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T.B.C.: KMIAS-C- TP/ MOCK TEST-1

Test Booklet Series

TEST BOOKLET
GENERAL STUDIES
PAPER – I

A

Time Allowed: Two Hours

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED OR TURN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS, ETC. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.
2. **Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to encode and fill in the Roll Number and Test Booklet Series A, B, C or D carefully and without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR Answer Sheet. Any omission discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.**
3. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. **Do NOT** write *anything else* on the Test Booklet.
4. This Test Booklet contains **100** items (Questions). Each item is printed in **English**. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose **ONLY ONE** response for each item.
5. You have to mark all your responses **ONLY** on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answers sheet.
6. **All** items carry equal marks.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
8. After you have completed filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator **only the Answer Sheet**. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
9. Sheet for rough work is appended in the Test Booklet at the end.
10. **Penalty for wrong answers:**
THERE WILL BE PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTION PAPER.
 - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, **one-third** of the marks assigned to that question will be deducted as penalty.
 - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a **wrong answer** even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to that question.
 - (iii) If a question is left blank, i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be **no penalty** for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO

1. Consider the following statements regarding Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)

1. AIFs are privately pooled investment vehicles which collect capital from Indian and foreign investors.
2. AIFs are regulated by Reserve Bank of India.
3. AIFs can be formed as Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP) and Trusts.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer b) Only Two

Explanation

Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs): AIFs are privately pooled investment vehicles established in India that collect capital from sophisticated Indian and foreign investors. These investors will invest in a wide range of asset classes and are usually preferred by High Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) and institutional investors. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

These are regulated by SEBI under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations,

2012. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

AIFs can be formed as LLPs, companies, trusts, or other permissible entities. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

Types of AIFs: Category I: Invests in startups, SMEs, and infrastructure, often encouraged by the government. Category II: Includes private equity funds or debt funds, which do not fall under Category I or III. Category III: Includes hedge funds, which provide returns over the short-to-medium term.

2. With reference to the Indian economy, "Ways and Means Advances (WMA)" are the instruments of

- (a) Bond market
- (b) Forex market
- (c) Money market
- (d) Stock market

Answer c) Money market

Explanation

Ways and Means Advances (WMA) are categorized as money market instruments because they are short-term.

Thus Ways and Means Advances (WMA) are associated with the **Money Market. Hence Option C is correct**

The WMA scheme was introduced in 1997. Its primary purpose is to **bridge temporary mismatches between**

government receipts (revenue) and payments (expenditure), a core function of money market instruments.

WMA is a credit facility provided by the RBI to the government for a maximum of **90 days**. The money market specifically deals with financial instruments with maturities of **one year or less**.

Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934 authorises the central bank to lend to the Centre and state governments subject to their being repayable “not later than three months from the date of the making of the advance”. The government can avail immediate cash from the RBI, if required. But it has to return the amount within 90 days. Interest is charged at the existing repo rate. If the WMA exceeds 90 days, it would be treated as an overdraft (the interest rate on overdrafts is 2 percentage points more than the repo rate).

The limits for WMA (for Centre) are decided by the government and RBI mutually and revised periodically.

A higher limit provides the government flexibility to raise funds from RBI without borrowing them from the market.

3. Consider the following pairs

International Organization	Head Quartered at	Largest Shareholder (s)
1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	Beijing	China
2. New Development Bank (NDB)	Johannesburg	Russia and China
3. Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Manila	Japan and the United States

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

The AIIB is headquartered in Beijing, China, with China serving as its largest shareholder by holding approximately 26.6% of the voting shares, followed by India and Russia.

Hence pair 1 is correct

In contrast, the NDB is based in Shanghai, China, and operates under a unique

democratic model where the founding BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—each maintain an equal share of roughly 18.76% of the capital, ensuring no single member holds veto power. **Hence pair 2 is incorrect**

Meanwhile, the ADB maintains its long-standing headquarters in Manila, Philippines, where Japan and the United States act as the joint largest shareholders with about 15.57% each. Reflecting this influence, the ADB has traditionally been led by a Japanese president since its inception. **Hence pair 3 is correct**

4. Consider the following statements

Statement I: India's tax-to-GDP ratio is lower than many developed economies.

Statement II: A lower ratio indicates lower tax collection efficiency and narrower tax base.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I
Explanation

India's tax-to-GDP ratio is lower than that of many developed economies. This is largely because India has a relatively narrow tax base, meaning a smaller proportion of individuals and businesses contribute to tax revenues, and there are challenges related to tax compliance and collection efficiency. As a result, the government is able to mobilize less revenue relative to the size of the economy. These structural factors directly explain why India's tax-to-GDP ratio remains comparatively low when compared with developed nations, where broader tax bases and higher compliance levels lead to stronger revenue generation.

5. In the context of Artificial Intelligence systems, consider the following statements:

1. Agentic AI refers to systems that can plan, break down goals into steps and use external tools or applications to complete tasks.

2. Agentic AI always requires continuous human intervention to operate effectively in real-world environments.

3. Agentic AI systems are typically limited to static rule-based responses and cannot adapt their actions based on feedback or changing conditions.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer a) Only One

Explanation

Agentic AI refers to AI systems that are designed to operate as goal-oriented agents capable of planning, breaking down complex tasks into smaller steps, and using external tools or applications such as APIs to achieve desired outcomes.

These systems are inherently dynamic and can reason, decide, and execute actions in a structured manner rather than simply generating static responses. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

Unlike traditional rule-based systems, **agentic AI is built to function with minimal human intervention, although it may still operate under human-defined guardrails or supervision for safety and control. Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

It is also **adaptive in nature, meaning it can learn from feedback, adjust its actions based on changing conditions** and re-plan its approach when earlier steps do not produce the expected results, making it more flexible and autonomous in problem-solving. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

6. Which one of the following is not a feature of the Indian model of Secularism?

- (a) Equal distance and principled intervention by the state.
- (b) Freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion.
- (c) Complete privatization of religion.
- (d) Equal respect for all religions.

Answer c) Complete privatization of religion

Explanation

The Indian model of secularism is unique and differs significantly from the Western model. It does not advocate a strict separation between religion and state; instead, it follows the principle of **“principled distance”**, where the state maintains neutrality among religions but can also intervene when necessary to ensure justice and reform.

The option **“Equal distance and principled intervention by the state”** is a core feature of Indian secularism. The state does not completely detach itself from religion; rather, it keeps a balanced distance and intervenes in religious matters to address social evils and uphold constitutional values such as equality and dignity.

Similarly, **“Freedom to profess, practice and propagate any religion”** is a

fundamental feature guaranteed under the Constitution. It reflects the commitment of the Indian state to protect religious freedom for all individuals, which is an essential aspect of secularism in India.

The principle of “**Equal respect for all religions**” (often expressed as *Sarva Dharma Sambhava*) is another defining feature. The state does not favor any particular religion and treats all religions with equal regard, ensuring harmony in a diverse society.

In contrast, “**Complete privatization of religion**” is not a feature of the Indian model of secularism. This idea belongs to the Western concept, where religion is treated as a purely personal matter and kept entirely outside the public sphere. In India, religion is allowed to have a public presence, and the state may engage with religious institutions when required. Therefore, complete privatization is neither practical nor consistent with the Indian approach. **Hence option c is correct**

7. Consider the following organizations/bodies

1. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
2. State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs).
3. Human Rights Council.
4. Human Rights Courts.

Which of the above organisations/bodies have been established or are governed under the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993?

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

Answer c) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

The **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993** is an Indian law enacted to provide for the protection and promotion of human rights within the country. Under this Act, several institutional mechanisms are established.

The Act provides for the creation of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**, which functions at the national level to inquire into violations of human rights and promote awareness. It also establishes **State Human Rights Commissions (SHRCs)** at the state level to perform similar functions within their respective states. Additionally, the Act provides for the establishment of **Human Rights Courts** in districts to ensure speedy trial of offences related to human rights violations.

However, the **Human Rights Council is not constituted under this Act**. It is an international body associated with the

United Nations, and not a statutory body under Indian law. Therefore, it does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. **Hence Option c is correct**

8. Consider the following statements

1. The Electoral College for the election of the Vice President is similar to election of the President.

2. The election of the Vice President is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

3. The election of a person as Vice-President can be challenged on the ground that the Electoral College was incomplete.

4. If the election of a person as Vice-President is declared void by the Supreme Court, acts done by him before the date of such declaration are declared invalidated.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer a) Only One

Explanation

The Vice-President, like the president, is elected not directly by the people but by the

method of indirect election. He is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of both Houses of Parliament. **The Electoral College is different from the Electoral College for the election of the President in the following two respects:** It consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (in the case of president, only elected members). It does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (in the case of the President, the elected members of the state legislative assemblies are included). **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

The Vice-President's election, like that of the President's election, is held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting is by secret ballot. Hence statement 2 is correct

All doubts and disputes in connection with election of the Vice-President are inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision is final.

The election of a person as Vice-President cannot be challenged on the ground that the Electoral College was incomplete (i.e., existence of any vacancy among the members of Electoral College). Hence statement 3 is incorrect

If the election of a person as Vice-President is declared void by the Supreme Court, acts done by him before the date of such declaration of the Supreme Court are not invalidated (i.e., they continue to remain in force). Hence statement 4 is incorrect

9. Consider the following pairs

Sites	Key Features	Situated at
1. Chanhudaro	Presence of bead factory	Sindh
2. Kot Diji	Presence of unique pottery which is named after the site	Haryana
3. Kalibangan	Horned deity on terracotta cake	Rajasthan

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Chanhudaro is a 4.7 ha site, about 130 km south of Mohenjodaro. **Chanhudaro was clearly an important centre of craft activity located at Sindh situated in**

present-day Pakistan, near the Indus River. Some of the houses yielded raw material such as carnelian, agate, amethyst, and crystal as well as finished and unfinished beads and drills. More striking was the discovery of a bead factory, with lots of finished and unfinished beads, mostly made of steatite. Seal making, shell working, and the making of stone weights seem to have been other important crafts practised here.

Hence statement 1 is correct

Kot Diji lies about 160 km north-east of Amri, on the left bank of one of the old flood channels of the Indus and is **situated at Sindh located in Khairpur district of Pakistan.** The distinctive pottery is a short-necked ovoid pot, painted with designs such as the 'horned deity', pipal leaves and 'fish scales'. Artefacts similar to those at Kot Diji Period I have been found at other sites as well, and such levels are known as 'Kot Dijian'. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

Kalibangan (literally, 'black bangles') gets its name from the thick clusters of black bangles lying all over the surface of its mounds. This site lies on the banks of the dry bed of the Ghaggar river, in the Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan. A horned deity on terracotta cake is found in Kalibangan. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

10. Which of the following statements about the Ghadar Movement is/are correct?

1. The Ghadar Movement began in 1913 in San Francisco.
2. The movement was founded by Sohan Singh Bhakna.
3. The Ghadar Movement took its name from the weekly Ghadar brought out in several Indian languages.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

The **Ghadar Movement** began in **1913 in San Francisco (USA)**, where Indian immigrants—mainly Punjabis—organized themselves to fight for India’s independence from British rule. This makes **Statement 1 correct**.

The movement was formally established under the leadership of Sohan Singh Bhakna, who became its first president, so **Statement 2 is also correct**.

The name “Ghadar” (meaning revolt or rebellion) was taken from the revolutionary weekly newspaper **Ghadar**, which was

published in multiple Indian languages such as Punjabi, Urdu, and Hindi to spread nationalist ideas among Indians abroad and in India. Hence, **Statement 3 is also correct**.

11. Salt March was the first nationalist activity in which women participated in large numbers. Who among the following was instrumental in persuading Mahatma Gandhi not to restrict the protest to men alone?

- (a) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
- (b) Avantika Bai Gokhale
- (c) Sarojini Naidu
- (d) Mithuben Petit

Answer a) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay

Explanation

During the planning of the **Salt March (1930)**, Mahatma Gandhi initially intended to limit participation mainly to men. However, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay strongly argued that women must be included in the movement, emphasizing that the freedom struggle should involve all sections of society. Her persuasion played a key role in opening the movement to women, which led to large-scale female participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement. This marked a turning point, as women like Sarojini Naidu and others actively took part in protests, picketing, and salt law violations.

12. The 'State of the Climate in Asia 2024' report is released by

- (a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- (b) The UNEP Secretariat
- (c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- (d) The World Meteorological Organization

Answer: (d) The World Meteorological Organization

Explanation:

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has analysed in its latest report - The 'State of the Climate in Asia 2024'. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

Warming Trends

- Asia is warming nearly twice as fast as the global land and ocean average.
- 2024 had a mean temperature anomaly of +1.04°C above the 1991–2020 average — one of the warmest years on record for Asia.
- The 1991–2024 warming trend is nearly double that of the 1961–1990 period.
- Japan had its hottest year ever, breaking the previous record set in 2023.
- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in Asia increased at 0.24°C per decade — double the global average.
- Sea levels in the Indian and Pacific Oceans rose faster than the global average (1993–2024).

- In August–September 2024, 15 million km² of Asian ocean areas experienced marine heatwaves — largest extent ever recorded.

Extreme Weather Events

- Tropical Cyclone Yagi: Strongest storm of 2024, affecting 6 countries (Vietnam to China).
- India:
 - Landslides in Kerala (Wayanad) after 500+ mm rain: 350+ deaths.
 - Lightning: ~1,300 deaths, with 72 killed in one event on July 10.
- Nepal: September floods killed 246 people, causing US\$ 94 million in damages.
- UAE: Record rainfall (259.5 mm in 24 hrs) — highest since 1949.
- Central Asia: Worst floods in 70 years, 118,000 evacuated.
- China: Drought impacted 4.8 million people, with losses over US\$ 400 million.

13. Consider the following statements:

1. The Asian elephant has been listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
2. The Asian elephant is smaller than the African elephant.
3. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.
4. Project Elephant is a wildlife conservation movement initiated by the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

Phase-I of the synchronized elephant population estimation was completed for the Northeastern states, as per the ministry.

Project Elephant:

• Project Elephant is a wildlife conservation movement initiated in India to protect the **endangered Indian elephant**.

• The project was initiated in 1992 by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** of the Government of India to provide **financial and technical support** to the states for wildlife management of free-ranging elephant populations. **Hence Statement 4 is incorrect.**

• The project has been implemented in **22 States and union territories of India**.

The Indian elephant:

• The Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) is one of three extant recognized subspecies of the Asian elephant, native to mainland Asia.

• The species is smaller than the African elephant species with a convex back and the

highest body point on its head. **Hence Statement 2 is correct.**

• The Asian elephant has been listed as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List as the wild population has declined by at least 50% over the last three elephant generations. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.**

• According to the report, released by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change on August 12, **Karnataka** has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054). **Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.**

14. Consider the following statements:

I. India Becomes the First Country in the World to develop Genome- Edited Rice Varieties.

II. These new varieties were developed using CRISPR-Cas genome- editing technology.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I only
- (b) II only
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) Neither I nor II

Answer: (c) Both I and II

Explanation:

In news: India Becomes the First Country in the World to Develop Genome-Edited Rice Varieties. **Hence statement I is correct.**

Genome-Edited Rice Varieties:

● ICAR has developed India's first genome-edited rice varieties –

DRR Rice 100 (Kamla) and Pusa DST Rice 1.

● These new varieties were developed using genome-editing technology based on CRISPR-Cas, which makes precise changes in the organism's genetic material without adding foreign DNA. **Hence statement II is correct.**

● Genome editing of SDN 1 and SDN 2 types of genes has been approved under India's biosafety regulations for general crops.

● The DRR Rice 100 (Kamala) variety was developed by ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad, based on Samba Mahsuri (BPT 5204). Its objective is to increase the number of grains per panicle and it matures 20 days earlier (~130 days).

● Due to its shorter duration, it helps save water and fertilizers and reduces methane gas emissions. Its stalk is strong and does not fall. The rice quality is similar to the original variety, Samba Mahsuri.

● The second variety, Pusa DST Rice 1, was developed by ICAR- IARI, New Delhi, based on MTU 1010. This variety can increase yields by 9.66% to 30.4% in saline and alkaline soils, with the potential for up to 20% increase in production.

Benefits:

● A 19% increase in yield.

● A 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

● A saving of 7,500 million cubic meters of irrigation water.

● Improved tolerance to drought, salinity, and climate stresses.

15. With reference to Akash Prime Missile, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a medium-range surface-to-surface missile.

2. It is equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker.

3. It is tailored for high-altitude and cold-weather operations.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

In NEWS: Akash Prime successfully tested in Ladakh by Indian Army

Akash Prime Missile:

● Akash Prime is an upgraded version of the indigenous Akash medium-range surface-to-air missile system. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

- It is developed by DRDO, with manufacturing by Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and integration by BEL and other PSUs.

- It is tailored for high-altitude, cold-weather operations particularly in sectors like Ladakh with enhanced lethality and autonomy. Hence statement 3 is correct.

- Previously participated in Operation Sindoor, countering Pakistani aerial threats including Turkish drones and Chinese-made aircraft.

- It is equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker, the system is designed for autonomous engagement during terminal flight. Hence statement 2 is correct.

- Range : 25–30 km (comparable to Mk1/Mk1S)

- Ceiling : Up to 18–20 km altitude

- Speed : Supersonic—up to Mach ~2.5 (some sources up to Mach 3.5)

- Warhead : 60 kg high-explosive fragmentation.

Akash Missile System:

- The Akash air defence missile system is a medium range, surface- to-air missile system which provides area air defence against multifarious air threats to mobile, semi mobile and static vulnerable forces and areas.

- The system has cutting edge features with cross country mobility.

- The real time multi sensor data processing and threat evaluation enables simultaneous engagement of multiple targets from any direction.

- The entire system is flexible, upscalable and can be operated in group and autonomous modes.

- It employs command guidance and relies on phased array guidance radar to guide the missile till intercept.

16. Consider the following statement regarding Zero-Coupon Bonds

1. Zero-Coupon Bonds are predominantly long-term debt that does not pay periodic interest.

2. Zero-Coupon Bonds are issued at a discount rate to its face value.

3. Zero-Coupon Bonds are issued by Corporations only.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Zero-Coupon Bonds are a long-term debt instrument that does not pay periodic

interest but is issued at a discount rate to its face value. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

These are also known as **discount bonds**, are issued at a discount on the bond's face value and do not pay periodic interest to bondholders. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

They offer payment at face value at maturity so zero-coupon bonds tend to fluctuate in price on the secondary market much more than coupon bonds. The value of these bonds is inversely related to the interest rates. The longer a bond's duration, the greater its sensitivity to interest rate changes.

Zero-Coupon Bonds (ZCBs) are actually non-interest-bearing, predominantly long-term debt instruments that are issued by various entities - Scheduled Commercial Banks, governments, municipalities, and Corporations. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

17. Consider the following countries

1. Armenia
2. Uzbekistan
3. Kuwait
4. Pakistan
5. Turkey

How many of the above countries are bordering Iran?

- (a) Only two

- (b) Only three

- (c) Only four

- (d) All five

Answer b) Only three

Explanation

Iran shares land borders with seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to the north; Afghanistan and Pakistan to the east; and Iraq and Turkey to the west. It is also bordered by the Caspian Sea to the north, and the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to the south. **Hence option b is correct**

18. Consider the following statements

Statement I: A rise in inflation can push households into poverty even if their nominal income remains unchanged.

Statement II: Inflation increases the purchasing power of money.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Explanation

Inflation refers to a sustained increase in the general price level of goods and services in an economy. When inflation rises, the cost of living also increases. If a household's nominal income (the money income they receive) remains unchanged, they will not be able to purchase the same quantity of goods and services as before. This means their real income (actual purchasing power) falls. For low- and middle-income households, this reduction can be severe enough to push them below the poverty line. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

As prices rise, each unit of currency buys fewer goods and services than before. For example, if the price of essential items like food, fuel, and housing increases, people need to spend more money to maintain the same standard of living. This clearly shows that inflation reduces the purchasing power of money, not increases it. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

19. Consider the following statements

1. Labour is a concurrent subject in the Constitution of India.
2. The Code on Social Security defines the term "gig worker".
3. In India, gig workers are primarily classified into four categories.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

As a subject in the Concurrent List (List III, Seventh Schedule) of the Constitution of India, both the Parliament and State Legislatures can enact labour legislation. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

Chapter I, Section 2(35) of the Code on Social Security(CSS) defines a gig worker as 'a person who participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer–employee relationship.' It also defines aggregators as digital intermediaries that connect service providers with consumers. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

According to Niti Aayog, gig workers are primarily classified into two main categories: platform workers and non-platform workers. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

20. Consider the following statements about the Committee on Public Undertakings

1. It was first constituted in 1964.
2. It consists of members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
3. It examines the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on Public Sector Undertakings.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer c) All three

Explanation

The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) was first constituted on May 1, 1964.

Hence statement 1 is correct

It was established to examine the reports, accounts, and efficiency of public sector undertakings (PSUs), strengthening parliamentary oversight over public enterprises. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) is a joint parliamentary committee consisting of a total of 22 members, drawn from both Houses of Parliament. Out of

these, 15 members are from the Lok Sabha and 7 members are from the Rajya Sabha, ensuring representation from both chambers. This composition ensures a broader and more balanced legislative oversight over Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Members of the committee are elected annually from both Houses according to the principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote, thereby reflecting the political composition of Parliament. Importantly, ministers are not eligible to be members of this committee, ensuring independence from the executive. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

21. Consider the following statements

1. Tipitaka belonged to Mahayana school of Buddhism.
2. The earliest Tipitaka were compiled in Sanskrit Language.
3. The Tipitakas were divided into several books known as the Nikayas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

There are Pali, Chinese, and Tibetan versions of the Tipitaka (The Three Baskets/Collections). The Pali Tipitaka of the Theravada school is the oldest of them all. Pali was a literary language which developed out of a mixture of dialects, particularly those spoken in the Magadha area of eastern India. The Tipitaka consists of three books—the Sutta, Vinaya, and Abhidhamma.

In the Buddhist context, sutta (from the Sanskrit sutra) refers to texts that are supposed to contain what the Buddha himself said. The Sutta Pitaka contains the Buddha's discourses on various doctrinal issues in dialogue form. With the exception of a few suttas, the authority of this work was accepted by all Buddhist schools. The Vinaya Pitaka has rules for monks and nuns of the sangha (monastic order).

It includes the Patimokkha—a list of transgressions against monastic discipline and atonements for these. The Abhidhamma Pitaka is a later work, and contains a thorough study and systemization of the teachings of the Sutta Pitaka through lists, summaries, and questions and answers. The three Pitakas are divided into books known as the Nikayas (analogous but not identical to the Agamas of the Buddhist Sanskrit tradition).

22. Chronologically arrange the formation of the following political associations, beginning from the earliest:

1. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha
2. Indian Association
3. Madras Mahajan Sabha
4. Bombay Presidency Association

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer a) 1,2,3,4

Explanation

The **Poona Sarvajanik Sabha (1870)**, founded with the involvement of leaders like Mahadev Govind Ranade and Ganesh Vasudeo Joshi, was one of the earliest political associations in India. It aimed to act as a bridge between the people and the British government by voicing public grievances, promoting political awareness, and advocating administrative reforms. The Sabha focused on representing the interests of common people, especially in matters like taxation, famine relief, and local governance, marking the beginning of organized political activity in western India.

The **Indian Association (1876)**, established by Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose in Bengal, had a more assertive nationalist outlook. Its main objective was to unify Indians across regions and promote political consciousness among the masses. It worked for civil service reforms, opposed discriminatory policies, and organized political campaigns, thereby laying the foundation for an all-India political movement and preparing the ground for the formation of the Indian National Congress.

The **Madras Mahajan Sabha (1884)** was founded by leaders such as M. Viraraghavachariar, G. Subramania Iyer, and P. Anandacharlu in the Madras Presidency. Its objective was to create political awareness among the people of South India and to represent their demands before the British authorities. The Sabha discussed issues like legislative reforms, reduction of taxes, and expansion of education, and it also played a crucial role in mobilizing public opinion and supporting the early nationalist movement.

The **Bombay Presidency Association (1885)**, founded by prominent leaders like Pheroza Shah Mehta, K. T. Telang, and Badruddin Tyabji, aimed to present the concerns of people in the Bombay region to the colonial government. It worked for constitutional reforms, greater Indian participation in administration, and protection of civil rights. The association

represented the educated Indian middle class and contributed significantly to the early phase of political awakening, eventually aligning with the broader objectives of the Indian National Congress.

23. Which of the following relating to the formation of tropical cyclone is/are correct?

1. Large sea surface with temperature above 27 Degree Celsius.
2. Presence of Coriolis force.
3. Upper convergence over the sea level system.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer a) 1 and 2

Explanation

The formation of a **tropical cyclone** requires a specific set of atmospheric and oceanic conditions, as explained in standard NCERT Geography. First, a **large sea surface with temperatures above 27°C** is essential because warm ocean water acts as the primary energy source. The heat causes rapid evaporation, and when this moisture-laden air rises and condenses, it releases

latent heat, which further intensifies the system and lowers surface pressure. Second, the **presence of the Coriolis force** is necessary to initiate and maintain the spinning motion of the cyclone. This is why cyclones do not form very close to the equator, where the Coriolis force is negligible, but instead develop a few degrees away from it. However, the third statement is incorrect because tropical cyclones require **upper-level divergence, not convergence**. Divergence in the upper atmosphere allows rising air from the surface to spread outward efficiently, sustaining the low-pressure system below. If there were upper-level convergence, it would suppress the upward movement of air and weaken the system, preventing cyclone development. Therefore, only the first two conditions are correct.

24. The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) Alliance which provides essential biodiversity data for informed decision-making is a collaboration between which among the following?

- I. Bird Life International
- II. Conservation International
- III. The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- IV. The United Nations Environment Programme

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) I, II and IV
- (c) II, III and IV
- (d) I, II, III and IV

Answer: (d) I, II, III and IV

Explanation:

IBAT Alliance, formed by four largest global conservation organisations, doubled its investment in biodiversity data from 2023 to 2024

Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT) Alliance:

• The IBAT Alliance, a collaboration between four of the world's largest and most influential conservation organisations announced on June 23, 2025, that its 2024 investment in biodiversity data reached a record level of \$2.5 million — an increase from \$1.2 million in 2023.

The four organisations that form part of the Alliance are,

- BirdLife International,
- Conservation International,
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature and
- The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre. **Hence, all are correct.**

• The increase in investment means that vital funds will be reinvested back into three of the world's most authoritative biodiversity datasets, supporting critical updates and maintenance:

- The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)
- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
- The World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas (WDKBA)

• This will ensure access to credible, science-based global biodiversity data for accurate screening and reporting, enabling meaningful action for nature.

25. Consider the following statements:

1. Weather derivatives are market instruments designed to help farmers and allied sectors to hedge against climate-related risks.

2. Under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, weather is included as a tradable commodity in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

NCDEX, IMD ink pact to launch India's first weather derivatives

Weather Derivatives:

• The National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Ltd (NCDEX) has inked an agreement with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that will lay critical groundwork for launching India's first weather derivatives.

• In March 2024, the Ministry of Finance amended the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act to include weather as a tradable commodity in India. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

• Weather derivatives are market instruments designed to help farmers and allied sectors to hedge against climate-related risks such as erratic rainfall, heatwaves, and unseasonal weather events. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

• With this partnership, NCDEX will develop a rainfall-based derivative product, among others, using historical and real-time datasets sourced from IMD.

• The weather product to be developed under this collaboration will enable seasonal and location-specific derivative contracts and will advance expertise on weather-related risks across agriculture, transportation, and allied industries.

Working of Weather Derivatives:

• Weather derivatives are essentially contracts whose value is determined by a

weather index, such as temperature, rainfall, or wind speed, for a specific location and time period.

• A weather derivative is a financial instrument used by companies or individuals to hedge against the risk of weather-related losses.

• The seller of a weather derivative agrees to bear the risk of disasters in return for a premium.

• If no damages occur before the expiration of the contract, the seller will make a profit and in the event of unexpected or adverse weather, the buyer of the derivative claims the agreed amount.

26. What are IRNSS, GLONASS-K and BeiDou-3, sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) Hypersonic missiles
- (b) Missile defence systems
- (c) Reusable rockets
- (d) Navigation satellites systems

Answer: (d) Navigation satellites

Explanation:

In NEWS: 3 navigation satellites to be launched by 2026

The first of the three, NVS-03, is scheduled to be launched by year-end. The other two, NVS-04 and NVS-05, will be launched after that “with a gap of six months,” as per data.

Navigation Satellites – Overview:

● Navigation satellites are artificial satellites that provide positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT) services to users on Earth.

These satellites enable devices like smartphones, airplanes, ships, and military systems to determine their exact location anywhere on the planet.

● The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch three second-generation NavIC satellites—NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05—by 2026, aiming to strengthen the existing NavIC constellation

Key Functions of Navigation Satellites:

● Positioning – Latitude, longitude, and altitude.

● Navigation – Real-time route and direction data.

● Timing – Precise time synchronization for communication, financial systems, and power grids.

● Velocity Estimation – Speed of moving objects (cars, aircraft, etc.).

Applications of Navigation Satellites:

● Civilian: Google Maps, Uber, fitness trackers, agriculture, surveying

● Military: Missile guidance, troop movement, secure timing

● Aviation/Maritime: Air traffic control, ship navigation

● Disaster Management: Location tracking during emergencies

Navigation Satellite Examples

- GPS III - USA (GPS) - Enhanced anti-jamming, better accuracy
- GLONASS-K - Russia - Updated with better lifespan and accuracy
- Galileo IOV / FOC - Europe - Dual-frequency, civilian-controlled
- BeiDou-3 - China - Global coverage, satellite-to-satellite interlink
- IRNSS-1A to 1I - India - For regional coverage, civilian and military use

27. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenous anti-submarine rocket system.
2. It uses an electronic time fuze for enhanced accuracy.
3. It can operate in both short-range and long-range modes.

How many of the above are considered as the characteristics of Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR)?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR):

● The rocket system is a totally indigenous anti-submarine weapon. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

● The ERASR (also called ER-ASR) is a longer-range successor to the RGB-60, designed for RBU-6000 launchers on Indian Navy ships.

● Equipped with twin-motor propulsion, it can operate in short-range (~500 m) and long-range (~8.9 km) modes. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

● It uses an indigenous electronic time fuze for enhanced accuracy. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

Key Features:

- Extended Strike Range: Up to 8,900 m, significantly improving upon the RGB-60 (~5.3 km).
- Dual motor modes: Configurable for short- or long-range missions.
- Electronic Time Fuze: Increases strike precision.
- Salvo or single-shot: Flexible engagement based on threat.

Strategic Impact on India's Defence architecture:

- Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW): Bolsters the Indian Navy's ability to neutralize submarines and undersea threats from stand-off distances.
- Self-reliance: Entirely indigenous, aligning with the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" defence vision

Force multiplier: Reduces dependence on Russian RGB-60 systems and enhances deterrence in the Indian Ocean Region.

28. Consider the following statements

1. Promissory notes are binding legal documents used to protect both the lender and the borrower.
2. In India, a promissory note can be issued under Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881
3. Commercial Papers are examples of promissory notes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

A promissory note is a written and signed promise to repay a sum of money in exchange for a loan or other financing.

Promissory notes are binding legal documents used to protect both the lender and the borrower. Hence statement 1 is correct

It is issued by the debtor and states that he will pay the requisite amount within a certain time frame.

Promissory notes can also be divided into

secured and unsecured notes. In the case of a secured promissory note, the borrower must provide collateral to the lender to secure the amount. Unsecured notes do not require collateral and are issued based on trust. Unsecured notes are very common among friends and family.

In India, a promissory note can be issued under Section 4 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, therefore making it a legal instrument and binding the parties by law. Hence statement 2 is correct

Commercial Papers are unsecured, short-term debt instruments issued by large corporations, financial institutions, and primary dealers. **These are issued as promissory notes** to finance short-term needs like inventory and working capital. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

29. Consider the following regarding UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

1. UNHRC consists of all the member nations of United Nation.
2. UNHRC is responsible for discussing all thematic human rights issues and situations around the world that require its attention.
3. UNHRC meets five times a year in regular sessions.
4. If a particular human rights situation requires its immediate attention, the UNHRC may convene a special session at the request of at least two-third of its members.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer b) 2 Only

Explanation

The UN Human Rights Council is the most important UN body for promoting, strengthening and protecting human rights worldwide. Headquartered in Geneva, **it was established in 2006 by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251. It consists of 47 member states from all five regional groups, with each member serving a three-year term. Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

The UNHRC is responsible for discussing all thematic human rights issues and situations around the world that require its attention. It addresses human rights violations in countries, responds to urgent cases and makes recommendations for their resolution. Hence statement 2 is correct

The UNHRC meets three times a year in regular sessions: in spring (February–March), at the start of summer (June–July) and in autumn (September–October). Hence statement 3 is incorrect

If a particular human rights situation requires its immediate attention, the UNHRC may also convene a special session at the request of at least one-third of its members. Hence statement 4 is incorrect

30. Which of the following best describes the term 'Seigniorage'?

- (a) It is a tax collected on foreign exchange transactions.
- (b) It is a profit earned by the Central bank from issuing currency.
- (c) It is an interest earned by banks on loans.
- (d) It is the total value of imports of a country in a year.

Answer b) It is a profit earned by the Central bank from issuing currency

Explanation

Seigniorage is the profit earned by the Central bank from issuing currency. It refers to the difference between the face value of money (for example, a currency note) and the cost incurred in printing and distributing it. Since the cost of producing currency is usually much lower than its face value, the government effectively earns a surplus, which is known as seigniorage. Hence Option b is correct

31. Consider the following statements regarding excessive use of Urea in agriculture:

1. It reduces soil organic matter content.
2. It leads to depletion of micronutrients in soil.
3. It improves long-term soil structure and fertility.
4. It increases nitrate leaching into groundwater.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Urea is a highly concentrated nitrogenous fertilizer (46% N) widely used in agriculture to promote green leafy growth and boost crop yields. Excessive use of Urea **reduces soil organic matter, accelerates micronutrient depletion, weakens soil structure and increases nitrate leaching into groundwater. Hence option a is correct**

Over time, crops require progressively larger quantities of fertiliser to maintain yields, raising input intensity without

commensurate output gains. In several irrigated belts, the yield response to fertiliser has plateaued or declined, even as application rates have increased.

32. Consider the following statements:

- I. Freedom means absence of external constraints on the individual.
- II. Freedom also includes the ability of individuals to develop their potential.
- III. Freedom can exist only in a society without any restrictions.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) I and II Only
- (b) I and III Only
- (c) II and III Only
- (d) I, II and III

Answer a) I and II Only

Explanation

Statement I defines freedom as the absence of external constraints on the individual. This represents what is known as the negative dimension of freedom, i.e., freedom from interference, coercion, or control.

Statement II expands this understanding by stating that freedom also includes the ability of individuals to develop their potential. This reflects the *positive dimension of freedom*, which emphasizes the presence of enabling

conditions—such as education, opportunities, and resources—that allow individuals to fully realize their capabilities. By showing that true freedom is not just the absence of constraints but also the presence of conditions necessary for personal development.

Statement III asserts that freedom can exist only in a society without any restrictions. This is incorrect because it represents an extreme and unrealistic view. In reality, no society can function without some form of constraints or regulations. Certain restrictions are necessary to maintain order, prevent harm, and ensure that one individual's freedom does not infringe upon another's. Therefore, the idea that freedom requires a complete absence of all restrictions is flawed.

33. Consider the following texts

1. Shiksha
2. Nyaya
3. Vyakarana
4. Samakya
5. Kalpa

Which of the above texts are considered as Vedangas ?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 5 only

Answer d) 1, 3 and 5 only

Explanation

The **Vedangas** are six auxiliary disciplines developed to support the correct understanding and performance of the Vedas. They are:

1. **Shiksha (Phonetics)** – pronunciation and articulation
2. **Kalpa (Rituals)** – procedures for performing Vedic rituals
3. **Vyakarana (Grammar)** – rules of language (e.g., Panini's work)
4. **Nirukta (Etymology)** – explanation of difficult Vedic words
5. **Chandas (Prosody)** – study of Vedic meters
6. **Jyotisha (Astronomy/Astrology)** – timing of rituals

Nyaya and Samkhya are part of the **six classical schools of Indian philosophy**, known as the **Ṣaḍdarśanas (six Darshanas)**.

The Six Schools of Philosophy (Ṣaḍdarśanas)

1. Nyaya – Logic and reasoning
2. Vaisheshika – Atomism and categories of reality
3. Samkhya – Dualism (Purusha & Prakriti)
4. Yoga – Discipline of mind and body (linked to Patanjali)
5. Mimamsa – Ritual interpretation of the Vedas
6. Vedanta – Philosophical interpretation of the Upanishads

34. The Kalaram temple, known for temple entry movements in the early twentieth century, is located in which state of India?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) Gujarat

Answer a) Maharashtra

Explanation

The **Kalaram Temple**, famous for its role in the temple entry movement, is located in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.

This temple became historically significant due to the **Kalaram Temple Entry Satyagraha (1930)** led by B. R. Ambedkar. The movement aimed to secure the right of entry for Dalits (Depressed Classes) into Hindu temples, challenging caste-based discrimination and untouchability.

35. Consider the following statements

1. High, thin, puffy white clouds of ice crystals that look like ripples.
2. They appear between 20000 feet and 40000 feet above the Earth's surface.
3. One of its types is called a 'mackerel sky'.

Which of the above statements are correct regarding Cirrocumulus Clouds ?

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

Answer d) 1,2 and 3

Explanation

Cirrocumulus clouds are a type of high-altitude cloud that form in the upper layers of the atmosphere, typically at heights of **20,000 to 40,000 feet**. At such elevations, the temperature is extremely low, so these clouds are composed mainly of **ice crystals** rather than water droplets. They appear as **small, white, puffy patches arranged in regular patterns**, often looking like ripples or waves across the sky. This unique appearance gives rise to the term "**mackerel sky**," because the cloud pattern resembles the scales of a fish. These clouds are usually thin and do not produce precipitation, but they may indicate atmospheric instability or changes in weather conditions. Hence, all the given statements correctly describe cirrocumulus clouds.

36. Consider the following statements:

1. Some camels have the ability to swim long distances.
2. Some camels survive by grazing on mangroves.
3. Some camels can thrive in saline, marshy coastal areas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

Despite NGT orders, illegal salt pans and encroachment of creeks continue to threaten Kachchh's Kharai camels

• Kachchh in Gujarat is known for its rare indigenous breed of Kharai camel. But the existence of this species is under threat, despite multiple interventions by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Kharai camels:

• The Kharai, is a rare and unique breed of dromedary camel, commonly known as the 'swimming camel' due to its ability to thrive in the salt marshes of Kutch district, located in the western Indian state of Gujarat. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

• The Kharai is known for its rare ability to swim long distances and graze on mangroves. **Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

• Their name is derived from the Gujarati language word 'khara', meaning salty.

• The Kharai camel has been officially recognized as a distinct breed by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) located at Karnal, Haryana, due to its unique habitat and dietary preferences.

• Unlike other camel breeds, Kharai camels have a unique dependence on mangroves for sustenance.

37. The term 'W State' is related to

- (a) Cloud computing
- (b) Entangled atomic clocks
- (c) Visible Light Communication Technologies
- (d) Wireless Communication Technologies

Answer: (b) Entangled atomic clocks

Explanation:

In NEWS: Entangled clocks may reveal where quantum physics and gravity meet

● One of the deepest puzzles in modern science is how quantum mechanics and general relativity — the two great pillars of 20th century physics — fit together. Quantum mechanics governs the microscopic world of atoms and subatomic particles. General relativity describes gravity and the structure

of spacetime. Both theories are stunningly successful in their domains, but they don't yet combine into a single unified framework.

Entangled clocks:

- Entangled clocks are a groundbreaking advancement in timekeeping technology that utilize the principles of quantum entanglement to achieve unprecedented levels of precision.

- The term "W State" comes from quantum mechanics and refers to a specific type of entangled quantum state involving three or more particles (such as atoms, qubits, or clocks).

- This field is rapidly developing and holds the potential to revolutionize various applications, from navigation to fundamental physics research.

Quantum Entanglement and Timekeeping:

Traditional Atomic Clocks:

- These clocks rely on the precise frequency of atomic transitions, but are limited by the standard quantum limit, which introduces inherent uncertainty.

Entanglement:

- Entanglement allows for the creation of a shared quantum state between multiple particles, where the properties of these particles are correlated, regardless of the distance separating them.

Entangled Clocks:

- By entangling multiple atomic clocks or particles, scientists can create a system where the individual uncertainties of each

component are averaged out, leading to a more stable and accurate overall measurement of time.

38. Consider the following statements

1. Exchange-Traded Fund (ETFs) is an investment fund that allows investors to gain exposure to a diversified portfolio of assets.
2. ETFs have a higher expense ratio compared to mutual funds.
3. Unlike mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) cannot be bought or sold in fractions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

An Exchange-Traded Fund (ETFs) is an investment fund that allows investors to gain exposure to a diversified portfolio of assets like stocks, bonds, or commodities. It allows investors to gain exposure to a diversified basket of assets such as stocks, bonds, commodities, or other securities. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

In India, ETFs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which oversees the functioning of securities markets and ensures that the interests of investors are safeguarded.

Unlike regular mutual funds, ETFs trade like a common stock on the stock exchange and the price of an ETF changes as per the trading in the market takes place. The trading value of an ETF depends on the net asset value of the underlying assets that it represents. ETFs, generally, have higher daily liquidity and lower fees than mutual fund schemes

An expense ratio is the annual percentage fee charged to cover operating expenses, such as management, administrative, and marketing fees. ETFs have a lower expense ratio compared to mutual funds. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

ETFs are easy to buy and sell on the exchange like stocks, providing flexibility and liquidity.

ETFs are well-diversified with a mix of different assets, reducing risk.

The exchange-traded funds (ETFs) cannot be bought or sold in fractions unlike mutual fund units. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

39. With respect to United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), consider the following statements.

1. UNEP FI was the first organization to engage the finance sector on sustainability.
2. UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact jointly incubated the Principles for Responsible Investment.
3. UNEP FI brings together a large network of banks, insurers and investors that catalyses action across the financial system to deliver more sustainable global economies.
4. UNEP FI helps to mobilize and align private finance to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer d) All four

Explanation

UNEP Finance Initiative convened by a Geneva, Switzerland-based secretariat, more than 550 banks and insurers are individually implementing UNEP FI's **Principles for Responsible Banking and Principles for Sustainable Insurance.**

Founded in 1992, UNEP FI was the first organization to engage the finance sector on sustainability. Hence statement 1 is correct

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the UN Global Compact jointly incubated the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), which were officially launched in April 2006 at the New York Stock Exchange. Hence statement 2 is correct

UNEP Finance Initiative brings together a large network of banks, insurers and investors that catalyses action across the financial system to deliver more sustainable global economies. Hence statement 3 is correct

Financial institutions work with UNEP FI on a voluntary basis to apply these industry frameworks and develop practical guidance and tools that drive institutional change, shaping the future of sustainable finance and positioning their businesses for the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy. In parallel, UNEP FI also drives systems change and fosters enabling conditions in service of the broader mission to mobilize and align private finance to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).Hence statement 4 is correct

40. Consider the following items

1. Soft drinks
2. Instant noodles
3. Packaged whole grains
4. Processed meat
5. Pasteurized milk

How many of the above are classified as Ultra-processed foods (UPFs)?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Answer b) Only three

Explanation

Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs) are industrially manufactured food products formulated mostly from refined substances and food-derived ingredients, with little or no intact whole food. They are defined under the NOVA classification system, which classifies foods based on the nature, extent, and purpose of processing rather than just their nutrient content. UPFs are typically produced in factories through multiple industrial processes and contain refined ingredients such as sugars, oils, starches and protein isolates. They also include various additives like preservatives, flavour enhancers, colouring agents, emulsifiers, and artificial sweeteners. These foods are designed to be convenient, ready-

to-eat or ready-to-heat, highly palatable and have a long shelf life, often prioritizing taste and convenience over nutritional quality.

Ultra -processed foods

Packaged chips transform raw potatoes into refined products and combine them with oils, salt and various flavour enhancers and additives

Soft drinks essentially formulations of water with added sugars or artificial sweeteners, acids, colouring agents and flavouring substances

Instant noodles are made from refined wheat flour and undergo processes such as frying or dehydration, along with the addition of preservatives and flavour enhancers to improve taste and shelf life.

Processed meat products like sausages, nuggets, and salami are mechanically reconstituted meat along with preservatives, curing agents and other additives

Non - Ultra Processed Foods

Packaged whole grains are not considered ultra-processed if they are simply cleaned, dried or milled without the addition of industrial additives

Pasteurized milk is not classified as ultra-processed because pasteurization is a minimal processing technique aimed at

improving safety and shelf life without significantly altering the food's basic nature or adding industrial formulations, unless it is further modified with sugar, flavours or stabilizers. **Hence option b is correct**

41. "India - Financial Sector Assessment Report" is prepared by the

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) World Bank

Answer d) World Bank

Explanation

The World Bank- India Financial Sector Assessment Report noted that **27 per cent of MSMEs identify finance as their biggest obstacle.** Despite expanding credit footprints and rising digital integration, **access to formal credit remains a binding constraint for many micro-enterprises** due to limited collateral and documentation readiness, as is generally the case worldwide.

42. In ancient India, there was a famous rivalry between the King of Vatsa and the King of Avanti, intertwined with a romantic narrative involving the King of Vatsa and the daughter of the Avanti king. The King of Vatsa later became a romantic hero in classical Sanskrit literature. Which of the following literary works are attributed to this king's story?

1. Svapna-Vasavadatta
2. Ratnavali
3. Vikramaorvasia
4. Priyadarshika
5. Malavikagnimitra

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (b) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Legends recount the rivalry between kings Udayana of Vatsa and Pradyota of Avanti, and refer to a love affair and marriage between Udayana and Vasavadatta, Pradyota's daughter. Udayana also seems to have entered into matrimonial alliances with the ruling families of Anga and Magadha. This king went on to become the romantic hero of three Sanskrit dramas of later times—the Svapna-Vasavadatta of Bhasa and the Ratnavali and Priyadarshika of Harsha.

43. Consider the following events:

1. Muslim League Resolution for Pakistan.
2. Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
3. Dandi March.
4. Second Round Table Conference.

Which one of the following is the correct chronological order of the given events (earliest to latest)?

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

Answer b) 3, 2, 4, 1

Explanation

The **Dandi March (1930)** marked a turning point in India's freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. It began on March 12, 1930, from Sabarmati Ashram and ended at Dandi on April 6, 1930. The main aim was to break the unjust salt law imposed by the British, which taxed even a basic necessity like salt. This act of civil disobedience was symbolic but powerful—it mobilized millions of Indians, including peasants, women, and students, and transformed the freedom movement into a mass movement. It also drew international attention to India's demand for independence.

Following the intense phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement, the British government sought compromise, leading to the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931)** between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin. Signed in March 1931, this agreement resulted in the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement by the Indian National Congress. In return, the British agreed to release political prisoners (except those involved in violence), allow peaceful picketing, and permit Indians to make salt for personal use. This pact was significant because it marked the first time the British government negotiated with the Congress on equal terms.

As a continuation of constitutional discussions, the **Second Round Table Conference (1931)** was held in London from September to December 1931. Mahatma Gandhi attended as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress. The conference focused on constitutional reforms and the future governance of India, but it ultimately failed due to disagreements between various groups, especially on minority representation and separate electorates. The failure of this conference led to the resumption of the Civil Disobedience Movement in India.

Nearly a decade later, the political scenario changed significantly with the **Muslim League Resolution for Pakistan (Lahore Resolution, 1940)**, led by Muhammad Ali

Jinnah. Passed on March 23, 1940, at Lahore, this resolution demanded the creation of "independent states" for Muslims in the north-western and eastern zones of India. It marked a decisive shift from earlier demands for safeguards within a united India to the demand for a separate nation, ultimately paving the way for the partition of India in 1947.

Thus, in chronological order, the events clearly follow this sequence: **Dandi March (1930) → Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) → Second Round Table Conference (1931) → Lahore Resolution (1940).**

44. With reference to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also called the 'High Seas Treaty', consider the following statements.

1. The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement is ratified in the United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC).
2. It aimed to prevent over-fishing and regulate deep-sea mining in areas owned by nations in the territorial region.
3. It commits nations to protect 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement:

The United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC) recently concluded in France. This event marked a milestone in global marine conservation. The conference focused on the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, commonly referred to as the High Seas Treaty. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

This treaty aims to protect oceans and establish marine-protected areas in international waters.

It aimed to prevent over-fishing and regulate deep-sea mining in areas **not owned** by any nation. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

The conference's goals align with the broader Convention on Biological Diversity, which commits nations to protect 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Significance of the BBNJ Agreement

The BBNJ agreement is crucial for conserving marine biodiversity. It requires 60 ratifications to become legally binding. As of the conference's conclusion, 56 countries had ratified the treaty.

This agreement focuses on creating marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction, conducting environmental impact assessments, and regulating marine genetic resources.

It also emphasises capacity-building for developing nations to enhance their ocean governance.

45. Which among the following is the best description of the "World Seeds" experiment, recently seen in the news?

- (a) It is a space-based experiment that investigates how seeds from diverse global regions respond to space conditions like microgravity and radiation.
- (b) It is a facility designed to store seeds as a safeguard against the loss of crop diversity located at Svalbard.
- (c) It is an experiment by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to monitor germination of seeds in anaerobic conditions.
- (d) It aims at preserving traditional seed varieties and promoting climate-resilient agriculture through a seed bank at Ladakh.

Answer: (a) It is a space-based experiment that investigates how seeds from diverse global regions respond to space conditions like microgravity and radiation.

Explanation:

Seeds of sea buckthorn, Himalayan buckwheat part of experiment on ISS

"World Seeds" experiment:

• World Seeds is a space-based experiment led by Jaguar Space, a U.S. bioastronautics firm.

• It investigates how seeds from diverse global regions respond to space conditions like microgravity and radiation. **Hence option (a) is correct.**

• The seeds were flown to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard NASA's Crew-11 mission on August 1, 2025.

• The experiment includes seeds from 11 countries across 5 continents, including India, Pakistan, Egypt, Nigeria, Brazil, and the Maldives.

• From India, Protoplanet, a Bengaluru-based startup, contributed seabuckthorn and Himalayan buckwheat seeds from Ladakh.

Objectives of the experiment:

• The study focuses on gene activation and metabolic changes that occur during the early germination process in space.

• It aims to evaluate which plants could be viable for space farming during long-duration missions.

• It also explores climate resilience and food security implications for Earth.

• The project symbolizes inclusive space exploration, ensuring biodiversity and traditional agricultural knowledge are part of humanity's space journey.

Sea buckthorn:

• Sea buckthorn is a hardy, deciduous shrub native to cold desert and high-altitude regions such as Ladakh and the Himalayas.

• It is known for its bright orange berries, which are rich in Vitamin C, antioxidants, and omega fatty acids.

Himalayan buckwheat:

• It is a nutrient-rich pseudo-cereal native to high-altitude regions like Ladakh.

• It is gluten-free and known for being rich in protein, fiber, flavonoids (especially rutin), and essential minerals.

• The plant is adapted to cold desert climates, making it suitable for cultivation in extreme and marginal environments.

46. What is the purpose of 'Solar Eruption Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS)', recently in the news?

(a) To detect neutrinos

(b) To explore the energy and dynamics of the chromosphere

(c) To detect gravitational waves

(d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

Answer: (b) To explore the energy and dynamics of the chromosphere

Explanation:

In NEWS: NASA to Launch SNIFS, Sun's Next Trailblazing Spectator

Solar EruptionN Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS):

- The Solar eruptionN Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS) is a solar-gazing spectrograph scheduled to fly in the summer of 2025 on a NASA sounding rocket.

- SNIFS will explore the energy and dynamics of the chromosphere, one of the most complex regions of the Sun's atmosphere. Hence option (b) is correct.

- The chromosphere lies just below the corona, where powerful solar flares and massive coronal mass ejections are observed.

- These solar eruptions are the main drivers of space weather, the hazardous conditions in near-Earth space that threaten satellites and endanger astronauts.

- The SNIFS mission aims to learn more about how energy is converted and moves through the chromosphere, where it can ultimately power these massive explosions.

- The SNIFS mission is the first ever solar ultraviolet integral field spectrograph, an advanced technology combining an imager and a spectrograph.

- Imagers capture photos and videos, which are good for seeing the combined light from a large field of view all at once.

- Spectrographs dissect light into its various wavelengths, revealing which elements are present in the light source, their temperature, and how they're moving — but only from a single location at a time.

- The SNIFS mission combines these two technologies into one instrument.

47. Consider the following statements:

1.The first meeting of the All India Depressed Classes Conference was held at Poona in 1926 under the presidency of M. C. Rajah.

2.The All India Depressed Classes Association was formed at Nagpur in 1928 with Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar as its first elected President.

3.The All India Depressed Classes Congress was founded by Dr. B. S. Munje at a conference in Bombay in 1936.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

The first meeting of the All India Depressed Classes Conference held at Poona in 1926 under the presidency of M.

C. Rajah represents an important early phase in the political awakening of the Depressed Classes (Dalits) in India. During the 1920s, leaders from marginalized communities began organizing at the national level to demand social justice, political representation, and protection against caste discrimination. This Poona conference is significant because it brought together leaders and representatives from different regions, highlighting a collective identity and shared grievances for the first time on a national platform. Under M. C. Rajah's leadership, the movement initially focused on securing political safeguards and improving access to education and employment within the existing colonial framework.

The formation of the **All India Depressed Classes Association at Nagpur in 1928 under B. R. Ambedkar as its first elected President** marked a more organized and assertive phase of the movement. Ambedkar's leadership brought clarity, direction, and a stronger ideological foundation to the struggle of the Depressed Classes. Unlike earlier efforts, this organization emphasized independent political representation, separate electorates, and constitutional safeguards for Dalits. The Nagpur initiative symbolized the transition from moderate petitions to a more structured political movement, where the Depressed Classes began to articulate their demands more forcefully and participate

actively in India's evolving political landscape.

The statement that the **All India Depressed Classes Congress was founded by B. S. Moonje in 1936 at Bombay** is incorrect because Moonje was primarily a prominent leader of the Hindu Mahasabha and not associated with organizing political bodies for the Depressed Classes. The All India Depressed Classes Congress was a major political organization founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1930 to represent the rights of Scheduled Castes (Dalits) in India. It was established to advocate for separate electorates, fair representation, and to combat social oppression, later evolving into the Scheduled Castes Federation in 1942.

48. Consider the following pairs:

S.no	RAMSAR Site	State
1.	Khichan	Bihar
2.	Menar	Rajasthan
3.	Gokul Jalashay	Bihar
4.	Udaipur Jheel	Rajasthan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Rajasthan's Udaipur and Phalodi sites get Ramsar tag

• On the eve of the World Environment Day, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that **Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur** have been designated as Ramsar sites.

The Ramsar Convention:

• The Ramsar Convention is an **intergovernmental** treaty signed in 1971 in **Ramsar, Iran**. It encourages the protection and conservation of wetlands worldwide by designating them as such.

• Ramsar sites are also known as wetlands of international importance.

• According to the Convention, wetlands are defined as

◦ "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres".

Newly Added Ramsar Sites in India (2025)

- Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)
- Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim)
- Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)
- Khichan (Phalodi) (Rajasthan)
- Menar (Udaipur) (Rajasthan)

• Gokul Jalashay (Bihar)

• Udaipur Jheel (Bihar)

Hence option (c) 2 and 3 are correct.

49. Which of the following are the sources of Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)?

1. Volcanic eruptions.
2. Wood burning.
3. Roasted coffee beans.
4. Oil and gas deposits.
5. Industrial processing.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Explanation:

In NEWS: Scientists discover the presence of Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in space

Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs):

- PAHs are organic molecules containing multiple fused aromatic rings, often benzene rings.
- They are ubiquitous in the environment, found in air, water, and soil, and are of concern due to their toxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic properties.

● Common examples include naphthalene, anthracene, phenanthrene, and benzo[a]pyrene.

Sources of PAHs:

● Oil and gas deposits, volcanic eruptions, forest fires, and other natural combustion events.

● Incomplete combustion of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas), wood burning, industrial processes, vehicle emissions, and certain food preparation methods.

● They are also found in rivers and sediments.

● PAHs can be found in grilled or smoked foods, roasted coffee beans, and even in some teas.

Hence option (d) is correct.

Environmental and Health Concerns:

● Many PAHs are considered toxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic.

● PAHs can persist in the environment due to their stability and low water solubility.

● Humans can be exposed to PAHs through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact.

● The US EPA has identified 16 PAHs as priority pollutants due to their potential health risks.

● In aquatic life, PAHs have caused developmental and deformational issues (e.g. fish exposed to oil spill)

50. With reference to India's External debts, consider the following statements

1. India's external debt are denominated in foreign currency only.

2. The depreciation of the Indian Rupee against the US Dollar (USD) increases India's external debt.

3. India's external debt has consistently decreased in last five years.

4. India's external debt are largely covered by foreign exchange reserves.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

External debt refers to the funds borrowed by a country from sources outside its borders. These sources include foreign commercial banks, international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, as well as the governments of other nations. **It can be denominated in foreign currency or domestic currency, depending on the agreement. Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

Depreciation of the Indian Rupee (INR) against the US Dollar (USD) increases India's external debt, primarily through valuation effects. Since over 50% of India's external debt is denominated in US Dollars, a weaker Rupee means more rupees are needed to repay the same foreign debt, raising the cost of servicing it. This loss is called valuation loss. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

India's external debt has **consistently increased in absolute terms** over the last five years. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect.**

As of September 2025, foreign exchange reserves were sufficient to cover approximately **94% of India's total outstanding external debt, according to the Ministry of Finance.** Hence **statement 4 is correct**

51. With reference to the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), consider the following statements:

1. It directly manages government pension funds.
2. It regulates and promotes pension schemes in India.
3. It functions as a commercial bank for pension contributions.
4. Under National Pension System (NPS) it guarantees fixed returns to pension subscribers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer b) 2 only

Explanation

PFRDA does not directly manage government pension funds; instead, the actual fund management under schemes like the National Pension System (NPS) is carried out by Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) registered with it. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) primarily functions as a regulator and promoter of pension schemes in India, overseeing systems such as the NPS and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY). **Hence Statement 2 is correct**

It does not act as a commercial bank or accept pension contributions as deposits, since it is not a financial intermediary.

Hence Statement 3 is incorrect

Moreover, it does not guarantee fixed returns to subscribers, as pension returns under NPS are market-linked and depend on the performance of underlying investments.

Hence Statement 4 is incorrect

52. Which among the following states has initiated a pioneering Defence and Aerospace Venture Fund under the Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) framework?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Karnataka

Answer a) Maharashtra

Explanation

Maharashtra launched a pioneering Defence & Aerospace Venture Fund (MDAVF), a registered Category II-Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) worth ₹330 crore in 2018, aimed at catalysing manufacturing capabilities among MSMEs in strategic, high-growth sectors. The Fund, managed by IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, focuses on supporting enterprises engaged in precision engineering, aerospace components, UAV systems, and defence sub-systems. This model blends State capital with professional fund management to provide crucial early-stage and growth-stage support to MSMEs. The Fund invests in companies through various instruments, including equity or equity-linked investments, convertible instruments, and debentures, to achieve risk-adjusted returns.

Hence option A is correct

53. With reference to Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements

1. It was added by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
2. It relates to urban local governance and enumerates 29 subjects.
3. Slum improvement is one of the subjects under the schedule.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

The Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution of India deals specifically with urban local bodies, i.e., Municipalities. It was added by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which aimed to strengthen urban governance and promote decentralization. Hence statement 1 is correct

This Schedule contains a list of 18 functional items that may be entrusted to municipalities, such as urban planning, regulation of land use, water supply, public health, sanitation, and **slum improvement**. These subjects define the scope of

responsibilities and powers of urban local institutions. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect and statement 3 is correct**

54. Consider the following statements

1. Appropriation of funds from the Contingency Fund of India is carried out through a Money Bill.
2. Contingency Fund of India is placed at the disposal of the Prime Minister.
3. Contingency Fund of India is used to make advances out of it to meet unforeseen expenditure.
4. Contingency Fund of India is regulated through contingency fund of India Act, 1950.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer c) 3 and 4 only

Explanation

The Constitution authorised the Parliament to establish a 'Contingency Fund of India', into which amounts determined by law are paid from time to time. Accordingly, **the Parliament enacted the contingency fund of India Act in 1950. Hence statement 4 is correct**

This fund is placed at the disposal of the president, and he can make advances out of it to meet unforeseen expenditure pending its authorisation by the Parliament. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect and statement 3 is correct**

The fund is held by the finance secretary on behalf of the president. Like the public account of India, **it is also operated by executive action. Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

55. Consider the following texts

1. Vedas
2. Brahmanas
3. Dharmasastra
4. Aryankas
5. Puranas

How many of the above texts are considered as Shruti texts?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 3 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Shruti refers to the body of sacred literature in Hindu tradition that is regarded as **"that which is heard,"** meaning knowledge

revealed to ancient sages (rishis) through divine insight rather than composed by human intellect. These texts are considered **apaurusheya** (not of human origin) and hold the **highest authority** among Hindu scriptures.

The core of Shruti consists of the **four Vedas**—Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharvaveda—which contain hymns, ritual formulas, chants, and prayers forming the foundation of early Vedic religion. Each Veda is further divided into layers that together constitute Shruti literature: the **Brahmanas**, which explain the procedures and significance of rituals (for example, the Shatapatha Brahmana); the **Aranyakas**, or “forest texts,” which transition from ritual practice to meditative and symbolic interpretations; and the **Upanishads**, which represent the philosophical culmination of the Vedas, exploring profound concepts such as **Brahman** (ultimate reality) and **Atman** (the self), as seen in texts like the Brihadaranyaka Upanishad. Altogether, Shruti forms the **spiritual and intellectual foundation of Hindu thought**, guiding ritual practices, ethical understanding, and philosophical inquiry, and is distinct from later texts like Smriti, Vedangas, or Darshanas, which are considered secondary in authority.

Smriti, which literally means “that which is remembered,” refers to a body of ancient Indian texts that were composed, compiled,

and transmitted by sages based on tradition, memory, and interpretation, unlike Shruti texts that are considered divinely revealed.

Although Smriti holds secondary authority compared to Shruti, it plays a crucial role in guiding practical aspects of life, including law, ethics, customs, and social conduct. The Smriti literature is diverse and can be broadly classified into several categories: Dharmashastras, such as Manusmriti, which lay down rules related to duties (dharma), social order, and legal principles; the Epics or Itihasa, namely the Ramayana and Mahabharata, which present moral and philosophical teachings through narrative stories; the Puranas, like the Bhagavata Purana, which deal with mythology, cosmology, and genealogies of gods and sages; and the Sutras, including the Grihya Sutras, which are concise manuals providing guidelines on rituals, domestic life, and daily conduct. Together, these texts have significantly shaped Indian society and cultural traditions over centuries.

56. With reference to ancient India, the texts “Ettutokai and Pattuppattu” were referred as

- (a) Devotional poetry of the Vaishnava saints (Alvars).
- (b) Devotional poetry of the Shaiva saints (Nyanmars).
- (c) Twin epics of tamil literature.
- (d) Super anthologies of Sangam literature.

Answer d) Super anthologies of Sangam literature

Explanation

Sangam corpus includes six of the eight anthologies of poems included in the Ettutokai (The Eight Collections), and nine of the ten pattus (songs) of the Pattuppattu (The Ten Songs). The style and certain historical references in the poems suggest that they were composed between the 3rd century BCE and the 3rd century CE.

They were compiled into anthologies in about the mid-8th century. A few centuries later, these anthologies were collected into the super-anthologies (i.e., anthologies of anthologies) called the Ettutokai and the Pattuppattu

57. Consider the following statements about the Vedanta philosophy:

1. Shankara was the founder of Advaita Vedanta.
2. The philosophy of Dvaita was elaborated by Madhva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

Adi Shankara (or Shankaracharya) was the primary philosopher and founder/exponent of the **Advaita Vedanta** (non-dualism) school in the 8th century. He taught that the individual soul (*Atman*) and the ultimate reality (*Brahman*) are one and the same.

The **Dvaita** (dualism) school of Vedanta was established and elaborated by **Madhva** (or Madhvacharya) in the 13th century. His philosophy asserts an eternal distinction between God (*Vishnu*), individual souls, and the material world

58. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is a 'drop in' fuel.

Statement II: Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) can be blended with ATF without requiring any change in the existing machinery of aircraft.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Explanation:

How India's biofuel potential complements its leadership in sustainable aviation fuel. Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) provides an opportunity for India to leverage its feedstock resources to be a market leader in the sector and make meaningful contributions to global decarbonisation efforts.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF):

- SAF is made from sustainable sources and has characteristics similar to Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), but with a significantly lesser carbon footprint.

- It is a 'drop in' fuel, meaning it can be blended with ATF without requiring any change in the existing machinery of aircraft.

Hence both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

- India can potentially manufacture 40 million tonnes of SAF by 2050, which positions it as a key player in shaping a greener, more resilient aviation future.

- In addition to SAF, there are other innovations like Renewable Fuels of Non-Biological Origins (RFNBOs). It is produced using renewable electricity through Power to Liquid (PtL) technology that combines

Green Hydrogen with Carbon captured from atmospheric CO₂.

59. Which among the following air pollutants while exposed for a long term has the high risk of causing neurodegenerative diseases?

1. PM2.5
2. NO₂
3. Soot or Black carbon

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

In NEWS: Long-term air pollution exposure increases dementia risk

- WHO data show that 99% of the world's population breathes air containing high levels of pollutants.

- Dementia is a syndrome associated with many neurodegenerative diseases, characterized by a general decline in cognitive abilities that affects a person's ability to perform everyday activities. This typically involves problems with memory, thinking, behavior, and motor control.

● Three common air pollutants that has a positive and statistically- significant association to cause dementia:

- PM2.5
- NO2
- Soot or Black carbon. Hence all are correct.

PM2.5:

● Predominantly produced by vehicle emissions and thermal power plants, PM2.5 is extremely fine particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less.

● The study found that for every 10 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) of long-term exposure to PM2.5, an individual's relative risk of dementia would increase by 17% from the baseline.

● For context, the average PM2.5 levels at Delhi's ITO pollution AQI monitoring station over the last 24 hours (as of Saturday, 4 pm) was 77.

NO2:

● Nitrogen dioxide is produced primarily due to the burning of fossil fuels by vehicles, thermal power plants, and various industrial processes.

● The study found that for every 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of long-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide, the relative risk of dementia increased by 3%.

● The average NO2 levels at the ITO station over the last 24 hours (as of Saturday, 4 pm) was 83.

Soot:

● Soot or Black Carbon PM2.5 comes from sources such as vehicle exhaust emissions and burning wood.

● The study reported that dementia risk jumped by 13% for each 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ of long-term soot exposure.

● The Central Pollution Control Board does not separately report BC/PM2.5 levels.

60. Consider the following countries

1. Azerbaijan
2. India
3. Iran
4. Russia
5. Turkey

How many of the above countries are founding members of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Answer b) Only three

Explanation

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a 7,200 kilometer-long multimodal transportation network (including ship, rail, and road routes) that connects India, Iran, Russia, Central Asia, and Europe. It was initiated by **India, Iran, and**

Russia in 2000 and aims to improve trade connectivity by reducing the time and cost of transport.

The corridor starts in India, passes through Iran, and proceeds to Russia and Europe via Azerbaijan and Central Asia.

It offers a shorter and more economical alternative to the traditional sea route via the Suez Canal.

Russia, India and Iran signed preliminary agreements to develop the INSTC in 2002.

Three years later, **Azerbaijan signed up for the project. This agreement was eventually ratified by 13 countries — India, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Tajikistan, Turkey and Ukraine. Hence option b is correct**

61. Consider the following statements:

1. Veblen goods are inferior goods whose demand increases when their price rises due to a strong income effect.
2. Giffen goods are luxury goods whose demand increases with an increase in price due to their status value.
3. Both Veblen and Giffen goods violate the law of demand

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) Only One

Explanation

Veblen goods are not inferior goods; they are luxury goods for which demand increases as price rises because higher prices enhance their exclusivity and status value, a phenomenon known as conspicuous consumption. This effect is driven by prestige rather than income changes. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

On the other hand, Giffen goods are not luxury goods but inferior staple goods typically consumed by low-income groups, where demand increases when price rises because the negative income effect outweighs the substitution effect, forcing consumers to buy more of the cheaper staple due to reduced real purchasing power. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

Both Veblen and Giffen goods violate the law of demand, as they show a positive relationship between price and demand, but the underlying reasons are fundamentally different—Veblen goods are driven by status effects, whereas Giffen goods are driven by income effects. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

62. Consider the following statements about 'PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana':

1. It aims to enhance agricultural productivity and promote crop diversification in low-performing agricultural districts.
2. It focuses on improving irrigation efficiency, post-harvest management and storage infrastructure.
3. It is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

The Government of India, in its Union Budget for 2025, announced the development of 100 Aspirational Agricultural Districts under "PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY)." Hence statement 1 is correct

PMMDKY was approved in July 2025 for six-years commencing with FY26, to cover 100 aspirational districts. The Scheme aims to (1) enhance agricultural productivity, (2) increase adoption of crop diversification and sustainable agricultural practices, (3) augment

postharvest storage at the panchayat and block levels, (4) improve irrigation facilities, and (5) facilitate availability of long-term and short-term credit. Hence statement 2 is correct

The PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in convergence with other relevant central ministries and state governments. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

The districts have been identified based on three key indicators: low productivity, low cropping intensity, and limited credit disbursement.

The Scheme will be implemented through the convergence of 36 existing schemes across 11 Departments, other State schemes and local partnerships with the private sector. Central Agricultural University (CAU)/State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) have been assigned as the technical knowledge partner for all aspects of agriculture in each district. The goal is for these 100 districts to surpass the national and state averages in key performance indicators, thereby improving national indicators and increasing farmers' incomes.

63. Which of the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India is/are correct?

1. Some Fundamental duties are available to foreign nationals who are in India.
2. Some Fundamental Rights are available to foreign nationals who are in India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer b) 2 only

Explanation

Under the Constitution of India, Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) are explicitly meant only for citizens of India. The Constitution clearly uses the term “citizens”, which indicates that these duties—such as respecting the Constitution, promoting harmony, and safeguarding public property—are not applicable to foreign nationals residing in India. Therefore, foreigners are not constitutionally obligated to perform Fundamental Duties.

Hence Statement 1 is incorrect

In contrast, the position of Fundamental Rights (FRs) is broader. The Constitution uses the term “person” in several provisions,

which includes both citizens and non-citizens. As a result, foreign nationals in India are entitled to a set of Fundamental Rights, though not all. Specifically, foreigners enjoy rights such as equality before the law (Article 14), which ensures non-arbitrary state action; protection in respect of conviction for offences (Article 20); and the highly significant right to life and personal liberty (Article 21), which has been expansively interpreted to include dignity, fair procedure, and due process. They are also protected under Article 21A (right to education for children aged 6–14 years) and Article 22, which provides safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention.

Further, foreigners are protected against exploitation under Articles 23 and 24, which prohibit human trafficking, forced labour, and child labour in hazardous occupations. They also enjoy freedom of religion under Articles 25 to 28, allowing them to profess, practice, and propagate religion, subject to reasonable restrictions. Importantly, they can approach the courts for enforcement of these rights under Article 32, the right to constitutional remedies.

Thus, the Constitution creates a clear distinction: Fundamental Duties apply only to citizens, whereas Fundamental Rights are partly available to foreigners, ensuring both sovereignty and universal human rights protection. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**

64. With reference to the removal of Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements

1. While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration, he/she shall not have the right to speak.
2. While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration, he/she shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.
3. He/she is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of both the house of the Parliament.
4. Resolution for removal of Speaker of the Lok Sabha can be moved only after giving one month advance notice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) None

Answer d) None

Explanation

The Speaker of Lok Sabha is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha (Art 94 (c)). Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice. Hence statement 3 and 4 are incorrect

When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration of the House, he cannot preside at the sitting of the House, though he may be present. **However, he can speak and take part in the proceedings of the House at such a time and vote in the first instance, though not in the case of an equality of votes.** It should be noted here that, whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets. **Hence statement 1 and 2 are incorrect**

65. Consider the following terms

1. Parivrajaka
2. Shramana
3. Bhikshu

How many of the above terms were associated with the tradition of Renunciants?

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

Answer d) All three

Explanation

Renunciants advocated giving up attachment to all material things and social relationships. The renunciants were referred to by various terms including paribbajaka

(Sanskrit —parivrajaka, 'wanderer'), samana (Sanskrit—shramana, 'one who strives', i.e., to realize the truth), and bhikkhu (Sanskrit—bhikshu, 'one who lives by begging alms'). These were people who had left their homes and lived as wanderers, dependent on food and alms offered by sympathetic or generous householders.

66. Forest fires are a recurring phenomenon in many parts of India and the world. If the frequency and intensity of forest fires increase significantly, what could be the possible impacts on the environment?

1. Increased release of carbon dioxide can accelerate global warming.
2. Soil fertility is permanently lost due to complete destruction of all organic matter.
3. Natural regeneration of forest species may be adversely affected.
4. Microbial biodiversity in the soil can decline.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

Brazil faced its worst forest fires in 2024, more than 62% of the area burnt.

• An unprecedented drought fuelled by climate change contributed to the record forest fires in Brazil in 2024, a new analysis has revealed.

Forest fires:

• A forest fire is an uncontrolled fire occurring in forest areas, burning vegetation, wildlife habitats, and soil cover. Also known as wildfires or bushfires in some regions.

Types of Forest Fires:

- **Surface Fire:** Burns leaf litter, dry grass, and small plants on the forest floor.
- **Crown Fire:** Spreads through the canopy; very intense and dangerous.
- **Ground Fire:** Burns the organic matter below the surface (e.g., peat fires).
- **Spot Fire:** Caused by flying embers that ignite vegetation ahead of the main fire front.

Causes of Forest Fires

Natural Causes

- Lightning strikes
- High temperatures and prolonged dry spells
- Spontaneous combustion in dry forests (rare)

Anthropogenic Causes

- Shifting cultivation (slash and burn)
- Accidental fires (campfires, cigarettes)
- Deliberate fires (for land clearance, poaching)
- Negligence in forest resource extraction (resin tapping, honey collection)

India State of Forest Report (ISFR)

As per ISFR 2021:

- 36% of forest cover is prone to frequent fires.
- 6% is highly fire-prone.
- Top 5 fire-prone districts: Eastern and central India dominate.

Impact:

- Forest fires emit large amounts of CO₂, contributing to the greenhouse effect and climate change. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
 - Frequent/intense fires can destroy seeds, seedlings, and disturb natural regeneration cycles. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
 - High temperatures can kill beneficial soil microbes, affecting soil health and ecosystem functions. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- Soil fertility loss is usually temporary; in some cases, ash may enrich the soil in the short term. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

67. "Organ-on-Chip (OoC)" technology is recently in the news. Which of the following best describes it?

- (a) A computer chip designed to replace damaged human neurons.
- (b) A micro-scale system that mimics the human body environment to recreate organ functions for drug testing.
- (c) A genomic database used to store the DNA sequences of different human organs.
- (d) A 3D-printed prosthetic organ integrated with silicon sensors.

Answer: (b) A micro-scale system that mimics the human body environment to recreate organ functions for drug testing.

Explanation:

Organ-on-Chip (OoC) technology is a revolutionary bridge between cell culture and human clinical trials. It aims to reduce our reliance on animal testing and make drug development faster and more accurate.

What is Organ-on-Chip?

It is **not** a computer chip in the traditional sense. Instead, it is a **microfluidic device**—a clear polymer about the size of a computer memory stick—that contains hollow channels lined with living human cells.

- **Biomimicry:** These chips simulate the mechanics, activities, and physiological response of entire organs. For example, a "Lung-on-Chip" can physically "breathe" by expanding and contracting its membranes to mimic the movement of human lungs.

- **Microfluidics:** Tiny amounts of fluids (simulating blood or air) are pumped through the channels to provide nutrients to the cells and remove waste, exactly as the body does.

Why is this "Next-Gen" Technology?

Currently, drug testing involves two main stages before human trials:

1. **Petri Dishes (2D):** Simple but don't represent how a 3D organ functions.
2. **Animal Testing:** Ethical concerns aside, animals often respond differently to drugs than humans do.

The OoC Advantage:

• **Precision Medicine:** Doctors could potentially use a patient's own cells on a chip to see which cancer drug works best for *them* specifically before starting treatment.

• **Safety:** It can detect "hepatotoxicity" (liver damage) or "cardiotoxicity" (heart damage) much earlier in the research process.

• **The "Body-on-a-Chip":** Scientists are now linking different "organ" chips together (e.g., Liver + Heart + Kidney) to see how a drug processed by the liver affects the heart.

68. Consider the following Statements regarding Gulf Cooperation Council(GCC):

1. Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union.

2. All the current member states are monarchies.

3. Its headquarters is located in Riyadh.

4. It convenes extraordinary sessions at the request of any member state with the support of another member.

5. Iraq and Yemen are the members of the council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only

(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, also known as the Gulf Cooperation Council, is a regional, intergovernmental, political, and economic union and military alliance comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Hence statement 1 is correct and Statement 5 is incorrect

The council's main headquarters is located in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

The Charter of the GCC was signed on 25 May 1981, formally establishing the institution.

All current member states are monarchies, including three constitutional monarchies (Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain), two absolute monarchies (Saudi Arabia and Oman), and one federal monarchy (the United Arab Emirates, which is composed of seven member states, each of which is an absolute monarchy with its own emir). **Hence statement 2 is correct**

The Supreme Council is the highest authority of the Cooperation Council, composed of the heads of the member states. Its presidency rotates alphabetically according to the names of the countries. **It convenes in a**

regular session annually, and extraordinary sessions may be held at the request of any member state with the support of another member. Hence statement 4 is correct

The council's meetings are valid if attended by two-thirds of the members, each having one vote. Its decisions on substantive matters require unanimity among the participating member states, while procedural matters are decided by a majority vote. (Charter of the Cooperation Council)

69. Consider the following actions:

1. Increase in Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)
2. Increase in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)
3. Decrease in Repo Rate

How many of the above actions are used to control inflationary pressure in the economy?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

For controlling inflation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) typically adopts a tight monetary

policy aimed at reducing money supply and curbing excess demand in the economy.

Under such a policy, it increases the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), which requires banks to keep a higher portion of their deposits with the RBI, thereby reducing their lending capacity.

Similarly, an increase in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) compels banks to maintain more funds in safe and liquid assets, further limiting credit availability.

Hence statement 2 is correct

The RBI also raises the Repo Rate(not decrease), making borrowing costlier for commercial banks, which in turn leads to higher lending rates in the economy and reduced credit demand. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

70. Consider the following statements

Statement I: Despite being the world's fourth-largest economy, India's Gross Expenditure on R&D remains stagnant compared to US and China.

Statement II: The deficiency in India is mainly due to lack of scientific talent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

Answer c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Explanation

The global economy has transitioned from an era of efficiency-driven globalisation to one defined by strategic resilience and technological sovereignty. In this landscape, the ability to innovate is no longer merely a driver of productivity; it has become the primary currency of national security and geopolitical leverage. **Despite being the world's fourth-largest economy, India's Gross Expenditure on R&D remains stagnant at ~0.64 per cent of GDP, significantly trailing the 2.5 per cent-5 per cent range of innovation-led economies like the US, China, and Israel.** In contrast, the US and China spend significantly higher amounts both in absolute terms and as a share of GDP. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

The deficiency in India is not a lack of scientific talent but challenges in collaboration with the private sector and 'translation' at scale. Hence statement 2 is incorrect

71. Consider the following statements

1. Abolition of Untouchability is envisaged under the Right against Exploitation of Constitution of India.
2. The term 'untouchability' is defined under Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.
3. Both the Parliament and State legislature have powers to make laws for prescribing punishment for abolition of untouchability.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer d) None

Explanation

Abolition of Untouchability is envisaged under the Right to Equality (Articles 14-18), not under the Right against Exploitation. Article 17 abolishes 'untouchability' and forbids its practice in any form. Hence statement 1 is incorrect

The enforcement of any disability arising out

of untouchability shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. In 1976, the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 was comprehensively amended and renamed as the **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 to enlarge the scope and make penal provisions more stringent.** The act defines civil right as any right accruing to a person by reason of the abolition of untouchability by Article 17 of the Constitution. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

The term 'untouchability' has not been defined either in the Constitution or in the Act. The Supreme Court held that the right under Article 17 is available against private individuals and it is the constitutional obligation of the State to take necessary action to ensure that this right is not violated.

Parliament shall have (and the legislature of a state shall not have) powers to make laws for prescribing punishment for those acts that are declared to be offences under the fundamental rights. These include the following: (a) **Untouchability (Article 17).** (b) Traffic in human beings and forced labour (Article 23). **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

72. Consider the following pairs:

Mahaganapada	Important Places	Located near
1. Kosala	Saketa	Sarayu river
2. Kasi	Ayodhya	Varuna and Asi river
3. Anga	Girivraja	Campa river
4. Magadha	Ujjain	Ganga and Son river

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) Only three pairs
- (d) All four pairs

Answer a) Only one pair

Explanation

The kingdom of Kosala -The Sarayu river divided it into a northern and a southern part. Shravasti (identified with modern Saheth- Maheth) was the capital of north Kosala, and Kushavati the capital of south Kosala. Saketa and Ayodhya were two other important towns and may once have been political centres

The kingdom of Kashi was bounded by the Varuna and Asi rivers to the north and south respectively. It is from the names of these two rivers that its capital city Varanasi (modern Benaras), on the banks of the Ganga, got its name.

Anga corresponded roughly to the present-day Bhagalpur and Monghyr districts of Bihar. The Champa river was its boundary with Magadha, which lay to its west. Its capital Champa (once known as Malini) was one of the greatest cities of the 6th century BCE. Located at the confluence of the Ganga and Champa rivers, Champa was also an important commercial centre on the trade routes of the time. Merchants are described as sailing overseas from here to Suvarnabhumi (probably in Southeast Asia).

The kingdom of Magadha was bounded by the Ganga, Son, and Champa rivers on the north, west, and east respectively and the Vindhyan spurs on the south. Its capital was initially Girivraja or Rajagriha, near modern Rajgir.

73. Why is a species called *Facciolella smithi* often mentioned in the news?

- (a) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area where it lives.
- (b) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.
- (c) It is a recently discovered eel species exhibiting regenerative traits.
- (d) It is commercially cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of north India.

Answer: (c) It is a recently discovered eel species exhibiting regenerative traits.

Explanation:

Indian scientists recently discovered a new deep-sea eel species named *Facciolella smithi* (Smith's witch eel) in the Arabian Sea.

***Facciolella smithi*:**

- ICAR–National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, has announced the discovery of a **new species of deep-sea eel**, *Facciolella smithi*, from the Arabian Sea.
- The specimen was collected at a depth ranging from 260 to 460 meters off the Kerala coast.
- This newly identified eel belongs to the family Nettastomatidae and is distinguished by its slender body and a uniquely shaped duckbill-like snout.
- The eel likely inhabits the seafloor or burrows into soft sediments, navigating the pitch-black waters with the help of its sensory adaptations rather than sight.
- One of the most striking visual features is its two-tone body. The upper half is a rich brown, while the underside is described as “milky white.” This contrast may aid in camouflage in the dim oceanic depths.
- Remarkably, most of the specimens showed evidence of regrown or regenerated tails, indicating either predator encounters or natural loss due to environmental factors.

• This **regenerative trait** is crucial for survival in the harsh and competitive deep-sea ecosystem.

• The species has been named in honour of eminent ichthyologist Dr. David G. Smith for his significant contributions to eel taxonomy.

• It is the 16th new eel species discovered by the institute in the past four years, underscoring the immense biodiversity of India's deep-sea ecosystems and the growing importance of marine exploration.

• **Hence option (c) is correct.**

74. With reference to the Debt Service Ratio (DSR), consider the following statements:

1. It is the ratio of total external debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

2. A rising Debt Service Ratio indicates an increase in economic growth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer d) Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation

Debt Service Ratio (DSR) refers to **Total debt servicing payments (principal + interest) as a percentage of export**

earnings whereas Debt-to-GDP ratio is the ratio of total external debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

An increasing Debt Service Ratio (DSR) means that a country is using a larger share of its foreign exchange earnings, primarily from exports, to service its debt obligations.

This reflects a rising debt burden and may indicate growing stress in the external sector. As more resources are diverted toward debt repayment, fewer funds remain available for essential imports and developmental activities. **Therefore, a higher DSR does not signify improved economic growth; rather, it can act as a constraint on growth by limiting the economy's financial flexibility. Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

75. 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' launched by the Government of India pertains to

(a) Industrial skill development for women

(b) Screening and preventive healthcare for women

(c) Financial inclusion of rural women

(d) Legal empowerment of women

Answer b) Screening and preventive healthcare for women

Explanation

The “Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar” Abhiyaan, launched on 17th September 2025, continues to witness overwhelming participation across India with lakhs of women, children and families benefitting from comprehensive health services.

The Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan marks the largest ever health outreach for women and children in India. The initiative, jointly led by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD)

Key highlights include: Hypertension & Diabetes Screening, Cancer Screening, Maternal and Child Health, Anaemia & Nutrition, TB & Sickle Cell Screening

76. Consider the following states

1. Gujarat
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Andhra Pradesh
5. Tamil Nadu

Which of the above states have been granted in-principle approval for the establishment of Bulk Drug Parks in India?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer a) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

The scheme for promotion of Bulk Drug Parks was approved by the Cabinet on 20.03.2020 to facilitate setting up of **three (3) Bulk Drug Parks in the country with the objective** to bring down the cost of manufacturing of bulk drugs by creation of world class common infrastructure facilities. It would also help in the creation of economies of scale for production of bulk drugs.

The financial assistance by the Central Govt. is subject to a maximum limit of **₹1000 crore per park or 70% of the project cost of Common Infrastructure Facilities (CIF)** (90% in case of North-eastern States and Hilly States i.e. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh), whichever is less. The fund allocated for the scheme is ₹3000 crores. The tenure of the scheme is from FY 2020-2021 to FY 2026-2027

Under the scheme for Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks, the Department had received proposals from 13 states. After evaluation, **proposals of Gujarat(Jambusar, Bharuch), Himachal Pradesh(Haroli, Una) and Andhra Pradesh(Nakkapalli, Anakapalli)** for setting up of Bulk Drug Parks were approved with a grant-in-aid of ₹1000 crore to each park

77. In Indian constitution, promotion of international peace and security is enjoined by

- (a) Preamble of the Constitution
- (b) Directive Principle of State Policy
- (c) Fundamental Duties
- (d) the conventional practice

Answer b) Directive Principle of State Policy

Explanation

The Directive Principles of State Policy include the objective of promoting international peace and security, maintaining just and honourable relations among nations, fostering respect for international law and treaty obligations, and encouraging the peaceful settlement of international disputes through arbitration, as provided under Article 51 of the Constitution of India. Hence option b is correct

78. Consider the following statements

1. All executive actions of the government of a state are formally taken in the name of the Chief Minister.
2. The Chief Minister can make rules for more convenient transaction of the business of a state government and for the allocation among the ministers of the said business.
3. The Chief Secretary of the state is appointed by the Chief Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer d) 3 only

Explanation

In a State, executive actions are formally taken in the name of the Governor, not the Chief Minister. As per Article 166 of the Constitution, all executive actions of the State Government are expressed to be taken in the name of the Governor of the State. The Chief Minister and Council of Ministers only aid and advise the Governor in exercising executive power. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

The power to frame Rules of Business of the State Government is vested in the Governor under Article 166(3), not the Chief Minister. However, in practice, these rules are framed by the Governor on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Chief Minister. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

The Chief Secretary, who is the top administrative officer of the State and usually a senior IAS officer, is appointed by the State Government under the authority of the Chief Minister. In practice, the Chief

Minister plays the decisive role in the selection and appointment of the Chief Secretary. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

79. Consider the following conditions

1. A long winter night.
2. Clear skies.
3. Still air.
4. Low air pressure near the ground surface.

Which of the above conditions are ideal for inversion of temperature?

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

Answer c) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Temperature inversion occurs when the **air near the ground becomes cooler than the air above it**, usually during night-time cooling of the Earth's surface. Long nights allow the Earth to lose more heat through radiation. This cools the ground significantly, leading to cooling of the air near the surface ideal for inversion. Clouds act like a blanket and trap heat. Clear skies allow maximum heat loss from the surface, enhancing cooling favors inversion. If winds are calm, there is no mixing of air layers. This helps the cold air remain near the ground supports inversion.

Temperature inversion is generally associated with **high pressure conditions** (stable atmosphere), not low pressure. Low pressure leads to rising air and mixing, which prevents inversion.

80. 'Zeliang Community Reserve', known for the reintroduction of the largest tortoise species in mainland Asia is located in

- (a) Manipur
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Nagaland

Answer: (d) Nagaland

Explanation:

Largest Asian tortoise species reintroduced into Nagaland community reserve

Reintroduction of Asian Giant Tortoise:

- The Asian Giant Tortoise (*Manouria emys*), the largest tortoise in mainland Asia, has been reintroduced in Zeliang Community Reserve, Peren district, Nagaland. **Hence option (d) is correct.**
- 10 tortoises, bred in Nagaland Zoological Park, were released into the wild on August 2, 2025, through a community-led event.
- 'Tortoise guardians' from the local community have been trained and engaged for monitoring and protection of the released tortoises.

Asian Giant Tortoise:

- The Asian Giant Tortoise is the largest tortoise in mainland Asia.
- It is classified as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN Red List.
- The species is native to the Eastern Himalayas, Northeast India, Southeast Asia, including parts of Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.
- It is a **terrestrial tortoise that prefers dense tropical rainforests.**
- It plays a crucial ecological role by dispersing seeds, aiding forest regeneration, and cleaning forest floors.
- Threats include habitat loss, hunting, and illegal pet trade.
- The species is listed under **Schedule IV** of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- In India, it was once widely found in Nagaland, but was almost wiped out from the region over a decade ago.
- Conservation efforts have been revived through the India Turtle Conservation Programme (ITCP) and Nagaland Forest Department.
- Captive breeding and "head-starting" (raising young in protected conditions) have been used to boost wild populations.
- The tortoise is also called the "**small elephant of the forest**" due to its size and strength.
- Local communities are involved in conservation as 'tortoise guardians' to protect and monitor the released animals.

81. Consider the following sectors:

1. Municipal Corporations
2. Financial Corporations
3. Non-Financial Corporations
4. Household Spending

Which of the above sectors are included in the calculation of non-financial debt?

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

Answer a) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Non-financial debt is closely linked with the **real sectors of the economy**, which are those engaged in **actual production, consumption, and public service delivery** rather than financial intermediation. It includes borrowing by **Municipal Corporations** (local governments providing civic infrastructure and services), **Non-Financial Corporations** (industries and firms producing goods and services), and **Households** (individuals financing consumption, housing, and education through credit). These sectors form the backbone of the real economy, where debt is used to support productive investment and consumption activities.

The link with real sectors is important because non-financial debt reflects the

leverage in the productive economy, showing how much households, firms, and governments depend on borrowed funds to sustain economic activity. High levels of such debt can indicate stress in the real economy and may affect investment, consumption, and growth. In contrast, **financial corporations** such as banks, NBFCs, and insurance companies are excluded because they operate in the financial sector by mobilizing and lending funds rather than directly producing goods or services. Thus, non-financial debt serves as a key indicator of financial stability in the real sector of the economy.

82. Consider the following statements with reference to Quality Control Orders (QCOs)

1. QCOs are issued in consultation with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).
2. QCOs are notified only by the Central Government, primarily through various line Ministries.
3. QCOs are issued under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer d) 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Quality Control Orders (QCOs) are issued by the Central Government (Not State Government) in India, primarily through various line Ministries or Departments (such as the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Steel, etc.) **in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, not International Organization for Standardization (ISO). **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct**

Quality Control Orders (QCOs) are issued under the BIS Act, 2016 to ensure product quality, consumer safety, and to curb substandard imports. **Hence Statement 3 is correct**

83. With reference to the provisions contained in Part III of the Constitution of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. They are enforceable by Courts of Law.
2. All the principles laid down in this part are enforceable against the State.
3. Due Process of Law is explicitly enshrined in Part III of the constitution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

Part III of the Constitution of India deals with **Fundamental Rights**, which are **justiciable in nature**, meaning they are legally enforceable by courts. This implies that any individual whose Fundamental Rights are violated can directly approach the judiciary for remedy, most notably under **Article 32**, which itself is a Fundamental Right. Therefore, it is correct to say that these rights are enforceable by courts. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

Further, while most Fundamental Rights are **primarily enforceable against the State**, this is not an absolute rule. The Constitution aims to protect individuals not only from arbitrary state action but also, in certain cases, from social oppression by other individuals. For instance, **Article 17** abolishes untouchability and prohibits its practice in any form, and **Article 23** prohibits human trafficking and forced labour—both of which are enforceable against private individuals as well. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

Additionally, with respect to personal liberty under **Article 21**, the Constitution originally adopted the phrase “**procedure established by law**”, which means that a person can be deprived of life or liberty according to a validly enacted law, regardless of its fairness. Unlike the American Constitution, the term “**due process of law**”—which includes both

procedural and substantive fairness—was not explicitly incorporated in the Indian Constitution. However, through judicial interpretation, especially in later landmark judgments, the Supreme Court has expanded the scope of Article 21 to include elements of due process. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

84. Consider the following pairs

Literature	Area of Expertise
1.Ashtadhyai	Sanskrit grammatical text
2.BrihatSamhita	Astronomical text
3.Natya Shahstra	Text on architecture and Sculpture
4.Shilpa Shastra	Text on theatre and Performing arts

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only four
- (d) All four

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Reference has already been made to grammatical texts such as Panini’s

Ashtadhyayi and Patanjali's Mahabhashya. Kautilya's Arthashastra is a major work on statecraft. Aryabhata's Aryabhatiya and Varahamihira's Brihatsamhita are important astronomical texts. Other technical treatises include the Kamasutra (on sensual pleasure), the Charaka Samhita and Sushruta Samhita (on medicine), the Natyashastra (on theatre and the performing arts), and the Shilpashastras (on architecture and sculpture).

85. With reference to the "Amara-Nayaka system", which one of the following statements is not correct?

(a) It was a major political innovation of the Vijayanagara Empire.

(b) They were military commanders, who were given territories to govern and collect taxes and other dues from peasants, craftsmen and traders in the area.

(c) They retained part of the revenue for personal use and to maintain stipulated contingent of horses and elephants.

(d) They were not allowed to use their share of revenue for the maintenance of temples.

Answer d) They were not allowed to use their share of revenue for the maintenance of temples.

Explanation

The **Amara-Nayaka system** of the Vijayanagara Empire was an important administrative and military arrangement in

which Nayakas were appointed as military commanders and given territories to govern. They collected taxes from peasants, artisans, and traders, retained a portion of the revenue for their personal use, and used the rest to maintain a stipulated military force, including horses and elephants, for the king. This system was indeed a major political innovation that helped the empire manage its vast regions efficiently. However, the statement that Nayakas were **not allowed to use their share of revenue for the maintenance of temples is incorrect**, because in practice, they actively patronized temples and contributed to their construction and upkeep. Temple support was a significant aspect of their role, reflecting the close connection between political authority and religious institutions during that period.

86. The term 'Black Mambas' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

(a) a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.

(b) an all-female anti-poaching unit in South Africa which has significantly reduced rhino poaching since their inception.

(c) an initiative to reduce short lived climate pollutants including black carbon.

(d) a mission to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Answer: (b) an all-female anti-poaching unit in South Africa which has significantly reduced rhino poaching since their inception

Explanation:

In NEWS: The Black Mambas, South Africa's all-women force to prevent rhino poaching

The Black Mambas:

- The Black Mambas is an all-female anti-poaching unit in South Africa's Greater Kruger National Park.

- They have significantly reduced rhino poaching since their inception in 2013.

Hence option (b) is correct.

- It was founded in 2013 by Transfrontier Africa and Craig R. Spencer as the world's first official and registered all-women anti-poaching ranger unit.

- They patrol Olifants West Nature Reserve and parts of the Greater Kruger National Park, covering around 20,000 hectares.

- The team comprises 36–42 mainly local women, each trained in foot patrols, snare removal, intelligence, and wildlife education.

- They operate unarmed, carrying only pepper spray, handcuffs, patrol equipment and rely on visible presence and early detection to deter poachers.

- Tasks include removing snares, inspecting and repairing fences, conducting roadblocks, and community outreach via their Bush Babies environmental education program in local schools.

87. With reference to Atal Tinkering Labs, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative under the Atal Innovation Mission.

2. It is implemented by Niti Aayog.

3. It is designed to foster innovation and creativity among higher education students by providing hands-on exposure to emerging technologies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Atal Tinkering Labs is a key component of the Atal Innovation Mission, which is implemented by NITI Aayog. Hence statement 1 and 2 are correct

Atal Tinkering Labs are specifically designed for school students (Classes 6–12), not for higher education students. It is designed to foster innovation and creativity among school students by providing hands-on exposure to emerging technologies. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

A major objective of the initiative is to cultivate one million young students in India as “Neoteric Innovators,” thereby promoting problem-solving skills, design thinking, and an entrepreneurial mindset from an early stage.

Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) are dedicated makerspaces established in schools across India that aim to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, by fostering curiosity, creativity, imagination, and essential 21st-century skills, such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, and physical computing. These labs provide students with hands-on access to tools for prototyping, including DIY electronic kits, 3D printers, sensors, robotics equipment, and mechanical tools, enabling them to tinker, experiment, and develop solutions to real-world problems.

88. According to the constitution of India, consider the following statements regarding Equality:

1. Equality implies treating all individuals identically in all circumstances.
2. Equality is based on the idea that all human beings deserve equal respect.
3. Equality aims to eliminate all forms of differences among individuals.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

Equality does not mean treating all individuals identically in every situation. In reality, identical treatment can sometimes reinforce inequality rather than remove it. The idea of equality is better understood as fair treatment, where different individuals may require different support to achieve similar opportunities. For instance, providing ramps for persons with disabilities, reservations for disadvantaged groups, or maternity leave for women are all examples of differential treatment aimed at achieving real equality. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**

At its core, equality is based on the principle that all human beings possess equal moral worth and deserve equal respect. This idea arises from the notion of common humanity, which holds that regardless of differences such as caste, gender, race, or nationality, every individual is entitled to dignity and consideration. This forms the philosophical foundation of the concept of equality. **Hence Statement 2 is correct**

However, equality does not seek to eliminate all differences among individuals. Differences in talent, effort, preferences, and choices are natural and acceptable in any society. What equality aims to address are unjust and socially created inequalities, especially those arising from factors like caste, gender, birth, or unequal social conditions. Thus, equality focuses on removing discrimination and ensuring fair opportunities, rather than enforcing uniformity among all individuals. **Hence Statement 3 is incorrect**

89. Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the Financial Emergency?

1. Reduction of salaries and allowances of any class of persons serving in the State.
2. Reservation of all Money Bills passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President.
3. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer c) 3 only

Explanation

Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened. The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the president in declaring a Financial Emergency final and conclusive and not questionable in any court on any ground. But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the president is not beyond judicial review.

The consequences of the proclamation of a Financial Emergency are as follows:

1. The executive authority of the Centre extends to the giving of (a) directions to any state to observe such canons of financial propriety as may be specified in the directions; and (b) such other directions to any state as the President may deem necessary and adequate for the purpose.
2. Any such direction may include a provision requiring (a) **the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state**; and (b) **the reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the state. Hence statement 1 and 2 are correct**

3. The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of (a) all or any class of persons serving the Union; and (b) the judges of the Supreme Court and the high court.

Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly is a possible outcome of President's Rule under Article 356, where the constitutional machinery in the State fails, and the Union assumes direct control. In such a situation, the Assembly may be suspended or dissolved depending on the political and constitutional requirements. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

90. Which of the following kings adopted the title called Sikandar-i-Sani ?

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Samudragupta
- (c) Alauddin Khalji
- (d) Babur

Answer c) Alauddin Khalji

Explanation

Sikandar-i-Sani ("Second Alexander") is the title adopted by Alauddin Khalji (r. 1296–1316), the second and most powerful ruler of the Delhi Sultanate's Khalji dynasty. He used this title to signify his ambition for world conquest and his extensive military victories, which included conquering Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Southern India.

91. "Geotubing technology" is talked about in which one of the following situations?

- (a) Enhancing crop yield through precision irrigation systems.
- (b) Restoration of damaged coral reefs.
- (c) Identification of areas for exploration / extraction of shale gas.
- (d) Coastal protection and erosion control.

Answer: (d) Coastal protection and erosion control

Explanation:

In news: Study finds geotubing at Poonthura effective in controlling coastal erosion
Geotubing Technology:

- Geotubing (or Geo-tube technology) is an innovative coastal protection and erosion control technique that uses large, tube-like structures made of geotextile fabric. Hence option (d) is correct.
- These tubes are filled with sand or slurry and laid along coastlines, riverbanks, or eroded land to act as a barrier against wave action, tides, and floods.
- It is commonly used in low-lying coastal areas prone to cyclones, wave action, and sea-level rise, especially under programs like ICZMP (Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project).

Applications:

- Coastal erosion control (especially in cyclone-prone areas)

- Riverbank stabilization
- Artificial dunes or levees
- Temporary flood barriers
- Rehabilitation of beaches or shorelines

92. In India, which one of the following publishes Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)?

- (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Labour Bureau
- (d) Ministry of Labour and Employment

Answer a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Explanation

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) published the first monthly bulletin of the revised PLFS in April 2025.

The bulletin presents key labour market indicators, for both rural and urban areas, based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) of individuals. Along with the monthly PLFS, MoSPI has revamped the quarterly survey to include all-India and rural estimates, as well as urban estimates.

Considering the need for generation of high frequency labour force indicators with enhanced coverage the sampling methodology of Periodic Labour Force

Survey (PLFS) has been revamped from January 2025. The revamped PLFS design is envisaged to address the following objectives:

- to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (**viz. Labour Force Participation Rate, Worker Population Ratio and Unemployment Rate**) on a monthly basis for rural and urban areas in the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)** at all India level
- to extend the coverage of the Quarterly results of PLFS to rural areas and thereby producing quarterly estimates covering both rural and urban parts of India in the Current Weekly Status (CWS)
- to estimate important employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

The monthly results are planned to be released in the form of Monthly Bulletins of PLFS. **The quarterly and monthly PLFS data show a steady labour market with seasonal variations.** It indicates that the period from April to September 2025 (H1 FY26) saw a declining unemployment rate (UR) in the current weekly status (CWS) with a stabilising labour force participation rate (LFPR), and substantial employment levels, signalling an improvement in employment conditions.

93. Consider the following characteristics:

1. Government derives its authority from the consent of the people.
2. All citizens enjoy equal political rights.
3. The people are accountable to those who govern.

Which of the above characteristics are associated with a democratic form of government?

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

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

In a democratic system, the legitimacy of government fundamentally rests on the consent of the governed, making it one of its core features. This means that authority is not imposed from above but derived from the will of the people, typically expressed through free and fair elections and active political participation. Alongside this, political equality is another essential pillar of democracy, ensuring that every citizen has an equal voice in the political process, embodied in the principle of “one person, one vote” and equal political rights. These two features together establish democracy as a system that is both participatory and inclusive. **Hence statement 1 and 2 are correct**

However, the idea that there is accountability of the ruled to the ruler is incorrect and represents a reversal of democratic principles. In a true democracy, it is the rulers who are accountable to the people, as they are elected representatives who must answer for their actions and can be removed through elections or other constitutional mechanisms. Therefore, while consent of the governed and political equality define democratic rule, accountability flows in the opposite direction—from the government to the people—ensuring that power remains ultimately with the citizens. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

94. With reference to ancient India, the terms “kutis and gamas” were well known as

- (a) Different kinds of rural settlements
- (b) Port cities
- (c) Centres of iron and steel making
- (d) Different types of Coins

Answer(a) Different kinds of rural settlements

Explanation

Early Buddhist texts mention different kinds of rural settlements (Wagle, 1966: 13–16). The Vinaya Pitaka suggests that one, two, three, or four kutis, could form a village. Kuti

probably meant a hamlet consisting of a large house and smaller houses around it.

The word gama (Pali for grama) could refer to a hamlet, village, part of a settlement, temporary settlement, or even a caravan of traders camping in one place for over four months. Pali texts refer to gamas of park attendants (aramika-gama), carpenters (vaddhaki-gama), reed makers (nalakara-gama), and salt makers (lonakara-gama). People following these professions may have constituted a majority in such villages. Gamas of Brahmanas and of Chandalas are also mentioned. Terms such as gama-gamani and gamika refer to village headmen and overseers

95. Which of the following statements regarding Regur soil is/are correct?

1. It is a light coloured, clayey and fertile soil.
2. It is developed on Deccan basaltic lava under hot and humid conditions.
3. Cotton is extensively cultivated in this soil.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation

While Regur soil is fine texture to high clayey and fertile, it is **dark-coloured** (ranging from deep black to grey) due to the presence of titaniferous magnetite and iron. It is not light-coloured.

Regur soil is formed from the weathering of **basaltic lava** flows in the Deccan Trap region. This formation occurs under **hot and humid** (or sub-humid) climatic conditions.

This soil is famously known as "**Black Cotton Soil**" because its moisture-retentive capacity and clayey texture make it exceptionally suitable for the **extensive cultivation of cotton**

96. Consider the following statements regarding 'fronts':

1. The movement of a front causes a slow change in weather in the area over which it moves.
2. Cold fronts are associated with thunderstorms.
3. Warm front is the boundary between an advancing mass of warm air where it is overriding and rising above a mass of colder air.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer d) 1,2 and 3

Explanation

The movement of a front signifies a transition between two air masses with different properties (temperature, humidity, pressure). As a front passes over an area, it causes a sequence of changes in these properties over time, which is generally characterized as a **slow change** in the overall weather pattern of that area compared to instantaneous shifts.

Cold fronts involve a dense, cold air mass pushing underneath a warmer air mass, forcing it to rise rapidly. This rapid uplift causes atmospheric instability, leading to the development of cumulonimbus clouds and **thunderstorms**.

By definition, a **warm front** is the boundary where an advancing warm air mass meets and **overrides** a retreating mass of colder air. Because warm air is less dense, it rises gradually above the colder air, leading to widespread cloud cover and steady precipitation.

97. Which of the following statements as per the 'Universal Declaration of Human Rights' is/are correct?

1. The Declaration provides that everyone has a right to seek and enjoy in other country's asylum from prosecution in respect of political crimes.
2. The Declaration provides that everyone has the freedom from arbitrary deprivation of

nationality, except for the freedom to change nationality.

3. The Declaration resonates with the marital rights of every adult consenting individuals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) lays down essential rights that protect the dignity and freedom of individuals across the world. **Article 14 recognizes that every person has the right to seek and enjoy asylum in other countries from persecution, particularly in cases of political oppression.** This provision reflects the international commitment to protect individuals who are forced to flee their home countries due to threats to their life or liberty. However, this right is not absolute and does not extend to individuals fleeing prosecution for non-political crimes or acts contrary to the purposes of the United Nations. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

Article 15 deals with the right to nationality, which is crucial for legal identity and access to rights. It clearly states that everyone has the right to a nationality, and that **no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of their nationality**. Importantly, it also guarantees that **every individual has the freedom to change their nationality**, thereby protecting individuals from being stateless or forcibly tied to a state against their will. This provision ensures both security and autonomy in matters of citizenship. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

Further, Article 16 affirms the rights related to marriage and family. It provides that men and women of full age have the right to marry and to found a family, without any discrimination. A key condition emphasized here is that marriage must be entered into with the free and full consent of both parties, ensuring that it is **based on individual choice rather than coercion or social pressure**. This reflects the broader principle of personal liberty and equality in human relationships. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

Together, these provisions highlight the UDHR's focus on protecting individuals from oppression, ensuring legal identity, and safeguarding personal freedoms, thereby forming a cornerstone of modern human rights law.

98. Which one of the following Commission recommended for establishment of Inter-State Council in India?

- (a) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- (b) Rajamannar Committee (1969)
- (c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)
- (d) Punchi Commission (2007)

Answer c) Sarkaria Commission (1983)

Explanation

The Inter-State Council was recommended by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1983-88) to strengthen federal coordination and resolve inter-state disputes effectively. It was later established in 1990 under Article 263 of the Constitution. **Hence Option C is correct**

99. Consider the following pairs

Kingdoms	Capital city
1. Paramaras	Malwa
2. Maitrakas	Valabhi
3. Pushyabhutis	Thanesar
4. Maukharis	Kanauj

How many of the above pairs are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Answer d) All four

Explanation

The **Paramaras of Malwa** were an important Rajput dynasty that ruled roughly from the **9th to 14th century CE**, with their capital at **Dhar (Malwa)**. They rose to prominence after the decline of the Pratiharas and became known for both military strength and cultural achievements. The most famous ruler was Bhoja (c. 1010–1055 CE), who was not only a powerful king but also a great scholar, credited with works on literature, medicine, and architecture. Under him, Malwa became a major center of learning and art.

The **Pushyabhutis of Thanesar** (also called the Vardhana dynasty) ruled during the **6th–7th century CE**, with their capital at **Thanesar (modern Haryana)** and later **Kannauj**. This dynasty gained great prominence under Harsha (606–647 CE), who expanded his empire across much of North India. Harsha was known for his administrative ability, patronage of Buddhism, and cultural contributions, including support for scholars like Banabhatta. His reign marked a period of political unity and cultural flourishing in North India.

The **Maukharis of Kanauj** were a significant dynasty of the **6th century CE**, ruling from their capital at **Kanauj**. They emerged after the decline of the Guptas and played a key role in North Indian politics before the rise

of Harsha. Important rulers included Ishanavarman and Sarvavarman, who strengthened the kingdom and resisted external invasions. Eventually, their power declined, and their territories were absorbed by the Pushyabhutis under Harsha.

The **Yadavas of Devagiri** (also called the Seuna dynasty) ruled between the **12th and early 14th century CE**, with their capital at **Devagiri (modern Daulatabad in Maharashtra)**. They were a powerful Deccan kingdom that controlled important trade routes. A notable ruler was Singhana II (c. 1200–1247 CE), under whom the kingdom reached its peak. However, their rule ended when Alauddin Khalji invaded and annexed Devagiri in the early 14th century.

The **Maitrakas of Valabhi** ruled in western India during the **6th to 8th century CE**, with their capital at **Valabhi (in present-day Gujarat)**. They were originally governors under the Guptas but became independent after the empire's decline. The founder was Bhatarka. Valabhi became an important center of trade, learning, and Buddhist education, often compared to Nalanda. The dynasty declined due to Arab invasions in the 8th century.

100. Subduction zone with reference to plate tectonics is associated with which of the following plate boundaries?

1. Convergent boundaries.
2. Divergent boundaries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

A **subduction zone** in plate tectonics refers to a region where one tectonic plate **moves beneath another plate and sinks into the mantle**. This process happens only when plates **collide**, i.e., at **convergent boundaries**.

At **convergent boundaries**, typically an oceanic plate (denser) goes under a continental or another oceanic plate, forming features like deep-sea trenches, volcanic arcs, and earthquakes. This is the defining characteristic of subduction.

On the other hand, **divergent boundaries** are areas where plates **move away from each other**, such as mid-ocean ridges. Here, magma rises to form new crust, and **no subduction occurs**.

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