



**UPSC
Mentorship**
A Unit of Mentorship India

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

24 September 2024



SOURCES



Table of Contents

1. What sculptures tell us about Indian culture.....	2
2. A Collective for Young Artists to Learn Nuances of Different Koodiyattom Styles.....	3
3. Humanity's success lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield: PM Modi at Summit of the Future at UN.....	4
4. China Blows Hot and Cold Over Quad Summit.....	5
5. Days after India abstained on UNGA resolution against Israel, PM Modi meets Abbas.....	6
6. Why Dengue Cases Have Surged Globally in 2024.....	8
7. Drought, deforestation, climate change: Why South America is burning.....	9
8. Massive Greenland Landslide Sent Seismic Waves Around Earth for 9 Days.....	10
9. One Nation One Election is a desire to cut down clutter of democratic politics.....	12
10. How Supreme Court Strengthened Child Pornography Law.....	13
Daily Quiz	14
Solutions	17



GS I

1. What sculptures tell us about Indian culture

Source: Indian Express

Prelims: Art and Culture, Indian History, Heritage Preservation

Mains: Cultural Studies, Indian Art History, Socio-Cultural Dynamics

Context: Sculptures in India, distinct from functional architecture, primarily serve aesthetic and ritualistic purposes, offering insights into the cultural and spiritual ethos across different historical periods.

Harappan Civilization:

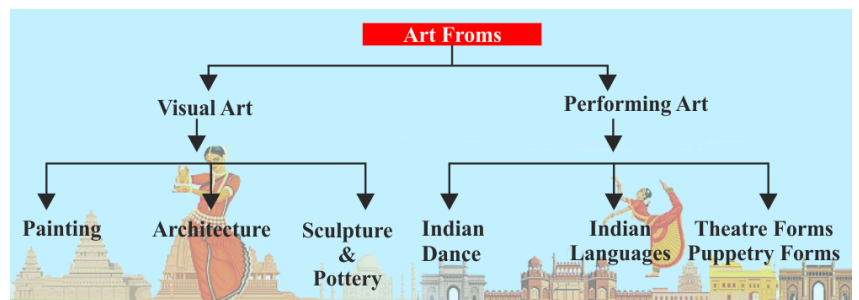
- **Notable Work:** "Dancing Girl" (10.5 cm bronze) dating back to 2500-1900 BCE.
- **Technique:** Lost wax casting method.
- **Purpose:** Likely used for ritualistic significance.

Mauryan Period:

- **Key Developments:** Creation of royal sculptures, exemplified by Ashoka's Lion Capital on pillars.
- **Later Influences:** Shungas and Satavahanas enriched stupas with bas relief carvings depicting Buddha's life, blending Greek and Persian artistic elements.

Gandhara and Mathura Art (Kushan Period):

- **Art Schools:**
 - **Gandhara:** Roman-inspired drapery and intricate detailing.
 - **Mathura:** Bulkier forms reflecting local traditions.
- **Iconography:** Significant contributions to Buddhist, Jain, and Hindu iconography.



Chola Period:

- **Distinct Features:** Renowned for bronze Natarajas, representing cosmic energy.
- **Materials:** Utilization of copper from Sri Lanka, reflecting territorial ambitions.

Islamic and European Influences:

- **Impact on Sculpture:** Decline under Islamic rule due to religious constraints; however, Hindu and Jain temple art persisted.
- **Colonial Period:** Introduction of European styles emphasizing idealized musculature, contrasting with traditional ornamentation.

Lost Ritual Sculptures:

- **Examples:** Bankura horses of Bengal, made from clay for ceremonies and later dissolved.
- **Modern Continuation:** Festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja feature temporary clay sculptures for worship, submerged post-festival.

Conclusion:

- Indian sculptures have evolved from the ritualistic figures of the Harappan civilization to the intricate Natarajas of the Chola dynasty.
- These artworks reflect religious beliefs, mythology, societal changes, foreign influences, and political ambitions.



- The diversity and legacy of Indian sculptures are vital to understanding the nation's cultural history and continue to influence modern expressions through tribal and festive traditions.

2.A Collective for Young Artists to Learn Nuances of Different Koodiyattom Styles

Source: The Hindu

Prelims: Indian Classical Arts, Cultural Preservation, Performing Arts

Mains: Art and Culture, Regional Arts, Socio-Cultural Development

Context : The Chollyyattom collective, started during the COVID-19 pandemic, unites young Koodiyattom artists in Kerala to preserve traditions and share knowledge of various styles.

Chollyyattom Collective:

- Established during the pandemic, it connects young artists practicing diverse Koodiyattom traditions, including the Kalamandalam or Painkulam style, Ammannur style, and Mani Gurukulam style.
- The collective's goal is to provide practical exposure to the nuances of these traditions.

Natya Yauvanam Festival:

- The second edition of Natya Yauvanam 2024 was held at Ammannur Gurukulam in Irinjalakuda
- The festival serves as a platform for young artists to showcase their skills

Artistic Diversity:

- There is a need to connect younger artists trained in various styles to ensure the preservation of age-old traditions for future generations.
- The importance of maintaining diverse techniques and styles is highlighted.

Koodiyattom Styles:

- While costumes remain largely similar, Nepathya Sreehari Chakyar points out subtle differences in sign languages and acting techniques across Koodiyattom traditions.
- Kalamandalam or Painkulam, Ammannur, and Mani Gurukulam have unique style that can be challenging for unfamiliar audiences to appreciate.

Expanding Beyond Temples:

- Traditionally confined to temple precincts, Koodiyattom is now reaching a broader audience through the Chollyyattom collective, which aims to include artists from diverse social backgrounds.
- The initiative encourages collaboration among emerging artists for a shared cultural mission.

Conclusion:

- The Chollyyattom collective is vital for young Koodiyattom artists in Kerala to explore different styles.
- It fosters collaboration among performers, preserving this ancient art form while allowing it to evolve.
- Initiatives like Natya Yauvanam enhance knowledge exchange and artistic collaboration, helping sustain Koodiyattom's rich heritage.

RITUAL PERFORMING ARTS INFLUENCING KATHAKALI

- **CHAKYAR KOOOTHU:** A PERFORMING ART OF KERALA CONSISTING OF MONOLOGUE WHERE THE PERFORMER EXPOUNDS THE STORIES FROM THE EPICS.
- **KOODIYATTAM:** A COMBINATION OF SANSKRIT THEATRE WITH ELEMENTS OF KOOOTHU WHICH IS AN ANCIENT ART FORM OF THE SANGAM ERA. IT HAS BEEN RECOGNISED BY UNESCO AS MASTERPIECE OF THE ORAL AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE OF HUMANITY.



GS II

3. Humanity's success lies in our collective strength, not in the battlefield: PM Modi at Summit of the Future at UN

Source: The Indian Express

Prelims: Global Governance, Digital Public Infrastructure, Cyber Security

Mains: International Relations, Multilateralism, India's Foreign Policy

Context : On September 23, 2024, PM Modi at the UN Summit stressed global institutional reforms for peace, highlighting emerging conflicts in cyberspace, maritime, and space.

Emerging Theatres of Conflict:

- Identified cyber, maritime, and space as new arenas for global conflict.
- The importance of global digital governance to protect national sovereignty and integrity.

Global Reforms and Peace:

- The success of humanity depends on collective strength, not military conflict.
- Reforms in global institutions like the UN to ensure they remain relevant in addressing current challenges.

India's Leadership in Digital Infrastructure:

- India's success in lifting 250 million people out of poverty and its leadership in digital public infrastructure.
- India's readiness to share its digital expertise with the Global South.

Focus on Sustainable Development:

- Prioritising sustainable development, health security, and food security as global imperatives.
- India's commitment to initiatives such as **One Earth, One Health and One Sun, One World, One Grid.**

Relevance for Global Governance:

- **UN Reforms and Multilateralism:**
 - There is a need for reforms in global institutions like the UN, echoing India's long standing aspiration for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.
- **Global Digital Compact:**
 - The Summit of the Future is expected to result in a "Pact for the Future," focusing on global digital governance and sustainable multilateral solutions.



Conclusion:

- PM Modi’s speech at the Summit highlighted India’s leadership in peace, sustainable development, and digital governance, calling for reforms in global institutions.
- The Global Digital Compact from the summit aims to shape future governance frameworks.

4. China Blows Hot and Cold Over Quad Summit

Source: The Hindu

Prelims: Indo-Pacific Strategy, Quad, South China Sea Dispute

Mains: International Relations, Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific, China-U.S. Rivalry

Context: China criticised the Quad as a U.S. tool to contain Beijing & accused the U.S. of using it to boost military cooperation, while reaffirming China's stance on protecting its sovereignty in the South and East China Seas.

China’s Criticism of the Quad:

- China views the Quad as an instrument of U.S. hegemony, aimed at undermining its interests.
- The U.S. is peddling the "China threat narrative" to form exclusive groupings like the Quad, which Beijing claims will fail to sway its determination to protect its maritime rights.

Quad’s Focus on Maritime Security:

- China expressed concern over the Quad’s focus on the South and East China Seas, where it has overlapping territorial disputes.

U.S. Perspective on the Quad:

- While the U.S. claims the Quad does not specifically target China.
- Quad’s growing role in countering China’s assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific, particularly in contested maritime zones.

Relevance for Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific:

- **China’s Opposition to Quad’s Evolution:**
 - Since the Quad’s formation in 2007, China has consistently viewed the grouping with suspicion.
 - Beijing initially dismissed the Quad as a fleeting concept, but its steady evolution into a premier strategic forum has challenged China’s dominance, particularly in the South China Sea.



- **China's Response to Quad Cooperation:**

- China condemned the Quad's new initiatives, such as the first joint Coast Guard mission and its support for India's leadership in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Conclusion:

- China's sharp reaction to the Quad Summit highlights concerns over growing U.S., India, Japan, and Australia cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- Despite attempts to downplay the Quad, its focus on maritime security challenges China's territorial claims, prompting Beijing to intensify diplomatic opposition to maintain regional dominance.

5. Days after India abstained on UNGA resolution against Israel, PM Modi meets Abbas

Source: Indian Express

Prelims: Israel-Palestine Conflict, UN General Assembly, India's Foreign Policy

Mains: International Relations, India's Stance on Global Conflicts, Israel-Palestine Two-State Solution

Context : PM Modi met Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the UNGA in New York, after India abstained from a resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

India's Abstention at UNGA:

- India, with Australia, Canada, and the UK, abstained from a UNGA resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territories.
- Out of 193 nations, 124 voted in favor, showing India's balanced stance on the issue.

Modi-Abbas Meeting:

- India has consistently supported a two-state solution, emphasizing that direct and meaningful negotiations between Israel and Palestine are essential to achieving lasting peace.

Relevance for Israel-Palestine Conflict and India's Foreign Policy:

India's Diplomatic Approach:

- India has maintained a delicate balance in its relations with Israel and Palestine.
- While India's ties with Israel have deepened in recent years, it continues to support the Palestinian cause,



advocating for a two-state solution that respects both parties' rights.

Humanitarian Concerns in Gaza:

- The Indian PM's expression for the humanitarian situation in Gaza reflects India's commitment to upholding international humanitarian law.
- This balanced stance aligns with India's broader foreign policy objectives of maintaining peaceful relations with conflicting parties.

Conclusion:

- India's abstention at the UNGA and Modi's meeting with Abbas signify the country's nuanced approach to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- While supporting peace and stability in the region, India avoids alienating either Israel or Palestine, underscoring its desire for a just and peaceful resolution through direct negotiations.



GS III

6. Why Dengue Cases Have Surged Globally in 2024

Source: Indian Express

Prelims: Dengue, Vector-Borne Diseases, Global Health

Mains: Urbanisation, Climate Change, Public Health, Disease Surveillance

Context : In 2024, dengue cases exceeded 12 million worldwide, with nearly 7,000 deaths by August—more than double last year's numbers that impacted several countries, including India.

What is Dengue?

- Dengue is a viral infection transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.
- Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, and rashes.

Global Surge in 2024:

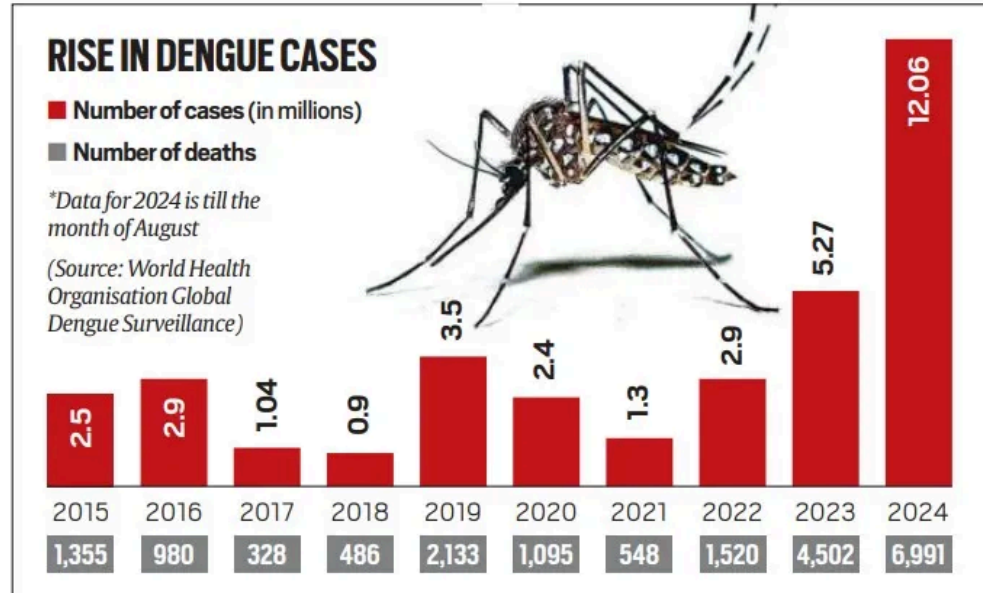
- WHO recorded over 12 million cases globally by August 2024 from the 5.27 million cases last year.
- Countries like Brazil and others in South America including India, report complete data to the global surveillance network.

Situation in India:

- By June 2024, there has been a 50% rise in dengue cases compared to 2023, and the disease has spread across all states and Union Territories, with even Ladakh reporting cases.

Causes of the Surge:

- **Urbanization:** Urban areas with dense populations provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, especially during monsoons.
- **Climate Change:** Rising temperatures due to global warming have expanded the habitats of mosquitoes to higher altitudes and previously cooler regions.
- **Movement of People:**
 - Increased global movement has contributed to the spread of dengue.



- Other mosquito-borne diseases like **chikungunya** and **zika** have also surged, raising concerns about the interaction between these viruses.

Vaccines:

- WHO recommended two vaccines, **Sanofi's Dengvaxia** and **Takeda's QDenga**, are available but not yet approved in India.
- India is also developing its own vaccines, including candidates from the **Serum Institute of India** and **Panacea Biotec**, which are in advanced stages of development.

Conclusion:

- The surge in dengue cases is attributed to a combination of urbanization, climate change, and global movement.
- Effective prevention strategies, coupled with robust surveillance systems and vaccine development, are crucial in curbing this growing public health challenge.

7. Drought, deforestation, climate change: Why South America is burning

Source: Indian Express

Prelims: Wildfires, Deforestation, El Niño, Climate Change

Mains: Environmental Degradation, Deforestation, Global Warming, Climate Resilience

Context: South America is facing its worst wildfire season in 20 years, with 346,112 fire hotspots across 13 countries, surpassing the 2007 record severely affected in Brazil, Peru, and Bolivia.

How Severe is the Situation?

- Fires have been raging across millions of acres in South America, affecting regions like the Amazon, Cerrado, and Pantanal, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, and Paraguay.
- Brazil is the hardest hit, with 60% of the region's wildfires occurring there.

Health Impact:

- Widespread smoke has severely affected air quality across Cities like Montevideo have experienced poor visibility due to dense smoke and "black rain."

Causes Behind the Fires:

- **Wildfire Season and Human Activity:**
 - South America's wildfire season, usually from August to October, involves farmers intentionally burning land for cultivation. This year, fires are more intense due to drought and deforestation.
- **Drought Conditions:**
 - Drought Conditions by El Niño and global warming can be seen.
 - Rivers in the Amazon Basin are at historic lows, with 59% of Brazil affected by drought, increasing the region's fire susceptibility.



- **Deforestation:**
 - High levels of deforestation, especially in the Amazon, have further worsened the situation.
- **Climate Change:**
 - Global warming has intensified the crisis. Rising temperatures have driven extreme heat and contributed to lower rainfall, making South American forests more prone to wildfires.

Future Outlook in Uncertainty About Rainfall:

- There is no clear rainfall & experts warn that rising global temperatures will worsen extreme weather events like droughts and wildfires.

Conclusion:

- The fires ravaging South America are a combination of human activity, drought, deforestation, and climate change.
- As the world warms, extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent and intense, posing a significant challenge to the region's environment and public health.

8. Massive Greenland Landslide Sent Seismic Waves Around Earth for 9 Days

Source: The Hindu

Prelims: Geophysical Phenomena, Climate Change, Environmental Science

Mains: Natural Disasters, Climate Impact, Global Warming Implications

Context: A year ago, a Greenland landslide displaced 25 million cubic metres of ice and rock, triggering a 200 metre mega tsunami and seismic waves can create Global Warming.

Seismic Waves Detected Globally:

- On September 16, 2023, seismic stations worldwide recorded unusual waves that lasted for nine days.
- Unlike typical earthquakes, these waves exhibited a single frequency, initially perplexing researchers.
- The waves were detected as far away as Antarctica.

Massive Landslide in Dickson Fjord in Eastern Green Land:

- The landslide was triggered by the collapse of the **Hvide Støvhorn peak**, resulting in a rock-ice avalanche and a submarine landslide.



Mega-Tsunami Formation:

- The landslide displaced sufficient water in the fjord to generate a 200-meter-high mega-tsunami.
- Although the waves damaged nearby cultural and research facilities

Seiche Effect in the Fjord:

- The fjord's narrow and deep nature caused the tsunami waves to rebound off its banks repeatedly, a phenomenon known as a seiche.
- This oscillation caused the waves to persist for over nine days, aligning with the strange signals detected by seismic stations globally.

Impact of Climate Change:

- The landslide is attributed directly to global warming, with decades of glacial melting weakening the ice at the fjord's base, which previously supported the rocky slopes.
- As the ice thinned, the rocks were destabilised, leading to the **catastrophic landslide** event.

Conclusion:

- The Greenland landslide serves as a critical warning about the escalating risks associated with climate change.
- As Arctic and subarctic regions warm more rapidly than the rest of the planet, the likelihood of similar mega-tsunamis and landslides is expected to increase.
- This unprecedented event highlights the urgent need for global action on climate change to prevent further destabilisation of glaciers and permafrost areas.



Editorial, Ideas and Opinions

9. One Nation One Election is a desire to cut down clutter of democratic politics

Source: Indian Express

Prelims: One Nation One Election, Electoral Reforms

Mains: Democracy, Federalism, Election Reforms, Constitutional Issues

Context : The One Nation One Election (ONOE) proposal aims to simplify India's democratic process. While it may offer governance benefits, it threatens federalism and accountability.

ONOE as a Policy Solution:

- The ONOE initiative as a solution without a real problem, comparing it to the ill-conceived demonetisation policy.
- Pushing of this plan based on the **High-Level Committee (HLC)** report, which is designed to justify ONOE rather than provide genuine analysis.

ONOE's Core Rationale:

- Proponents of ONOE argue that it will improve governance by reducing the number of elections, minimising disruptions caused by the Model Code of Conduct (MCC), cutting government expenditure, and avoiding "voter fatigue."
- However, these arguments, noting that the time lost due to elections is relatively small, and that alternatives, like amending the MCC, could address these issues without a major overhaul of the electoral calendar.

Relevance for Constitutional Democracy and Federalism:

- **ONOE's Impact on Democracy:**
 - ONOE threatens the core principle of accountability in India's parliamentary system.
 - Simultaneous elections could favor national parties at the expense of regional ones, undermining the federal structure.
 - Aligning state and national elections could also disrupt the autonomy of state legislatures and local governance bodies.
- **Political Implications:**
 - Holding national and state elections together may swing votes in favor of larger national parties.
 - This political imbalance would reduce the accountability of state governments to their voters, concentrating power in the hands of national players.

Conclusion:

- While ONOE might streamline electoral processes, but it poses significant risks to India's constitutional framework and federal structure.
- The proposal, driven by a desire to reduce the "clutter" of democratic politics, could ultimately weaken the essential mechanisms of accountability, regional representation, and electoral competition, making it antithetical to democracy.



In Brief

10. How Supreme Court Strengthened Child Pornography Law

Source: Indian Express

Prelims: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Child Rights, Legal Reforms

Mains: Child Protection Laws, Judicial Interpretations, Legal Accountability

Context: The Supreme Court took a significant step to tighten child pornography laws under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act by ruling that viewing, possessing, or failing to report child pornography, even without further transmission, is a punishable offence.

Supreme Court Ruling:

- A Bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala emphasized that possession or viewing of child pornography falls under the scope of criminality.
- The verdict sets a stricter interpretation of Section 15 of the POCSO Act, which governs the punishment for storing pornographic material involving children.

Details of the POCSO Act:

The POCSO Act, amended in 2019, expanded Section 15, which introduced three main offences related to child pornography:

- **Failure to Report or Delete**
 - Punishes individuals who store child pornography and do not delete, destroy, or report it, with an intention to share.
- **Transmission or Propagation**
 - Penalizes anyone storing such content with the intention to distribute, transmit, or display it, except for court use or reporting purposes.
- **Commercial Purpose**
 - Penalizes those possessing child pornography for commercial gain.

Key Interpretations by the Court:

- **Constructive Possession:**
 - The Court broadened the scope of possession, ruling that even viewing child pornography without downloading it constitutes "constructive possession."
 - If a person has control over the material while viewing (e.g., enlarging, pausing, or closing the video), they are deemed in possession of it.
- **Duty to Report:**
 - The Supreme Court underscored the obligation to report child pornography, ruling that simply closing a video link is not enough.

Conclusion:

- The Supreme Court's ruling reinforces the legal framework protecting children from sexual offences, establishing clearer accountability for individuals who view or possess child pornography.
- This interpretation of the POCSO Act aims to strengthen the fight against child exploitation and ensure a safer environment for minors.

Who's a child? | While most laws fix 18 as the age when one ceases to be a child, there are exceptions:

- The Majority Act, 1875 sets the age of majority at 18
- 61st Constitutional Amendment Act fixes the minimum voting age at 18
- POCSO Act, 2012 and Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 define a child as someone under the age of 18



- Right to Education Act, 2009 says a child is someone between the ages of six and 14

■ Child Labour Amendment Act, 2016 says a child is someone under the age of 14 and an adolescent is aged between 14 and 18



Daily Quiz

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding Indian sculptures:

1. The "Dancing Girl," a notable sculpture from the Harappan civilization, is believed to have been used for ritualistic significance.
2. The Mauryan period saw the emergence of royal sculptures, including Ashoka's Lion Capital, which reflects Greek and Persian influences.
3. The Gandhara art school is characterised by bulkier forms that reflect local traditions, while Mathura is known for its intricate detailing.
4. The Chola period is renowned for its bronze sculptures of Nataraja, which symbolize cosmic energy and reflect the use of materials from Sri Lanka.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, and 4 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Q2. Consider the following statements regarding the Chollyattom collective and its impact on Koodiyattom art forms:

1. Statement 1: The Chollyattom collective was established during the COVID-19 pandemic to unite young Koodiyattom artists and provide them practical exposure to various Koodiyattom traditions.
2. Statement 2: The Natya Yauvanam Festival, held at Ammannur Gurukulam,

serves as a platform for young artists to showcase their skills, emphasizing the artistic diversity of Koodiyattom.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1.
- B. Both statements are correct, but Statement 2 is independent of Statement 1.
- C. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- D. Statement 2 is correct, and Statement 1 is incorrect.

Q3. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding PM Modi's address at the Summit of the Future:

1. **Assertion (A):** PM Modi emphasized that humanity's success relies on collective strength rather than military conflict, advocating for reforms in global institutions to address contemporary challenges.
2. **Reason (R):** The Prime Minister highlighted emerging conflicts in cyberspace, maritime, and space, and stressed the importance of global digital governance to protect national sovereignty and integrity.



Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

Q4. What recent initiatives of the Quad have drawn criticism from China?

- A. Joint military exercises in the Indian Ocean.
- B. The establishment of the Quad as a permanent institution.
- C. The first joint Coast Guard mission and support for India's leadership in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).
- D. Economic partnerships with Southeast Asian nations.

Q5. Consider the following pairs regarding India's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict:

Key Issue	Objective
1. UNGA Resolution Abstention	India maintains a balanced diplomatic position between Israel and Palestine.
2. Support for Two-State Solution	India has shifted its support exclusively to Israel.
3. Meeting with Mahmoud Abbas	India emphasizes the importance of direct negotiations for lasting peace.
4. Humanitarian Concerns in	India avoids commenting on the

Gaza	humanitarian situation in Gaza.
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How many pairs are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All are correct

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the global surge in dengue cases in 2024:

1. Dengue is transmitted by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, and symptoms include fever, headache, and muscle pain.
2. In 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded over 12 million dengue cases globally, significantly higher than the previous year's 5.27 million cases.
3. Urbanization has contributed to the dengue surge by providing ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes in rural areas.
4. India has seen a 50% increase in dengue cases by June 2024, with cases reported across all states and Union Territories, including Ladakh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, and 4 only

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the current wildfire situation in South America:

1. Statement 1: South America is facing its worst wildfire season in 20 years, with Brazil experiencing 60% of the region's wildfires due to a combination of drought, deforestation, and human activities.
2. Statement 2: The wildfire season in South America occurs from June to August, primarily due to natural causes unrelated to human activities.



Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both statements are correct.
- B. Statement 1 is correct, and Statement 2 is incorrect.
- C. Statement 1 is incorrect, and Statement 2 is correct.
- D. Both statements are incorrect.

Q8. Consider the following Assertion & Reason statement regarding the Greenland landslide:

1. **Assertion (A):** A massive landslide in Greenland triggered a 200-meter mega-tsunami and seismic waves that were detected globally for nine days.
2. **Reason (R):** The seismic waves resulted from the landslide and were attributed to an earthquake occurring in the region, which is unrelated to climate change.

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- C. A is true, but R is false.
- D. A is false, but R is true.

Q9. How does the ONOE initiative relate to the principle of accountability within India's parliamentary democracy?

- A. It strengthens accountability by reducing the frequency of elections.
- B. It poses a threat to accountability by aligning state and national elections, potentially diminishing local issues in electoral contests.
- C. It enhances accountability by providing voters with a clearer choice between national and regional issues.
- D. It has no significant impact on the principle of accountability in the parliamentary system.

Q10. What implications does the Supreme Court's ruling have for legal accountability in cases involving child pornography?

- A. It creates a more lenient approach to viewing child pornography, allowing for greater public access.
- B. It reduces the burden of proof required to convict individuals of child pornography offences.
- C. It allows for exemptions based on the individual's intentions when viewing or possessing such material.
- D. It increases legal accountability by ensuring that individuals who view or possess child pornography are subject to criminal penalties, thereby deterring such behaviour.



Solutions

1. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 Correct :** The "Dancing Girl" is a bronze sculpture from the Indus Valley Civilization (Harappan), and while its exact use is debated, it is often associated with ritualistic or cultural significance.
- **Statement 2 Correct :** The Mauryan period (around 322-185 BCE) is known for significant royal sculptures, including Ashoka's Lion Capital. The art and architecture of this period show influences from both Greek and Persian styles due to interactions after Alexander's invasion.
- **Statement 3 Incorrect :** Gandhara art is influenced by Greco-Roman styles and features more realistic, heavier forms. Mathura art, on the other hand, is known for its detailed and refined sculptures, particularly of Hindu deities. The characterization of Gandhara being "bulkier" is somewhat misleading, as it combines elements from various traditions.
- **Statement 4 Correct :** The Chola dynasty (9th-13th century) is famous for its exquisite bronze sculptures, including the depiction of Nataraja, symbolizing cosmic energy. The Cholas did have trade and cultural exchanges with Sri Lanka, influencing their materials and techniques.

2. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Cholliyattom collective was indeed established during the COVID-19 pandemic to connect young Koodiyattom artists. Its purpose is to provide practical exposure to the nuances of different Koodiyattom traditions, thus promoting cultural preservation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Natya Yauvanam Festival showcases young artists' skills and highlights the artistic diversity present in Koodiyattom. This festival serves as an extension of the collective's mission, allowing artists to display their talents while fostering a deeper understanding of the varied styles within Koodiyattom.
- **Since Statement 2 elaborates** on the activities and objectives of the Cholliyattom collective as described in Statement 1, the correct option is that both statements are correct, and Statement 2 explains Statement 1.

3. Correct Answer is A

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true** as PM Modi indeed emphasized that the success of humanity should stem from collective strength and not from military means, advocating



for necessary reforms in global institutions like the UN.

- **Reason (R) is also true**, as the Prime Minister pointed out that emerging conflicts in cyberspace, maritime, and space are crucial areas that require global governance to ensure national sovereignty and integrity. This aligns with his assertion that collective strength is essential in addressing these contemporary issues.

4. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- China has condemned specific initiatives, such as the Quad's first joint Coast Guard mission and the endorsement of India's role in regional organizations like the IORA.
- These actions are seen as direct challenges to China's maritime claims and influence in the Indo-Pacific, exacerbating tensions between Beijing and the Quad nations.

5. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Pair 1: Correct.** India's abstention from the UNGA resolution indeed reflects a balanced diplomatic position.
- **Pair 2: Incorrect.** India supports a two-state solution that includes the rights of both parties, not exclusively to Israel.
- **Pair 3: Correct.** The meeting with Mahmoud Abbas highlights

India's commitment to facilitating direct negotiations for peace.

- **Pair 4: Incorrect.** India has expressed concern regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza, showcasing its commitment to international humanitarian law.

6. Correct Answer is D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Dengue is indeed transmitted by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, and common symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, and rashes.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** The WHO recorded over 12 million dengue cases globally by August 2024, significantly exceeding the previous year's 5.27 million cases.
- **Statement 3: Incorrect.** Urbanization contributes to the dengue surge primarily in urban areas, not rural ones, as dense populations in cities provide ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- **Statement 4: Correct.** India experienced a 50% rise in dengue cases by June 2024, with reported cases across all states and Union Territories, including Ladakh.

7. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** South America is indeed experiencing its worst wildfire season in two decades, with Brazil being the hardest hit, accounting for 60% of the wildfires. The intensity of the fires is exacerbated by drought



conditions, deforestation, and intentional land burning by farmers.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The wildfire season in South America typically occurs from August to October, not from June to August. Additionally, human activities, such as land burning for agriculture, significantly contribute to the occurrence and intensity of these wildfires, making the claim of being unrelated to human activities incorrect.

8. Correct Answer is C

Explanation:

- **Assertion (A) is true** because the Greenland landslide did indeed displace 25 million cubic meters of ice and rock, generating a mega-tsunami and causing seismic waves that were detected worldwide for nine days.
- **Reason (R) is false** because the seismic waves were not caused by an earthquake but rather were a result of the landslide itself. Additionally, the landslide is directly linked to climate change, with decades of glacial melting contributing to the destabilisation of the rocky slopes.

9. Correct Answer is B

Explanation:

The alignment of state and national elections under the ONOE proposal could lead to voters prioritising national issues over local concerns.

This shift may dilute the accountability of state governments, as regional issues might be overshadowed by larger national narratives, thereby reducing the effectiveness of local governance.

10. Correct Answer D

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court's ruling strengthens the legal framework surrounding child pornography by making clear that both viewing and possession are punishable offenses.
- This interpretation increases accountability for individuals, as they can no longer claim ignorance or lack of intent as a defense, thereby serving as a deterrent to potential offenders.





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