

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**India and Egypt:**

IN CONTEXT: Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a two-nation tour, including a state visit to Egypt, upon the invitation of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. This visit marked PM Modi's first visit to Egypt as Prime Minister and the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 26 years (last 1997). The Government of Egypt bestowed the highest honor of the land — the Order of the Nile — on the PM.

Highlights of the visit:

Strategic Partnership Agreement: The visit marked the signing of a strategic partnership agreement between India and Egypt, which is a significant milestone in the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The strategic partnership will have few elements:

- I. Political
- II. Defense and Security
- III. Economic engagement
- IV. Scientific and academic collaboration.
- V. Cultural and people-to-people contact

Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): Three MoUs were signed between India and Egypt in the fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law, aiming to enhance cooperation in these areas.

Bilateral Discussions: Indian PM and Egypt's President discussed various topics, including multilateral cooperation at the G-20, food and energy security, Climate Change, and Clean Energy collaboration.

India Unit in Egyptian Cabinet: Indian PM met with the India Unit, a group of high-level ministers constituted by Egyptian President in Egyptian Cabinet in March, 2023 to enhance India-Egypt relations.

Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery: Indian PM paid homage to over 4,300 Indian soldiers who lost their lives in Egypt and Aden during World War I at the Heliopolis Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery.

Egypt's Participation in G-20 Summit: Egypt was designated as a "guest country" at the upcoming G-20 summit scheduled to be held in September, further strengthening bilateral ties between India and Egypt.

Al-Hakim Mosque: Indian Prime Minister visited the 11th-century Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo, which was restored by India's Dawoodi Bohra community. The mosque was built in 1012 and is the fourth oldest mosque in Cairo. The Dawoodi Bohra Muslims are known for their adherence to the Fatimi Ismaili Tayyibi school of thought and originated from Egypt before establishing a presence in India in the 11th century.

Order of the Nile and Honors:

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi was honored with the Order of the Nile, Egypt's highest state honor, by President El-Sisi.
- ✓ This gesture reflected the warmth and affection Egypt holds for India and its people.

People-to-People Exchanges:

- ✓ PM Modi met with Tarek Heggy, a renowned Egyptian author and petroleum strategist, to discuss various issues, including radicalism and gender equality.
- ✓ These engagements aimed to foster vibrant people-to-people exchanges and deepen the ties between India and Egypt.

Future Prospects:

- ✓ Egypt's status as a guest country at the upcoming G-20 summit in India indicated growing collaboration and closer ties between the two nations.
- ✓ The visit paved the way for enhanced cooperation on economic, political, and cultural fronts, with potential for increased trade and mutual benefits

Significance India-Egypt Relations:**History:**

- ✓ The history of contact between India and Egypt, two of the world's oldest civilizations, can be traced back to at least the time of Emperor Ashoka.
- ✓ Ashoka's edicts refer to his relations with Egypt under Ptolemy-II.
- ✓ In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi and the Egyptian revolutionary Saad Zaghloul shared the common goal of independence from British colonial rule.
- ✓ The joint announcement of establishment of diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level was made on 18th August 1947.

- ✓ India and Egypt signed a friendship treaty in 1955. In 1961, India and Egypt along with Yugoslavia, Indonesia and Ghana established the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
- ✓ In 2016, the joint statement between India and Egypt identified political-security cooperation, economic engagement and scientific collaboration, and cultural and people-people ties as the basis of a new partnership for a new era.

Bilateral Trade:

- ✓ India's trade with Egypt stood at USD 6,061 million in 2022-23, having declined by 17% over the previous year.
- ✓ Nearly a third of it was petroleum related.
- ✓ India was Egypt's sixth largest trading partner, while Egypt was India's 38th in 2022-23.
- ✓ Indian investments in Egypt are spread over 50 projects totalling USD 3.15 billion. Egypt has invested USD 37 million in India.

Defense Cooperation:

- ✓ The two Air Forces collaborated on the development of fighter aircraft in the 1960s, and Indian pilots trained their Egyptian counterparts from the 1960s until the mid-1980s.
- ✓ Both the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Egyptian air force fly the French Rafale fighter jets.
- ✓ In 2022, a pact was signed between the two countries that have decided to also participate in exercises and cooperate in training.
- ✓ The first joint special forces exercise between the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army, "Exercise Cyclone-I" was completed in January 2023 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

Cultural Relations:

- ✓ The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) was established in Cairo in 1992. The centre has been promoting cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Opportunities:

- ✓ Combat Religious Extremism: India aims to combat Religious Extremism by supporting moderate countries in the region and promoting social reforms.
- ✓ India has identified it as a key player in the Gulf Region since it maintains a moderate stance on religion, enjoys strong relations with the UAE (United Arab Emirates) and Saudi Arabia (which have made substantial investments in Egypt).
- ✓ Strategically Located: Egypt holds a strategically significant position with the Suez Canal, through which 12% of global trade passes.
- ✓ By enhancing bilateral relations with Egypt, India hopes to advance its goals in the region.
- ✓ Indian Investment: Egypt seeks investments in infrastructure — Metro projects in Cairo and Alexandria, a Suez Canal economic zone, a second channel of the Suez Canal, and a new administrative capital in a Cairo suburb.
- ✓ More than 50 Indian companies have invested more than USD 3.15 billion in Egypt.
- ✓ Similar Socio-Economic Conditions: Egypt is a large country (population 105 million) and economy (USD 378 billion). It is politically stable, and its socio-economic conditions are quite similar to India.
- ✓ Egypt's largest imports are refined petroleum, wheat (world's largest importer), cars, corn and pharmaceuticals — all of which India has the potential to supply.
- ✓ Infrastructure Development: Moreover, the Egyptian government has an ambitious infrastructure development agenda, with 49 mega projects including the construction of a New Cairo (USD 58 billion), a USD 25 billion nuclear power plant and a USD 23 billion high-speed rail network.
- ✓ During 2015-19, Egypt was the world's third-largest arms importer. These present opportunities for India.

Challenges:

- ✓ Economic Crisis in Egypt: The huge financial commitments of the Egyptian economy have coincided with a static economy, pandemic, global slowdown and the Ukraine conflict.
- ✓ Consequently, tourism has dropped and imports such as cereals have become costly. Annual Inflation is above 30% and the currency has lost more than half its value since February 2022.
- ✓ Abysmal Debt and Forex: Egypt's foreign debt is over USD 163 billion (43% of the GDP) and its net foreign assets are minus USD 24.1 billion.
- ✓ The acute forex situation compelled the government to issue in January 2023 an order for the postponement of projects with a large foreign currency component and cuts to non-essential spending.

- ✓ China's Growing Influence: India's concerns regarding China in Egypt revolve around China's growing economic influence, its expanding presence in strategic areas, its bilateral trade agreements, which can have potential implications for India's regional interests and security.
- ✓ China's bilateral trade with Egypt is currently at USD 15 billion, double that of India's USD 7.26 billion in 2021-22.
- ✓ During the past eight years, the President of Egypt has traveled to China seven times to lure Chinese investments.

Way Forward

- ✓ India needs to carefully balance its exposure to Egypt with the opportunities on hand.
- ✓ India may countenance manageable eco-political risks to partake Egypt's lucrative opportunities through various innovations such as the EXIM line of credit, barter, and rupee trading.
- ✓ India should, however, avoid a repetition of its experience of Iraq in the 1980s and 1990s of having to defer its hard-earned construction project dues until they had to eventually be paid off by the Indian taxpayer.
- ✓ Moreover, such an arrangement may set a precedent other similarly placed friendly countries may cite. India may, instead, consider trilateral funding arrangements for such projects in Egypt or elsewhere with its partners in the Gulf, the G-20 or the multilateral financial institutions.

POLITY / SOCIAL ISSUES

The Uniform Civil Code and India's Multicultural Challenge: Balancing Autonomy and Unity

In Context: The Law Commission of India Invites Public Views on the Uniform Civil Code.

What's the move?

After a previous conclusion that deemed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) unnecessary and undesirable, the Law Commission of India has reopened the discussion by seeking public input on the matter. This move has reignited one of India's most divisive and politically charged issues. While acknowledging the potential benefits of implementing the UCC in a gradual manner, it is important to consider a crucial aspect as the Commission embarks on this fresh undertaking.

What is Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) refers to the creation of a single law for India that would apply to all religious communities in various areas including marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption. This code is based on Article 44 of the Indian Constitution, which states that the government should strive to establish a Uniform Civil Code that is applicable to all citizens across the country.

Autonomy versus Authority:

The debate surrounding personal laws revolves around the clash between personal and religious autonomy versus the state's authority to reform familial relations. Proponents argue that each religious group should initiate reforms within their own community, promoting internal law reform or a voluntary adoption of the UCC. However, certain recent legislations, such as the love jihad laws, contradict the spirit of the Special Marriage Act, which is an example of voluntary UCC adoption. Additionally, regional variations exist, such as Kerala's abolition of the Hindu Joint Family in 1975 and specific laws governing Muslim marriages and divorces in different states.

Religious Identity and Personal Laws:

Presently, personal laws govern not only Muslims but also Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jews. The religious identity of an individual determines which personal law applies to them. Even the reformed Hindu Personal Law under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, mandates specific marriage rituals and incorporates principles from ancient texts like Manusmriti. Interestingly, when two Hindus marry under the Special Marriage Act, they remain governed by Hindu Personal Law, while two Muslims marrying under the same legislation are no longer governed by Muslim Personal Law. Even a person who renounces Hinduism continues to be subject to Hindu Personal Law.

The Constitutional Framework:

The Indian Constitution, as a culmination of India's integrative traditions, upholds cultural accommodation through provisions that prohibit discrimination and guarantee the preservation of distinctive cultures in Article 29(1). However, it is essential to ask whether Indian Muslims can argue that practices like polygamy and arbitrary unilateral divorce, even in anger or while intoxicated, are genuinely part of their culture. Furthermore, it is crucial to strike a balance between preserving multicultural diversity and pursuing unity in a diverse and multicultural nation like India. The British colonial rule promoted homogeneity among Hindus and Muslims, neglecting the heterogeneity within these communities.

Multiculturalism and Accommodation of Difference:

The Indian Constitution offers two approaches to accommodating difference—integrationist and restricted multiculturalism. While affirmative action policies align with the integrationist approach, state assistance to minority cultures is often seen as illegitimate concession or "appeasement." This leaves cultural differences without robust constitutional norms. Therefore, the focus should be on ensuring equality between men and women within communities, rather than seeking equality between communities. A just legal code that upholds equality and justice is more significant than a mere uniform law.

What is Multiculturalism –

- ✓ Multiculturalism is the way in which a society deals with cultural diversity, both at the national and at the community level.
- ✓ Sociologically, multiculturalism assumes that society as a whole benefits from increased diversity through the harmonious coexistence of different cultures.
- ✓ Multiculturalism typically develops according to one of two theories: the “melting pot” theory or the “salad bowl” theory.
- ✓ Multiculturalism can take place on a nationwide scale or within a nation’s communities. It may occur either naturally through immigration, or artificially when jurisdictions of different cultures are combined through legislative decree.

Conclusion:

- ✓ In preserving India's multicultural diversity, it is essential to consider the limitations of personal laws and practices.
- ✓ Cultural relativism cannot justify the continuation of unjust and discriminatory provisions. The Law Commission must navigate the path ahead with caution, ensuring that its recommendations do not fuel reactive culturalism among different communities, including Muslims.
- ✓ The Muslim community should distinguish between Muslim Personal Law and Islam itself, acknowledging the historical and juristic influences on the MPL. Progress can be made by reforming discriminatory aspects of the MPL and adopting the views of progressive jurists.
- ✓ Striking a fine balance between preserving cultural practices and meeting constitutional standards will be crucial in the process of overhauling socio-religious-cultural practices and embracing secularization.
- ✓ As political philosopher Iris Young suggests, the value of social difference is relational and shaped by social processes, making it imperative for the Commission to eliminate only those practices that contravene constitutional benchmarks.

PRELIM FACTS

1. The Skin bank

In Context: Recently, North India’s first skin bank was inaugurated in Delhi’s Safdarjung Hospital.

About Skin Bank:

- ✓ A skin bank is a place where cadaveric skin is processed and preserved under optimal conditions from where it can be used for the benefit of Burn victims.
- ✓ Skin can be donated after Death within 6 hours from the time of Death.
- ✓ Anyone can Donate Skin irrespective of sex & blood group; the minimum age of the donor should be 18 years.
- ✓ There is no upper age limit; even a 100-year-old person can donate his skin, and it will be used for treatment.
- ✓ The skin of persons suffering from AIDS, Hepatitis B & C, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Skin Cancer, Active skin Disease and Septicemia are considered unfit for donation.
- ✓ At the time of skin harvesting, a blood sample from the body of the deceased is also taken, and a necessary test for HIV, Viral markers & Hepatitis is carried out at the Skin Bank.
- ✓ An old history of trauma or old history of burns does not make the donor unfit for skin donation.
- ✓ Skin is generally preserved in 85% glycerol solution. It is stored between 4-5 degree Celsius, and it can be stored for a period of up to 5 years.
- ✓ The country has 16 skin banks — a facility where the skin of deceased persons can be donated — with seven in Maharashtra, four in Chennai, three in Karnataka, and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

2. India-U.S. deal for 31 MQ-9B Drones

In Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden announced the mega deal on the purchase of **General Atomics MQ-9 "Reaper" armed drones** by India. The procurement process has commenced with the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by the Defence Minister.**

MQ-9B
Predator Drones

Max Gross Takeoff Weight: **5,670 kg**
 Fuel Capacity: **2,721 kg**
 Payload Capacity: **2,177 kg across 9 hardpoints (8 wing, 1 centerline)**

Crew:
Two pilots in ground control stations

Weapons
Laser guided missiles
Anti-tank missiles
Anti-ship missiles

Missions

- Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief
- Search and Rescue
- Law Enforcement
- Border Enforcement
- Defensive Counter Air
- Airborne Early Warning

Missions

- Electronic Warfare
- Anti-Surface Warfare
- Anti-Submarine Warfare
- Airborne Mine Counter Measures
- Long-Range Strategic ISR
- Over-the-Horizon Targeting

About MQ-9 'Reaper' Armed Drone

- With an endurance of over 27 hours, the **General Atomics MQ-9 "Reaper"** speeds speeds of 240 KTAS, can operate up to 50,000 feet, and has a 3,850 pound (1,746 kilogrammes) payload capacity.
- It can carry 500 per cent more payload and has nine times the horsepower in comparison to the earlier MQ-1 Predator.
- is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40 hours, depending on configuration, in all types of weather.
- The MQ-9B has two variants — the **SkyGuardian and the SeaGuardian**. 15 SeaGuardians are for the Indian Navy and 16 SkyGuardians — eight each for the Indian Army and Air Force.

Significance

- MQ-9 UAV provides long-endurance, persistent surveillance, and strike capability for the warfighter.
- It will be assembled in India, will enhance the **ISR (intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance) capabilities** of India's armed forces across domains
- It will bolster India's national security and surveillance capabilities not only in the Indian Ocean but also along the frontier with China.
- General Atomics will also establish a **Comprehensive Global Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility** in India in support of India's long-term goals to boost indigenous defence capabilities.

3. Wagner Group

IN CONTEXT: Recently, Wagner Group waged an armed rebellion against Russia and vowed to topple the country's defence leadership.

What is the Wagner Group?

- ✓ It is a Russian paramilitary organisation headed by Yevgeny Prigozhin.
- ✓ Legally, it is not a Russia-based private military company though it works closely with the Russian security apparatus
- ✓ It is basically a private military company and a network of mercenaries.
- ✓ It was first identified in 2014 while backing pro-Russian separatist forces in eastern Ukraine.
- ✓ It got registered as a company in 2022 and opened a new headquarters in St Petersburg.
- ✓ According to reports ,The Wagner Group now consists of 50,000 fighters in Ukraine and has become a key component of the Ukraine campaign.

Presence

- ✓ The Wagner group has been active in Sudan, Mali, the Central African Republic, Mozambique and Libya in Africa.
- ✓ The activities are related to providing direct support to authoritarian governments, supporting rival leadership engaged in internal wars, filling the void created by the withdrawal of the French military engagement, taking part in resource exploitation etc.
- ✓ According to media reports, it provides its services to different governments often in exchange for access to gold and diamond mines.

Association with Russia

- ✓ The Wagner group under Prigozhin has benefited Russia significantly in the ongoing war against Ukraine.
- ✓ It was this mercenary group that captured the key regions of Soledar and Bakhmut for Russia. Because of the Wagners’ military contributions, Prigozhin enjoys some popularity and influence.

4. Belize certified malaria-free by WHO

In context: “WHO congratulates the people and government of Belize and their network of global and local partners for this achievement”, said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “Belize is another example of how, with the right tools and the right approach, we can dream of a malaria-free “



About Belize:

- ✓ Belize is the third country to be awarded a malaria-free status in 2023, following the certifications of Azerbaijan and Tajikistan in March.
- ✓ It is located on the northeast coast of Central America and south of the Yucatán Peninsula.
- ✓ It has a land of mountains, swamps, and tropical jungle.
- ✓ It is bounded by Mexico to the north, Guatemala to the west and south, and the Caribbean Sea to the east.

Geographical features

- ✓ The southern half of the country is dominated by the rugged Maya Mountains, a plateau of igneous rock cut by erosion into hills and valleys that stretch in a southwesterly to northeasterly direction.
- ✓ The northern half of the country consists of limestone lowlands and swamps less than 200 feet (60 metres) above sea level.
- ✓ Along the coast of this country, there is Belize Barrier Reef which is the second-largest barrier reef in the world.
- ✓ The reef reserve system was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1996.

ANSWER WRITING

Q. Can ‘goodness’ be learnt? Discuss the eightfold path suggested by Buddha in this regard and explain its relevance in contemporary times for ordinary citizens, leaders and administrators?

Introduction: Goodness means the act of being good in all the circumstances. It can be learnt, through education, training and experience if one is amenable, open and willing. A chaotic person may become

organized, an untrustworthy may become trustworthy, a fragile and shaky fellow may become inspired and motivated. Goodness can be learnt only if we are ready to remove the obstacles in the way by understanding followed by practice. There are many hindrances in acquiring goodness such as a narrow vision, ignorance and wrong assumptions, social conditioning and prejudices, lack of emotional balance and negative reactions, lack of self-belief, motivation and inspiration etc.

The eight Buddhist practices in the Noble Eightfold Path are:

1. **Right View:** This means seeing things impartially, look at people and all creatures without any discrimination and prejudices.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** The right view will help in making an 'inclusive society' as people will not discriminate against each other. Leaders and administrators will be considerate for every section while making and implementing laws.
2. **Right Resolve:** Buddha meant by this: giving up home and adopting the life of a religious mendicant in order to follow the path. In the practical life of a normal human being this path would lead to selfless behaviour, sacrifice of greed and ill will.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** This path will make people, leaders and administrators being compassionate and tolerant. It will boost public and political morality. Self-sacrifice will result in lesser corruption which is one of the major issues of our system.
3. **Right Speech:** no lying, no rude speech, no telling one person what another says about him, speaking that which leads to salvation.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** Inappropriate speech by leaders may cause conflict and violence. Social media is a living example where people speak without restraint which causes differences.
4. **Right Conduct:** No killing or injuring, no taking what is not given, no material desires.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** This will help in bringing stability and lesser crimes. People will not concentrate wealth and hoard material during distress. Leaders and administrators will become dutiful.
5. **Right Livelihood:** Beg to feed, only possessing what is essential to sustain life.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** This will bring equality. People will become more spiritual instead of being materialistic. Administrators and Leaders will not build empires and scams such as 2G scam, coal scam will not happen.
6. **Right Effort:** Guard against sensual thoughts; this concept aims at preventing unwholesome states that disrupt meditation.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** The increasing brutal cases of rape will find a solution under this principle.
7. **Right Mindfulness:** Never be absent minded, being conscious of what one is doing.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** This makes people more rational and accountable to leaders and administrators. The Right to Information act is the culmination of rational thinking.
8. **Right Samadhi:** Practicing four stages of meditation culminating into unification of the mind.
 - ✓ **Relevance in contemporary times:** This helps in focusing and removing ethical dilemmas while making decisions in personal and professional life.

To keep one healthy -physically and mentally- the eightfold paths are very useful by guiding people thoughts and actions. These attributes help in fulfilling the constitutional and social obligations.

MCQs

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recently, Priya A S has been awarded the prestigious Kendra Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2023. Considered the following statement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For novel Perumazhayathe Kunjithalukal in the Malayalam language. 2. The novel set against the backdrop of the 2018 Kerala floods. 3. Bal sahitya Puraskar given in every 2 year. How many pairs of statement is/are correct? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Only 1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b) Only 2 c) Only 3 d) None <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Recently, The announcement was made by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding Belize's achievement in successfully reducing and eliminating malaria cases. Considered the following stamen: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belize is a Central American country located on the northwestern coast of Central America. |
|---|--|

2. It shares borders with Mexico to the north and Guatemala to the west and south.
3. The Belize Barrier Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

How many pairs of statement is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) **Only 2**
- c) Only 3
- d) None

3. Recently, Wagner Group is in news which is related to?

- a) Afghanistan Taliban group.
- b) Syria military group.
- c) **Russian paramilitary organisation.**
- d) None

4. Recently, North India's first skin bank was inaugurated in Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.

1. Skin can be donated after Death within 6 hours from the time of Death.
2. Anyone can Donate Skin irrespective of sex & blood group; the minimum age of the donor should be 18 years.

Which of the above statement is /are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) None

5. On the occasion of World MSME Day, Ministry of MSME is celebrating 'Udyami Bharat-MSME Day' Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Considered the following statement:

1. United Nations designated June 27 as Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day,
2. The theme MSME Day 2023 in India is "Future-ready MSMEs for India@100."

Which of the above statement is /are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) None

6. The recent purchase agreement of "MQ-9 Reaper" armed drones was signed between India and which of the following countries?

- a) **USA**
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) Japan

7. Recently, The Odisha Cabinet approved a Rs.1,000 crore increase in total cost outlay for an Augmentation of Basic Amenities and Development of Heritage and Architecture (ABADHA) scheme. Considered the following statement:

1. Its aims to transform basic infrastructure in Puri town which is famous for the Lord Jagannath Temple.

2. Started in the year 2022.

3. It is central Sponsor Scheme.

How many pairs of statement is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) **Only 2**
- c) Only 3
- d) None

8. Considered the following statement:

1. Assam's first-ever underwater tunnel, connecting Numaligarh and Gohpur.
2. It will be the first rail-road tunnel under the Brahmaputra River in northeast India.

Which of the above statement is /are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) **Both 1 and 2**
- d) None

9. With reference to the NANDI Portal, consider the following statements:

1. It will help in streamlining the regulatory approval process for veterinary products.
2. It is developed by the National Informatics Centre.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) **Only 1**
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

10. With reference to the Kharchi Puja, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the main festivals of Tripura.
2. It is performed during January on the premises of Chaturdasha Devata' temple.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) **Only 2**
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None