (A) is correct – DRSCs do examine bills referred to them and suggest amendments; (B) is correct – they have the power to summon and cross-examine government officials, experts, and civil society representatives; (D) is correct – they scrutinise demands for grants of the ministries assigned to their jurisdiction. Since option (C) falsely claims recommendations are binding, it is the incorrect statement and hence the correct answer to this question.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q14](#)



Sol.15.

**Solution**

On 18 September 2023, Canadian Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** made a formal statement in the House of Commons alleging that Canadian security agencies possessed “credible intelligence” linking **agents of the Government of India** to the killing of **Hardeep Singh Nijjar** – a Canadian citizen and Sikh separatist designated as a terrorist by India – in Surrey, British Columbia on 18 June 2023. India categorically rejected the allegations as “absurd and motivated” and demanded Canada produce evidence. Both countries expelled senior diplomats in September 2023; Canada expelled six Indian diplomats in October 2024, with India retaliating symmetrically. The bilateral relationship reached a historic low. Options (A), (B), and (C) are either inaccurate in detail or not the primary trigger of the 2023–24 crisis. The correct answer is **(D)**.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q15](#)

Sol.16.

**Solution**

India has maintained a position of **strategic autonomy** on the Russia–Ukraine conflict since February 2022. Its consistent stance includes: (i) **abstaining** on multiple UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions condemning Russia rather than voting for condemnation or against it; (ii) repeatedly calling for **dialogue, diplomacy, and a negotiated peace** in conformity with the UN Charter; (iii) declining to join the Western-led sanctions regime against Russia; (iv) continuing to purchase discounted Russian crude oil; and (v) PM Modi’s direct message to President Putin at the SCO Summit in Samarkand – “today’s era is not an era of war.” Option **(A)** accurately encapsulates this nuanced approach. Options (B), (C), and (D) mischaracterise India’s documented foreign policy position.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q16](#)

Sol.17.

**Solution**

On 26 January 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued **provisional (interim) measures** in the case *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel)*. By majority votes (15–2 and 16–1 on different operative paragraphs), the court ordered Israel to: (a) take all measures within its power to prevent acts falling within the scope of Article II of the Genocide Convention; (b) ensure its military does not commit genocidal acts; (c) prevent and punish direct and public incitement to genocide; (d) enable humanitarian assistance into Gaza; and (e) preserve evidence of alleged violations. Critically, the ICJ **did not order a ceasefire**, as South Africa had specifically requested. Option **(B)** is the accurate statement. Options (A), (C), and (D) are factually incorrect.

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q17](#)

Sol.18.

**Solution**

The **India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** was signed on 18 February 2022 and entered into force on **1 May 2022** – India’s first free trade agreement in more than a decade. The agreement set an ambitious target of raising bilateral non-oil trade from approximately \$45 billion (at the time of signing) to **\$100 billion within five years** of implementation (i.e., by approximately 2027). The CEPA covers goods (eliminating or reducing tariffs on 97% of Indian tariff lines), services, investment protection, and intellectual property. The UAE is India’s third-largest trading partner globally and its second-largest export destination. Options (A), (B), and (D) do not correspond to the official \$100 billion / five-year target stated in the agreement. The correct answer is **(C)**.

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q18](#)

Sol.19.

**Solution**

The **QUAD Leaders' Summit** of **21 September 2024** was hosted by U.S. President Joe Biden at his personal home in **Wilmington, Delaware**. The other leaders present were Prime Minister Narendra Modi (India), Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (Australia), and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida (Japan). The summit produced the *Wilmington Declaration*, reaffirming QUAD's commitment to a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific; launching the "QUAD Cancer Moonshot" initiative; advancing cooperation on maritime domain awareness, climate and clean energy, critical and emerging technologies, and counter-narcotics. It was the last QUAD Summit chaired by Biden before Donald Trump's inauguration in January 2025. The correct answer is **(D)**.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q19](#)

Sol.20.

**Solution**

At the **Paris Olympics 2024** Men's Badminton Singles, **Lakshya Sen** (India's world No. 22 at the time) had a commendable campaign. He advanced through the group stage, defeated Lu Guang Zu (China) in the Round of 16, and overcame Tommy Sugiarto (Indonesia) in the quarterfinals. In the **semifinals**, he was beaten convincingly by **Viktor Axelsen** (Denmark, world No. 1). In the **bronze-medal match**, Sen led 2–0 in the deciding game against **Lee Zii Jia** (Malaysia) but could not convert the advantage, eventually losing the match and finishing **4th** – agonisingly short of a medal. He did not win any medal. Option **(A)** accurately describes his journey. Options (B), (C), and (D) are factually incorrect.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q20](#)

Sol.21.

**Solution**

**Dommaraju Gukesh** (India, born May 2006) became the **youngest-ever undisputed World Chess Champion** in history on 12 December 2024, defeating the reigning champion **Ding Liren** (China) in the decisive Game 14 of the FIDE World Chess Championship 2024 held in Singapore. Gukesh won the match 7.5–6.5, capitalising on a late endgame blunder by Ding Liren. At 18 years and 7 months, Gukesh broke the record previously held by Garry Kasparov, who became World Champion at 22 years. Ding Liren had won the world title in 2023 by defeating



Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia). Magnus Carlsen (Norway) voluntarily vacated the championship in 2023 and was not Gukesh's opponent. Fabiano Caruana (USA) challenged in 2018. The correct answer is **(B)**.

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q21](#)

Sol.22.

### Solution

**Manu Bhaker** (born February 2002) created history at the **Paris Olympics 2024** by winning **two bronze medals** in shooting: (1) the **Women's 10m Air Pistol** individual event – making her the first Indian woman to win an Olympic shooting medal; and (2) the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** event alongside **Sarabjot Singh** – a team bronze medal. She is the first Indian athlete in the post-independence era to win two medals at a single Olympic Games. (Note: Norman Pritchard won two silver medals at the 1900 Paris Olympics, but under the banner of British India.) Option (C) correctly identifies both events. Options (A), (B), and (D) name incorrect events and partners.

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q22](#)

Sol.23.

### Solution

The Government of India conferred the **Bharat Ratna** in 2024 on five recipients: (1) **Lal Krishna Advani** (veteran BJP leader, former Deputy PM and Home Minister); (2) **Karpoori Thakur** (posthumous – former Bihar CM, champion of OBC reservations); (3) **P.V. Narasimha Rao** (posthumous – former PM who steered the 1991 economic liberalisation); (4) **M.S. Swaminathan** (posthumous – agricultural scientist, architect of India's Green Revolution); and (5) **Chaudhary Charan Singh** (posthumous – former PM, champion of farmers' rights). **Manmohan Singh** – who passed away on 26 December 2024 and had received the Padma Vibhushan in 1987 – was **not** among the 2024 Bharat Ratna recipients. Option (D) is therefore the correct answer.

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q23](#)



Sol.24.

**Solution**

The **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024** was divided: one half to **David Baker** (University of Washington) “for computational protein design” and the other half jointly to **Demis Hassabis** and **John M. Jumper** (both of Google DeepMind) “for protein structure prediction.” Hassabis and Jumper were specifically recognised for developing **AlphaFold2**, an AI system that predicted the three-dimensional structures of virtually all ~200 million known proteins with near-experimental accuracy, effectively solving a 50-year-old grand challenge in biology (the protein folding problem). Baker independently designed entirely new proteins with unprecedented structures. For comparison: CRISPR-Cas9 was recognised by the 2020 Chemistry Nobel; quantum dots earned the 2023 Chemistry Nobel; mRNA vaccine technology was honoured by the 2023 Physiology or Medicine Nobel. The correct answer is **(A)**.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q24](#)

Sol.25.

**Solution**

**Han Kang** (born 1970 in Gwangju, South Korea) was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Literature 2024** by the Swedish Academy “for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.” She is the author of internationally acclaimed works including *The Vegetarian* (Man Booker International Prize 2016), *Human Acts* (which deals with the 1980 Gwangju Uprising), *The White Book*, and *Greek Lessons*. She became the **first South Korean** and the first East Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, and only the **18th woman** ever to receive this award. Haruki Murakami (Japan) is a perennial Nobel contender but has never won; Kazuo Ishiguro won in 2017 (British-Japanese); Olga Tokarczuk (Poland) won in 2018. The correct answer is **(B)**.

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q25](#)

Sol.26.

**Solution**

**Sanjay Malhotra**, a 1990-batch IAS officer of the Rajasthan cadre, was appointed as the **26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India** with effect from 11 December 2024, succeeding **Shaktikanta Das** (25th Governor, 2018–2024) whose six-year tenure concluded on 10 December 2024. Prior to his RBI appointment, Malhotra served as the **Revenue Secretary** in the Ministry of Finance and, before that, as the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Limited. He is expected to focus on managing inflation, growth, and the rupee amidst global headwinds. For reference: Raghuram Rajan was the 23rd Governor (2013–16); Urjit Patel was the 24th (2016–18); T. Rabi Sankar served as a Deputy Governor, not the Governor, of the RBI. The correct answer is **(C)**.

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q26](#)

Sol.27.

**Solution**

**XPoSat** (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) was successfully launched by ISRO aboard **PSLV-C58** on **1 January 2024** from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, into a ~650 km Low Earth Orbit. It is India's first dedicated **X-ray polarimetry** space observatory and only the second such mission globally after NASA's Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE, 2021). XPoSat carries two payloads: **POLIX** (Polarimeter Instrument in X-rays, 8–30 keV, developed by the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru) and **XSPECT** (X-ray Spectroscopy and Timing, 0.8–15 keV, ISRO). The mission studies the polarisation of X-ray emissions from astrophysical sources including **black holes, neutron stars, active galactic nuclei, and pulsar wind nebulae** to understand the geometry and emission mechanisms in extreme environments. Options (A), (B), and (C) describe other missions. The correct answer is **(D)**.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q27](#)

Sol.28.

**Solution**

**Gaganyaan** is ISRO's first Indigenous Human Spaceflight Programme. The mission profile targets placing a crew of **up to 3 Indian astronauts (Gaganauts)** in a **400 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** for **approximately 3 days**, followed by a controlled atmospheric reentry and splashdown in the **Bay of Bengal** for recovery by the Indian Navy. The spacecraft comprises the Crew Module (CM) and Service Module (SM), together called the Orbital Module, launched atop the Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3) rocket. Precursor uncrewed missions include: Crew Module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE, 2014), Test Vehicle Abort Mission (TV-D1, October 2023), and planned uncrewed Gaganyaan-G1 flights. Option (A) correctly states the 400 km altitude and 3-day duration. Options (B), (C), and (D) describe incorrect parameters.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q28](#)

Sol.29.

**Solution**

**Pralay** (Sanskrit for “catastrophe”) is a **surface-to-surface, road-mobile, quasi-ballistic missile** developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). Key specifications: **range of 150–500 km** (making it a short-to-medium range system), solid propellant, payload of 500–1,000 kg (conventional warhead), and a *quasi-ballistic* trajectory allowing mid-course manoeuvring to defeat interception systems. It was successfully tested in December 2021 and subsequently inducted into the Indian Army. Pralay occupies the capability gap between short-range battlefield rockets (like Pinaka MLRS, range 40–75 km) and medium-range ballistic missiles (like Prithvi, 150–2,000 km range systems). Options (A), (C), and (D) represent incorrect range bands. The correct answer is (B).

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q29](#)

Sol.30.

**Solution**

**BrahMos Aerospace** is a joint venture between India's **DRDO** and Russia's **NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOMash)**, with equity held **50.5% by India** and **49.5% by Russia** – not 75:25 as stated in option (A). The current production version of BrahMos is a **supersonic** cruise missile, travelling at approximately **Mach 2.8–3.0** (not Mach 5, which would qualify as hypersonic) – ruling out option (B). BrahMos has already been successfully integrated with land-based mobile launchers, naval surface ships, submarines, and **Su-30MKI aircraft**, making option (D) incorrect. Option (C) is correct: India and Russia are jointly developing the **BrahMos-II** (hypersonic successor), which is designed to achieve speeds of **Mach 7–8** using a scramjet engine, though this version remains under development and has not yet been fielded operationally.

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q30](#)

Sol.31.

**Solution**

The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and launched in 2016, has witnessed exponential growth in transaction volumes. By **calendar year 2024**, UPI crossed the landmark of **100 billion (approximately 10,000 crore) transactions in a single calendar year**, reflecting its deep penetration in everyday retail payments from grocery stores to government services. Monthly volumes regularly exceeded 15 billion (1,500 crore) transactions. While UPI does operate internationally through bilateral linkages (Singapore, UAE, France, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, among others), it had not yet reached 25 countries simultaneously. The 1 billion single-day milestone was not crossed in this period. Option (D) correctly captures the annual 100-billion-transaction milestone.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q31](#)

Sol.32.

**Solution**

India's **foreign exchange reserves** climbed to an all-time high of approximately **\$704.89 billion** in the week ended **27 September 2024**, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India. This surge was driven by a combination of valuation gains (reflecting the weakening of the US dollar against major currencies), sustained FPI inflows into Indian equities and debt, and strong services export earnings. Subsequently, reserves moderated – dropping to approximately \$620 billion by early 2025 – as the RBI intervened in the foreign exchange market through dollar sales to defend the rupee against sharp depreciation pressure linked to global risk-off sentiment and dollar strengthening. The peak occurred in **September–October 2024**, making option **(A)** correct. The other options refer to earlier periods with significantly lower reserve levels.

**Answer: (A)** [Go Back to Q32](#)

Sol.33.

**Solution**

The **National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP)** was unveiled by NITI Aayog (authored by the Department of Economic Affairs) on **23 August 2021**. It outlines the government's plan to monetise core **brownfield** (existing, income-generating) infrastructure assets across 12 sectors: roads, railways, power transmission, gas pipelines, product pipelines, airports, ports, telecom towers, warehouses, mining, sports stadiums, and urban real estate. The aggregate monetisation potential was estimated at **Rs. 6 lakh crore (Rs. 6 trillion)** over four financial years (FY2022–23 to FY2025–26). Crucially, the NMP involves **not transferring ownership** of assets – the government retains them – but leasing operating rights to private players for a defined concession period. Option **(B)** (Rs. 6 lakh crore) is correct; options (A), (C), and (D) state incorrect figures.

**Answer: (B)** [Go Back to Q33](#)

Sol.34.

**Solution**

The **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, headquartered in Rome, designated **2024 as the International Year of Camelids (IYC 2024)**, following endorsement by the UN General Assembly in Resolution 74/136. The IYC 2024 aims to: (a) raise global awareness of the economic, nutritional, cultural, and ecological contributions of camelids – including **dromedary camels** (one hump, Africa and Asia), **Bactrian camels** (two humps, Central Asia), **llamas, alpacas, vicunas, and guanacos** (Andean camelids of South America); (b) promote sustainable camelid husbandry and the use of camelid products (meat, milk, fibre, hides); and (c) support the livelihoods of approximately **3 million herders** in arid and semi-arid regions highly vulnerable to climate change. UNEP (A), UNESCO (B), and WHO (D) did not convene this initiative. The correct answer is **(C)**.

**Answer: (C)** [Go Back to Q34](#)

Sol.35.

**Solution**

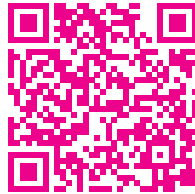
**Cyclone Remal** formed as a depression in the Bay of Bengal and intensified into a Severe Cyclonic Storm before making landfall near **Mongla, Bangladesh** (close to the Sagar Island area of West Bengal) on the night of **26–27 May 2024**, with maximum sustained winds of approximately 100–120 kmph. It then moved northward, triggering heavy rainfall and landslides in Mizoram (Aizawl landslides), Manipur, Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura. The historical significance noted in meteorological records is that Remal was the **first pre-monsoon cyclone to make landfall over Bangladesh since 1965** – an unusual occurrence, as Bay of Bengal cyclones in May typically track differently. It was not the strongest cyclone ever recorded over the Bay (A), not a Category 5 super cyclone (B), and did not equally affect all eight northeastern states (C). The correct answer is **(D)**.

**Answer: (D)** [Go Back to Q35](#)

## Answer Key

| Q. | Ans | Q. | Ans | Q. | Ans | Q. | Ans | Q. | Ans |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1  | B   | 2  | C   | 3  | D   | 4  | A   | 5  | B   |
| 6  | C   | 7  | D   | 8  | A   | 9  | B   | 10 | C   |
| 11 | D   | 12 | A   | 13 | B   | 14 | C   | 15 | D   |
| 16 | A   | 17 | B   | 18 | C   | 19 | D   | 20 | A   |
| 21 | B   | 22 | C   | 23 | D   | 24 | A   | 25 | B   |
| 26 | C   | 27 | D   | 28 | A   | 29 | B   | 30 | C   |
| 31 | D   | 32 | A   | 33 | B   | 34 | C   | 35 | D   |

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