

1. Consider the following statements with reference to Exit Polls in India,
 - I. Unlike an opinion poll, which asks for whom the voter plans to vote, an exit poll asks for whom the voter actually voted.
 - II. It is mandatory for every organization conducting Exit Polls to be registered with Election Commission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

2. Consider the following statements with reference to Asafoetida, a plant species;
 - I. It is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan.
 - II. It is used to help with painful or excessive bleeding during menstruation and premature labour.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

3. Consider the following statements with reference to Ramanujacharya,
 - I. He was referred to as Ilaya Perumal which means the radiant one.
 - II. His writings include the Vedartha Samgraha, the Vedantasara, and Vedantadipa.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

4. Consider the following statements with reference to International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT),
 - I. It is a government owned agricultural research organization.
 - II. It conducts agricultural research for development in the drylands of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

5. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian Star Tortoise,

- I. It is listed in Schedules I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- II. According to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, 90% of the trade of this Tortoise occurs as part of the International pet market.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

6. Consider the following statements with reference to Guernica Tapestry, recently seen in news;
 - I. Guernica is a large oil painting on canvas, done by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso.
 - II. It is a powerful anti-apartheid painting.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

7. Consider the following statements with reference to Xinjiang Region,
 - I. It is an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China, bordered by Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.
 - II. It is home to a number of different ethnic groups including the Uyghur, Han, Kazakh, Hui, Kyrgyz and Mongol.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

8. Consider the following statements with reference to Christianity,
 - I. Geographically, it is the most widely diffused of all faiths.
 - II. Both Christians and Jews follow the New Testament of the Bible.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

9. Consider the following statements with reference to Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement,

- I. 'Layout designs for integrated circuits' is one of the seven forms of intellectual property in which TRIPS establishes minimum standards for the availability, scope, and use.
- II. It is also described as a "Berne and Paris-plus" Agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

10. Consider the following statements with reference to Bhakti Movement,

- I. This movement was originated in North India in the 7th and 10th CE, also spread to South India.
- II. The Nayanars and Alvars were Hindi poet-saints who played an essential role in the propagation of Bhakti Movement in the North part of India during the 5th – 10th centuries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

11. Consider the following statements with reference to Uyghurs,

- I. They are one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China.
- II. They are Muslims, they don't speak Mandarin as their native language.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

12. Consider the following statements with reference to Sariska Tiger Reserve,

- I. It is located in Aravali hills.
- II. Kankarwadi fort is located in the center of the Reserve .

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

13. Consider the following statements with reference to Kautilya,

- I. He is also known as Aristotle of India.
- II. 'Durga' is one of the seven essential organs of the state enumerated by him in his Saptanga theory.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

14. Consider the following statements with reference to freshwater Dolphins,

- I. Along with Gangetic and Indus river water dolphins, Irrawaddy dolphins are also found in Indian waters.
- II. Indus river dolphins can only be found in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan and in River Beas, a tributary of the Indus River in Punjab, India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

15. Consider the following statements in the context of Russia-Ukraine Conflict,

- I. Russia shares land border with Poland and Lithuania along with some other European countries.
- II. Euromaidan Movement was associated with the affairs of Ukraine.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

16. Consider the following statements with reference to Notre-Dame de Paris,

- I. It is a medieval Catholic cathedral located on an island in Lyon River in France.
- II. It is considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

17. Consider the following statements with reference to Havana Syndrome,

- I. A recent report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) found "directed energy beams" as a "plausible" cause of the Havana Syndrome.
- II. Tinnitus is one of the acute symptoms of Havana Syndrome.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) I Only

- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

18. Consider the following statements with reference to Iran Nuclear Deal,

- I. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) constitutes one of the parties to the deal.
- II. Building of Centrifuges by Iran is one of the major components of the deal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

19. Consider the following statements with reference to Security Categories in India,

- I. The Z+ level of security is provided by SPG (Special Protection Group) commandos.
- II. Strength of security details of Z+, Z, Y and X categories of VIP security in India is classified.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

20. Consider the following statements with reference to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs),

- I. Weavers are also eligible to form FPOs along with farmers, milk producers and fishermen.
- II. An FPO can be a Cooperative Society or any other legal form except a Company under the Companies Act, 2013.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

21. Consider the following statements with reference to major sects in Hinduism,

- I. Vaishnavites give importance only to Lord Vishnu, but not to his ten incarnations.
- II. Vaishnavism has a vast literature that includes texts representing multiple philosophical schools, including abheda, bheda, and bheda-bheda perspectives.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only

- c) None
- d) Both

22. Consider the following statements with reference to Badrinath Temple,

- I. It is located on the banks of Mandakini River.
- II. It is mentioned in several ancient books including Mahabharata.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

23. Consider the following statements with reference to Statue of Equality,

- I. Platinum is one of the five metals used in this panchaloha statue.
- II. It is a 1000 crores project funded entirely by the Government of Telangana.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

24. Consider the following statements with reference to Vande Bharat Trains,

- I. They are self-propelled engineless train sets.
- II. They were showcased as India's first high-speed trains.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

25. Consider the following statements with reference to National Medical Commission (NMC),

- I. The Chairman and members of the commission are selected by a committee consisting of Prime Minister, Union Health Minister and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.
- II. 'Framing guidelines for determination of fee for up to 75% of the seats in the private medical institutions' is one of the functions of the commission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I Only
- b) II Only
- c) None
- d) Both

Solution

1. A

- An election exit poll is a poll of voters taken soon after a voter walks out after casting his or her vote. It is considered as an indicator to which party forms the government. Unlike an opinion poll, which asks for whom the voter plans to vote, an exit poll asks for whom the voter actually voted.
- In 2010, restrictions were imposed on exit polls through the introduction of Section 126(A) in the Representation of the People Act. The EC advises electronic and print media not to publish or publicise any article or programme related to the dissemination of results of exit polls during the prohibited period.
- The ECI is of the view that prediction of results of elections in any form or manner by way of predictions etc by astrologers, political analysts or by any persons during the prohibited period is violation of the spirit of Section 126A (of the RP Act).
- It aims to prevent the electors of constituencies still going to polls from being influenced in their voting by such predictions about the prospects of the various political parties.

2. C

- Asafoetida (Heeng):
- It is a herbaceous plant of the umbelliferae family. It is a perennial plant.
- Its oleo gum resin is extracted from its thick roots and rhizome.
- The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots.
- It is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan, which are also the main global suppliers of it.
- It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions.
- It can tolerate temperatures between 35 and 40 degrees. It can also survive in temperatures up to minus 4 degrees.
- Ideal growth conditions: Sandy soil, very little moisture and annual rainfall of not more than 200mm.
- However, during extreme weather, the plant can get dormant.
- It has medicinal properties, including relief for digestive, spasmodic and stomach disorders, asthma and bronchitis.
- The herb is used to help with painful or excessive bleeding during menstruation and premature labour.

3. D

- Recently, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Statue of Equality, a statue of Ramanujacharya, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana.

- India is celebrating his 1,000th birth anniversary as the 'Festival of Equality', upholding the view that the world is one family, 'vasudhaiva kutumbakam'."
- Born in 1017 in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu, Ramanujacharya is revered as a Vedic philosopher and social reformer.
- He was named Lakshmana at the time of his birth. He was also referred to as Ilaya Perumal which means the radiant one.
- He traveled across India, advocating equality and social justice.
- He revived the Bhakti movement, and his preachings inspired other Bhakti schools of thought. He is considered to be the inspiration for poets like Annamacharya, Bhakta Ramdas, Thyagaraja, Kabir, and Meerabai.
- He is famous as the chief proponent of Vishishtadvaita subschool of Vedānta.
- VishishtAdvaita (literally "Advaita with uniqueness; qualifications") is a non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy.
- It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone is seen as the Supreme Reality, but is characterized by multiplicity.
- He went on to write nine scriptures known as the navaratnas, and composed numerous commentaries on Vedic scriptures.
- Ramanuja's most important writings include his commentary on the Vedanta Sutras (the Sri Bhasya, or "True Commentary"), and his commentary on the Bhagavad-Gita (the Gitabhasya, or "Commentary on the Gita").
- His other writings include the Vedartha Samgraha ("Summary of the Meaning of the Veda"), the Vedantasara ("Essence of Vedanta"), and Vedantadipa ("Lamp of Vedanta").
- He has also stressed the need of being in tune with nature and not to over-exploit.

4. B

- It was founded in 1972 by a consortium of organizations convened by the Ford and the Rockefeller Foundations. Its charter was signed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ICRISAT is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in the drylands of Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Headquarter: Hyderabad, Telangana in India. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, and a degraded environment through better agriculture.
- ICRISAT envisions a prosperous, food-secure and resilient dryland tropics. To achieve this, its mission

is to reduce poverty, hunger, malnutrition and environmental degradation in the dryland tropics.

- ICRISAT conducts research on five highly nutritious drought-tolerant crops: chickpea, pigeon pea, pearl millet, sorghum, and groundnut.
- Since its inception, India has granted special status to ICRISAT as a UN Organization operating in the Indian Territory.

5. B

- Indian star tortoise is found across the Indian sub-continent, more specifically, in the Central and Southern parts of India, in West Pakistan and in Sri Lanka.
- Protection Status:
- Wild Life Protection Act 1972: Schedule IV
- Schedule IV: This list is for species that are not endangered. It includes protected species but the penalty for any violation is less compared to the Schedules I and II.
- Convention on International Trade in Species (CITES): Appendix I
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- According to the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, 90% of the trade of Star Tortoise occurs as part of the International pet market.
- If their exploitation had continued at a similar pace or had expanded, a decline of greater than 30% was predicted by 2025.

6. A

- The Guernica Tapestry was returned by Rockefeller family to its prominent place at the United Nations (UN), one year after its sudden disappearance from a wall at the UN.
- It wrestles with cruelty, darkness and seed of hope within humanity, with its probing symbolism and its depiction of horrific aspects of human nature.
- What is Guernica? Guernica is a large oil painting on canvas, done by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso in 1937. It is one of his best-known works. This work is regarded by many art critics as most moving and powerful anti-war painting so far. It portrays the suffering wrought by chaos and violence. Prominent in the painting are a gored horse, a bull, a dead body, screaming women, a dismembered soldier, and flames.
- Pablo Ruiz Picasso was a Spanish painter, printmaker, sculptor, ceramicist and theatre designer. He is regarded as one of the most influential artists in 20th century. He is known for co-founding Cubist movement. His most famous works include proto-Cubist Les Femmes d'Alger (O.J. No. 115) (1925), and Guernica (1937).

7. A

- Xinjiang is an autonomous region of the People's Republic of China. It is the largest Chinese administrative division, bordering countries such as Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. The name "Xinjiang" was given during the Qing Dynasty. It is home to a number of different ethnic groups including the Uyghur, Han, Kazakh, Hui, Kyrgyz and Mongol.
 - Among these ethnic groups, the Hans and the Uyghurs (Turkish and Muslim population) are the two major ethnic groups. Xinjiang is home to more than 8 million people and much of the tension in the region is sourced in the claims of some Uyghur separatist groups for greater political and religious autonomy and also in resentment at the growing presence of Han Chinese domination— China's largest ethnic group—that they claim limits their economic opportunities. For a millennium Xinjiang's large Muslim and Turkic population has viewed itself as religiously and ethnically distinct from the Han Chinese society.
- #### **8. A**
- Christianity is an Abrahamic monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth in the 1st century CE. It has become the largest of the world's religions and, geographically, the most widely diffused of all faiths.
 - Jesus Christ founded Christianity which spread throughout the Roman Empire where it was made state religion in 4th century.
 - The church split for the first time into- western under the people in Rome and eastern under the Patriarchates of Antioch, Alexandria and Constantinople. The Roman church was broken up by Protestantism.
 - According to the tradition of Saint Thomas Syrian Christians of Kerala, Christianity was introduced to India by Thomas the Apostle, who is said to have reached the Malabar Coast of Kerala in 52 AD.
 - The divine Godhead consists of three parts: the father (God himself), the son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit.
 - Both Christians and Jews follow the Old Testament of the Bible, but Christians also embrace the New Testament.
- #### **9. D**
- TRIPS came into force in 1995, as part of the agreement that established the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
 - TRIPS establishes minimum standards for the availability, scope, and use of seven forms of intellectual property namely, trademarks,

copyrights, geographical indications, patents, industrial designs, layout designs for integrated circuits, and undisclosed information or trade secrets.

- TRIPS is the most comprehensive international agreement on IP and it has a major role in enabling trade in creativity and knowledge, in resolving trade disputes over intellectual property, and in assuring WTO members the latitude to achieve their domestic policy objectives.
- It frames the IP system in terms of innovation, technology transfer and public welfare.
- The TRIPS Council is responsible for administering and monitoring the operation of the TRIPS Agreement.
- TRIPS was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in 1986–1994.

10. C

- The term 'Bhakti' refers to 'devotion'. As a movement, it emphasized on the mutual intense emotional attachment and love of a devotee towards a personal god and of the god for the devotee. This movement originated in South India in the 7th and 10th CE, mostly in the poems of Alvars and Nayanars. These poems were composed in Tamil; the poems were addressed to Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva respectively
- Bhakti soon spread to North India, appearing most notably in the 10th-century Sanskrit text the Bhagavata-Purana. It swept over east and north India from the 15th century onwards, reached its peak between the 15th and 17th century CE. The Bhakti Saints moved against the austerities propagated by the Buddhist and Jain schools and professed that ultimate devotion to god was the means to salvation.
- The Nayanars and Alvars were Tamil poet-saints who played an essential role in the propagation of a Bhakti Movement in the South part of India during the 5th – 10th centuries.
- Alvars bestowed their belief and devotion to Lord Vishnu.
- The poetry of the Alvars echoes Bhakti to God through love, and in the ecstasy of such devotions they sang hundreds of songs which embodied both depth of feeling and felicity of expressions.
- The collection of their hymns is known as Divya Prabandha. The Bhakti literature that sprang from Alvars has contributed to the establishment and sustenance of a culture that broke away from the ritual-oriented Vedic religion and rooted itself in devotion as the only path for salvation.

- Nayanars bestowed their belief and devotion to Lord Shiva
- Among the Nayanars, the poets Nanachampantar, Appar, and Chuntaramurti (often called "the three") are worshipped as saints through their images in South Indian temples.
- In the 10th century Nambi Andar Nambi collected the hymns of the Nayanars in an anthology called the Tevaram.

11. D

- The Uyghurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia.
- Their native region is considered to be the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China.
- The Uyghurs are considered to be one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China.
- However, China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group.
- The Uyghurs are Muslim, they don't speak Mandarin as their native language, and have an ethnicity and culture that is different from that of mainland China.



12. C

- Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in Aravali hills and forms a part of the Alwar District of Rajasthan.
- The Reserve is immensely rich in flora and fauna, and is famous for Royal Bengal Tiger.
- The park has populations of leopards, Nilgai, Sambar, chital etc. It also shelters a large population of Indian peafowl, crested serpent eagles, sand grouse, golden backed woodpeckers, great Indian horned owls, tree pies, vultures etc.

- Sariska was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared the tiger reserve later in 1978, making it a part of India's Project Tiger.
- The Sanctuary houses ruined temples, forts, pavilions and a palace.
- Kankarwadi fort is located in the center of the Reserve and it is said that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb had imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh at this fort in struggle for succession to the throne.
- The Reserve also houses a famous temple of lord Hanuman at Pandupole related to Pandavas.

13. B

- Kautilya (known as Machiavelli of India) was the prime minister of the first Mauryan emperor Chandragupta and the author of the oldest text on public administration in the world. Arthashastra, the ancient Indian classic offers deep insights into politics, state craft and issues of governance.
- Kautilya advocates absolute monarchy though the King's powers are hedged in with restrictions.
- He gives extensive list of duties which king must perform for the welfare of his people.
- In Saptanga theory Kautilya enumerates seven essential organs of the state. They are Swamin, Amatya, Janapad, Durga, Kosha, Danda and Mitra.
- Arthshastra identifies four different methods of motivation, viz, sama, dana, danda and bheda. Sama is the persuasion method, dana is the incentive method, bheda is the internal competition method and danda is the punishment method of motivation.

14. D

- According to a recent study of South Asian river dolphins, Indus and Ganges River dolphins are not one, but two separate species. Currently, they are classified as two subspecies under Platanista gangetica.
- Like other freshwater dolphins (such as Ganges river dolphins), the Indus river dolphin is an important indicator of the health of a river.
- Other dolphins found in Indian waters include: Ganges River Dolphins, Irrawaddy dolphins.
- Project Dolphin: Announced on the eve of Independence Day in the year 2020, it will be on the lines of Project Tiger, which has helped increase the tiger population.

PROJECT DOLPHIN

PRESERVING OUR UNDERWATER FRIENDS



10-YEAR PROJECT TO FOCUS ON BOTH RIVER AND SEA DOLPHINS



AIM TO STRENGTHEN BIODIVERSITY, CREATE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ATTRACT TOURISM



KILLING, HABITAT FRAGMENTATION BY DAMS AND BARRAGES AND INDISCRIMINATE FISHING HAS REDUCED THE GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN POPULATION FROM TENS OF THOUSANDS TO AROUND 3,700 OVER THE LAST CENTURY



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN, A SPECIES OF FRESHWATER DOLPHINS, IS PRIMARILY FOUND IN GANGA AND BRAHMAPUTRA RIVERS, AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES IN INDIA, BANGLADESH AND NEPAL



IN INDIA, THESE DOLPHINS ARE SIGHTED IN DEEP RIVERS IN ASSAM, BIHAR, JHARKHAND, MADHYA PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, UTTAR PRADESH AND WEST BENGAL



GANGES RIVER DOLPHIN, OFFICIALLY DISCOVERED IN 1801, CAN LIVE ONLY IN FRESHWATER

15. D

- Russia, the largest country in the world, has international borders with 16 sovereign states, including two maritime boundaries with the United States and Japan.
- Euromaidan Movement: November 2013 saw the start of mass protests across Ukraine, but particularly in Kiev's Maidan, or central square.
- Protesters were angry at Ukraine's then pro-Russia President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to join the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union instead of the EU.

16. B

- It is a medieval Catholic cathedral located on an island in Seine River in the Paris, France.
- The cathedral is consecrated to the Virgin Mary and considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.
- The cathedral construction began in 1160 and completed by 1260.
- In 1804, the cathedral was the site of the Coronation of Napoleon I as Emperor of France.
- It contains Holy Crown of Thorns the most precious item of Holy relics and relics from the crucifixion of Jesus- a piece of the cross on which he was nailed and one of the nails.

17. C

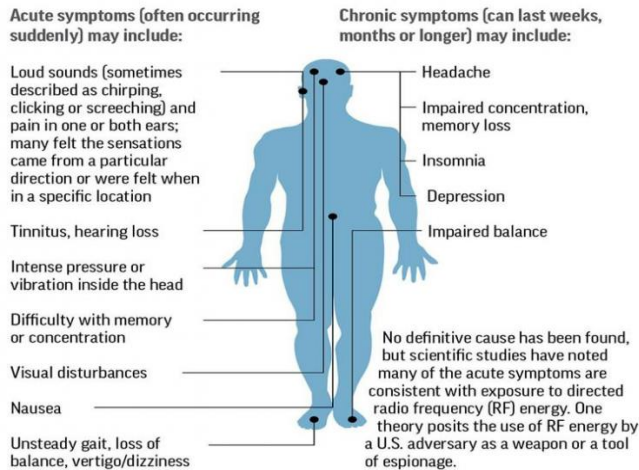
- Havana Syndrome refers to a set of mental health symptoms that are said to be experienced by US

intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.

- As the name suggests, it traces its roots to Cuba.
- Back in 2016, reports first emerged of US diplomats and other employees of the government falling ill in Havana, the capital of Cuba.
- This mysterious illness came to be called the “Havana Syndrome”.

What is Havana syndrome?

The medical mystery named for the Cuban city where U.S. diplomats first experienced sudden, debilitating symptoms in 2016 has been reported by Americans serving in several other countries.



18. C

- Also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).
- The JCPOA was the result of prolonged negotiations from 2013 to 2015 between Iran and P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union, or the EU).
- Under the deal, Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
- Trump pulled the U.S. out of the accord in 2018. Besides, he opted for a “maximum pressure” campaign by imposing sanctions and other tough actions. Iran responded by intensifying its enrichment of uranium and building of centrifuges, while maintaining its insistence that its nuclear development was for civilian and not military purposes.
- The collapse of the JCPOA drags Iran towards nuclear brinkmanship, like North Korea, which has created major geopolitical instability in the region and beyond.

19. C

- In India, security details are provided to some high-risk individuals by the police and state government.
- Depending on the threat perception to the person, the category is divided into four tiers: Z+ (highest level), Z, Y and X.

- SPG Category: Strength of security detail is classified (only provided to the Prime Minister of India.)
- The SPG (Special Protection Group), NSG (National Security Guards), ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) and CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force) are the agencies responsible for providing securities to VVIPs, VIPs, politicians, high-profile celebrities and sportspersons.
- Z+ Category: It has a security cover of 55 personnel [Including 10+ NSG Commando] + [Police Personnel]. The Z+ level of security is provided by National Security Guard commandos.
- Z Category: It has a security cover of 22 personnel [Including 4 or 5 NSG Commando] + [Police Personnel]. The ‘Z’ category entails security cover by the Delhi police or the ITBP or CRPF personnel and one escort car.

20. A

- Farmers’ Producer Organisation (FPO), also known as farmers’ producer company (FPC), is an entity formed by primary producers including farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, and craftsmen.
- An FPO can be a Producer Company, a Cooperative Society or any other legal form.
- FPOs are basically the hybrids of cooperatives and private companies.
- The participation, organisation and membership pattern of these companies are more or less similar to the cooperatives.
- But their day-to-day functioning and business models resemble those of the professionally-run private companies.
- The Companies Act was amended by incorporating Section-IX A in it to allow creation and registration of FPOs under it.

21. C

- Vaishnavism: It is focused on worshipping of Vishnu. Vaishnavites lead a way of life promoting differentiated monotheism, which gives importance to Lord Vishnu and His ten incarnations.
- Its beliefs and practices, especially the concepts of Bhakti and Bhakti Yoga, are based largely on the Upanishads, and associated with the Vedas and Puranic texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, and the Padma, Vishnu and Bhagavata Puranas.
- Shaivism: Shaivism reveres the god Shiva as the Supreme Being. Shaivas believe that Shiva is All and in all, the creator, preserver, destroyer, revealer and concealer of all that is.
- Devotees of Shiva wear Sacred ash as a sectarian mark on their foreheads and other parts of their

bodies with reverence. The Sanskrit words *bhasma* and *vibhuti* can both be translated as “sacred ash”.

- Shaivism has a vast literature that includes texts representing multiple philosophical schools, including non-dualist (*abheda*), dualist (*bheda*), and non-dual-with-dualism (*bhedābheda*) perspectives.

22. A

- It is a Hindu Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
- The Temple is one of the 108 Divya Desams dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
- All the deities in this temple are made up of Black Stone.
- It is also one of the four Char Dham pilgrimage site. Other sites includes Rameswaram, Puri and Dwarka.
- The temple is located on the banks of Alaknanda River.
- The temple is mentioned in ancient religious texts like Vishnu Purana and Skanda Purana.
- The temple has three structures: the Garbhagriha (sanctum), the Darshan Mandap (worship hall), and Sabha Mandap (convention hall).
- Few Historical texts suggests that this temple was originally established as a pilgrimage site by Adi Shankara in the ninth century.
- The temple is also mentioned in several ancient books like Bhagavata Purana and Mahabharata.
- It also finds its mention in the Divya Prabandha, an early medieval Tamil canon of the Azhwar saints from the 6th–9th centuries AD.

23. C

- The Statue of Equality is a 216-foot statue of the 11th-century saint and social reformer Sri Ramanujacharya.
- Statue of Equality is located in a 45-acre complex at Shamshabad on the outskirts of the city of Hyderabad, Telangana
- Statue of Equality is a 1000 crores project funded entirely by donations from devotees globally.
- Key Features:
- The inner sanctum deity of Ramanujacharya is made of 120 kg of gold to commemorate the 120 years the saint walked this earth.
- The outdoor 216-foot statue would be one of the tallest statues in a sitting posture.
- The Statue of Equality is made of ‘panchaloha’, a mix of five metals – gold, silver, copper, brass, and zinc.
- The Statue of Equality complex has identical recreations of 108 Divya Desams, the 108 ornately carved Vishnu temples mentioned in the works of the Alwars, mystic Tamil saints.

24. A

- The Indian Railways plans to operate 102 Vande Bharat trains by March 2024.
- About Vande Bharat Express:
- The Train18, later named Vande Bharat Express, was rolled out by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai under the Indian government’s Make in India initiative.
- It was showcased as India’s first semi high-speed train with an operational efficiency of 160 kmph.
- As of Aug 2021, the Indian Railways operates two Vande Bharat trains, one from Delhi to Varanasi and the other from Delhi to Katra.
- Its faster acceleration and deceleration results in reduced train travel time.
- Some of its passenger friendly features include; European-style seats, diffused LED lighting, GPS-based infotainment systems, modular bio-toilets, fully sealed gangways for dust-free environment, centrally controlled entry/exit doors with sliding footsteps, divyang friendly toilet and automatic sliding cabin doors.

25. C

- The Union government has set up the National Medical Commission (NMC) along with four other autonomous boards while abolishing the MCI.
- The four autonomous boards include: Undergraduate Medical Education Board; Postgraduate Medical Education Board; Medical Assessment and Rating Board; Ethics and Medical Registration Board.
- These boards have been constituted to help the NMC in day-to-day functioning.
- About the National Medical Commission: The Centre has notified the 33-member NMC, which will be chaired for three years by Suresh Chandra Sharma.
- Apart from the Chairman, the NMC will consist of 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members appointed by the Central government.
- Functions of NMC:
- laying down policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals.
- assessing the requirements of human resources and infrastructure in healthcare.
- ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils with the regulations made under the NMC Act.
- framing guidelines for determination of fee for up to 50% of the seats in the private medical institutions.