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T.B.C.: KMIAS-C- TP/ MOCK TEST-2

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

**Statement I:** Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law

**Statement II:** The detention of a person cannot exceed three months in any circumstances

**Statement III:** The grounds of detention must be communicated to the detention of a person

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct**

### Explanation

Article 22 grants protection to persons

who are arrested or detained under a preventive detention law. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

This protection is available to both citizens as well as aliens and includes the following:

(i) The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless the advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The board is to consist of judges of a high court. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

(ii) The grounds of detention should be communicated to the deten. However, the facts considered to be against the public interest need not be disclosed. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

(iii) The detenu should be afforded an opportunity to make representation against the detention order.

## 2. Consider the following states

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Madhya Pradesh
4. Maharashtra
5. Tripura

**How many of the above states have Scheduled areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India?**

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

**Answer b) Only three**

**Explanation**

**Scheduled Areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India** are those tribal-dominated regions declared by the President under Article 244(1) to ensure the protection and welfare of Scheduled Tribes. These areas exist in states such as **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan. (10 States).** Hence **Option b is correct**

**Tribal Areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India** refer to certain tribal-dominated regions in Northeast India that are provided with a high degree of autonomy through Autonomous District Councils under

Article 244(2). These areas are located in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

**3. Consider the following statements**

**Statement I:** No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office

**Statement II:** The Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of office except Supreme Court of India

**Statement III:** The Constitution of India provides certain immunities to the Governor of a State

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I**

#### **Explanation**

The Constitution of India grants certain immunities to the President and Governor of a State under Article 361.

**Hence statement 3 is correct**

The President of India and the Governor of States enjoy the following immunities (Article 361):

(i) The President or the Governor is not answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of office. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

(ii) No criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against the President or the Governor in any court during his term office.

(iii) No process for the arrest or imprisonment of the President or Governor shall be issued from any court during his term of office **Hence statement 1 is correct**

(iv) No civil proceedings against the President or the Governors be instituted during his term of office in any court in

respect of act done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or a he entered upon his office, until the expiration of two months after notice has been delivered to him.

#### **4. Consider the following Criteria**

1. Income distance
2. Population based on 2001 census
3. Area
4. Forest and Ecology
5. Demographic Performance
6. Tax and Fiscal Efforts
7. Contribution to GDP

**Which of the above criteria are included in the Sixteenth Finance Commission ?**

- (a) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only

**Answer a) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only**

#### **Explanation**

Criterion	15th FC Weight (2021-26)	16th FC Weight (2026-31)
Income Distance	45.0%	42.5%
Population (2011)	15.0%	17.5%
Area	15.0%	10.0%
Forest & Ecology	10.0%	10.0%
Demographic Performance	12.5%	10.0%
Tax & Fiscal Efforts	2.5%	— (Removed)
Contribution to GDP	—	10.0% (New)

## 5. Which of the following statements best describes debt servicing?

- (a) It refers only to the repayment of the principal amount of a loan
- (b) It includes both the interest payments and repayment of principal on borrowed funds
- (c) It refers to the total outstanding debt of a country at a given time
- (d) It is the ratio of government expenditure to GDP

**Answer b) It includes both the interest payments and repayment of principal on borrowed funds**

### Explanation

**Debt servicing refers to the total payments made by a borrower (such as governments, corporations, and individuals) to meet its debt obligations.** This includes both components—the interest payments on the borrowed amount as well as the repayment of the principal over time. It

reflects the actual financial burden of debt in a given period.

## 6. Consider the following receipts

1. Corporation tax
2. Dividends and Profits from public sector undertakings (PSUs)
3. Loans from international financial institutions
4. Disinvestment from public sector undertakings (PSUs)

**How many of the above are included in Capital Receipts?**

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

**Answer a) Only two**

### Explanation

Government revenue receipts are broadly divided into two main categories:

1. Tax Revenue (Compulsory payments):  
Direct Taxes: Taxes levied on the income or wealth of individuals and companies, such as income tax, **corporation tax**,

**and wealth tax.** Indirect Taxes: Taxes imposed on goods and services, which include Goods and Services Tax (GST), customs duties, and union excise duties.

2. Non-Tax Revenue (Income from other sources): Interest Receipts: Interest earned on loans provided by the government to state governments, UTs, or other entities. **Dividends and Profits: Profits from public sector undertakings (PSUs) and dividends from investments.** Fees and Charges: Fees levied for government services (e.g., license fees, court fees). Fines and Penalties: Fees imposed for breaking rules, along with forfeitures and escheats (property that reverts to the state). Grants-in-Aid: Regular financial aid received from foreign governments or international organizations

Capital receipts are non-recurring inflows that increase liabilities (debt) or decrease assets, impacting an entity's balance sheet rather than regular income.

Debt Capital Receipts (Liability-Creating): These represent borrowed funds that must be repaid, such as **loans from banks or financial institutions,**

issuing debentures, or issuing bonds.

Non-Debt Capital Receipts (Asset-Reducing): These do not create a future repayment obligation but reduce the net worth or assets of the entity, including: Sale of Fixed Assets: Cash received from selling land, buildings, or machinery. **Disinvestment/Sale of Shares: Money received from selling shares in companies (public or private).** Recovery of Loans: Proceeds from loans previously granted to other parties.

**Hence option a is correct**

**7. Consider the following statements**

1. Population is gradually ageing
2. Total fertility rate has fallen below replacement levels
3. Life expectancy has steadily increased

**Which of the above factors are associated with Population growth in India?**

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

**Answer d) 1, 2 and 3**

## **Explanation**

India continues to benefit from a large working-age population (in the age group 15-59), expected to exceed 98 crore in the next 10 years. According to the UN projections, India's demographic dividend is expected to peak around 2030, when nearly 65 per cent of the population will fall within the 15-59 years group. At the same time, the population is gradually ageing: the total fertility rate has fallen below replacement levels and life expectancy has steadily increased, raising the median age and signalling the onset of a demographic transition towards an older population. **Hence option d is correct**

**8. Recently, "Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human rights, democracy and the rule of law" is seen in news related to**

- (a) The Council of Europe
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) World Bank
- (d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**Answer a) Council of Europe**

## **Explanation**

**The Council of Europe (COE) Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the first legally binding international treaty on AI, was opened for signature.**

COE is an intergovernmental organisation formed in 1949, with 46 members including Japan, and the U.S., plus countries of the EU bloc and others. The Framework Convention was initiated in 2019, when the ad hoc Committee on Artificial Intelligence (CAHAI) was tasked with examining the feasibility of such an instrument. It aligns with new regulations and agreements, including the G7 AI pact, Europe's AI Act, and the Bletchley Declaration. **Hence Option a is correct.**

**9. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** Orange economy promotes economic growth through creative industries.

**Statement II:** Orange economy focuses only on manufacturing-based industrial production.

**Statement III:** Orange economy encourages innovation and intellectual property-based activities.

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I**

**Explanation**

The Orange Economy refers to an economic model that is driven by creativity, culture, knowledge, and intellectual property. It includes industries such as art, music, film, literature, fashion, design, advertising, and digital content creation. Orange Economy contributes to economic growth by promoting creative industries that generate value through ideas, innovation, and cultural expression

rather than physical manufacturing alone. These sectors not only create employment but also add significant value to a country's GDP through services, exports, and cultural influence.

**Hence Statement I is correct**

The Orange Economy is not centered on manufacturing-based industrial production. Manufacturing typically falls under the traditional industrial or secondary sector of the economy, whereas the Orange Economy belongs more to the creative and knowledge-based sectors. Its emphasis is on originality, content creation, and intellectual outputs rather than large-scale physical production of goods.

**Hence Statement II is incorrect**

The key feature of the Orange Economy is the use and protection of intellectual property such as copyrights, patents, trademarks, and designs. It encourages innovation and rewards creative work, making intellectual property a major economic asset. Thus, the Orange Economy thrives on ideas and creativity, which makes innovation and knowledge-based activities central to its functioning.

**Hence Statement III is correct**

**10. Who among the following was the author of Rajatarangini (River of Kings), a detailed account of the kings of Kashmir from the early ones of legend to the historical rulers of the 12th century?**

- (a) Vishnu Gupta
- (b) Kalhana
- (c) Chand Bardai
- (d) Ibn Battuta

**Answer b) Kalhana**

**Explanation**

**In 1148 CE Kalhana, a man with literary and scholarly ambitions, began writing a book.** His father Chanpaka was at one time closely associated with the royal court, but by the time Kalhana was born, the family had fallen out of favour. Kalhana worked hard for two years, recording local traditions and examining manuscripts, chronicles, inscriptions, coins, and monuments. He drew on his family members' political experience and his personal observation of events that were unfolding in his own lifetime. **The book was completed in 1150 CE and was titled Rajatarangini (River of Kings).** Consisting of eight cantos, each called a

taranga (wave), it gave a connected account of the kings of Kashmir from the early ones of legend to the historical rulers of the 12th century. Hence option b is correct

**11. With respect to Buddhism and Jainism, Consider the following**

1. Both established the monastic order of monks and nuns
2. Both preached the gospels of non-violence
3. Both preferred shramanic tradition

**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 : d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

**Commonality in Jainism and Buddhism:**

In the initial stage, they did not attach any importance to the existing varna system.

**They preached the gospel of non-violence**, which would put an end to wars between different kingdoms and consequently promote trade and commerce. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

**Both Jainism and Buddhism preferred simple, puritan, ascetic living.** The Buddhist and Jaina monks were asked to forgo the good things of life. They were not allowed to touch gold and silver. They were to accept only as much from their patrons as was sufficient to keep body and soul together. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**Both established the monastic order of monks and nuns. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

**12. With reference to the travelers of Medieval India, consider the following statements:**

1. Ibn Battuta is associated with Muhammad bin Tughlaq
2. Francois Bernier is associated with Akbar
3. Abdur Razzaq is associated with Deva Raya II

**Which of the statements given above 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**

Travelling overland through Central Asia, **Ibn Battuta reached Sind in 1333** and visited **Muhammad bin Tughlaq**, the Sultan of Delhi. **The Sultan was impressed by his scholarship, and appointed him the qazi or judge of Delhi.** He remained in that position for several years. Later he was ordered in 1342 to proceed to China as the Sultan's envoy to the Mongol ruler. **Hence Statement 1 is correct.**

**Francois Bernier, a Frenchman, was a doctor, political philosopher and historian.** Like many others, he came to the Mughal Empire in search of opportunities. He was in India for twelve years, from 1656 to 1668, and **was closely associated with the Mughal court, as a physician to Prince Dara Shukoh, the eldest son of Emperor**

**Shah Jahan**, and later as an intellectual and scientist, with Danishmand Khan, an Armenian noble at the Mughal court. **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.**

**The Persian traveller Abdur Razzaq, who had travelled widely in and outside India, visited Vijayanagara in the reign of Deva Raya II.** He gives a glowing account of the country, saying: 'This latter prince has in his dominions three hundred ports, each of which is equal to Calicut, and on terra firma his territories comprise a space of three months journey'. All travellers agree that the country was thickly populated, with numerous towns and villages. Abdur Razzaq says: 'The country is for the most part well cultivated, very fertile. The troops amount in number to eleven lakhs. **Hence Statement 3 is correct.**

**13. With reference to the Indian National Army (INA) trials, which of the following leaders were part of the Defence Committee formed to defend the accused?**

1. Asaf Ali
2. Motilal Nehru
3. Tej Bahadur Sapru

4. Lala Lajpat Rai

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

The new struggle took the form of a massive movement against the trial of the soldiers and officers of the INA. The **government decided to put on trial in the Red Fort at Delhi Shah Nawaz Khan, Guridial Singh Dhillon and Prem Sehgal, officers of the INA,** who had earlier been officers in the British-Indian army.

They were accused of having broken the oath of loyalty to the British Crown. On the otherhand, the people welcomed them as national heroes. Huge popular demonstrations demanding release were held all over the country.

So **AICC meeting in september 1945 decided to defend the accused in the INA trial-the "misguided patriots" - and announced the formation of a**

**Defence Committee, consisting of some legal luminaries such as Tej Bahadur Sapru, Bhulabhai Desai, Asaf Ali, and also Jawaharlal Nehru. Hence option(c) is correct.**

**14.Consider the following statements**

1. United Nations Convention on Cybercrime is the first legally binding UN instrument on cybercrime
2. The convention focuses on freezing, confiscating, and returning crime proceeds, as well as collecting and sharing electronic evidence
3. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serving as a secretariat for this convention

**Which of the above statements is/are correct regarding the UN Cybercrime Convention (2024)?**

- (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**

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the UN Convention against Cybercrime, marking a significant milestone in the global fight against cybercrime. **This treaty, the first legally binding UN instrument addressing cyber issues, establishes a crucial framework for international cooperation in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes. Hence statement 1 is correct**

**The Convention will be open for signature at a formal ceremony in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2025, and will enter into force 90 days after ratification by the 40th signatory.**

**The Convention also establishes a global framework to assist in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings, including extradition, joint investigations and asset recovery. Hence statement 2 is correct**

It facilitates cross-border access to electronic evidence through measures like data preservation, access and interception, supported by a 24/7 contact point network for rapid response. It outlines the general principles and procedures for mutual

legal assistance, stating that States Parties shall provide each other with the widest possible support in investigations, prosecutions and judicial proceedings.

**The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) serves as the secretariat for the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime. Hence statement 3 is correct**

**15. With respect to lichens, consider the following statements:**

1. They exhibit a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and a photobiont.
2. They are most likely to be found surviving on a surface without soil.
3. They offer high resilience to air pollution.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

Lichens are a symbiotic partnership between a **fungus** (mycobiont) and a **photobiont** (the photosynthetic partner, which is usually green algae or cyanobacteria).

Lichens are classic **pioneer species** known for surviving on bare surfaces without soil, such as rocks, tree bark, and tombstones. They can chemically weather rock to initiate soil formation.

Lichens are highly **sensitive to air pollution**, particularly sulfur dioxide. Because they absorb water and nutrients from the atmosphere rather than roots, they serve as excellent **bio-indicators** of air quality and typically do not grow in heavily polluted areas. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

**16. Which among the following can become highly explosive when mixed with fuel oil?**

- (a) Ammonium nitrate
- (b) Sodium chloride
- (c) Calcium carbonate
- (d) Potassium sulfate

**Answer a) Ammonium Nitrate**

**Explanation**

**Ammonium nitrate** becomes a highly explosive mixture when combined with fuel oil (such as diesel). This combination is commercially known as ANFO (Ammonium Nitrate/Fuel Oil).

**ANFO Composition:** ANFO is a widely used industrial explosive typically made of 94% ammonium nitrate and 6% fuel oil.

**Oxidizer Property:** Ammonium nitrate acts as a strong oxidizer, providing the oxygen necessary for the fuel oil to burn rapidly, leading to a massive release of energy and gas (detonation).

**Applications:** It is the primary explosive used in mining, quarrying, and civil construction due to its low cost and relative safety when unmixed.

**17. "An Article without which this Constitution would be a nullity. It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it."**

**The above statement refers to which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India?**

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 19
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 32

**Answer (d) Article 32**

**Explanation:**

**Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies)**

**as the "heart and soul" of the Constitution**

because it allows individuals to directly approach the Supreme Court for enforcement of Fundamental Rights. Article 32 confers the right to remedies for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of an aggrieved citizen. In other words, the right to get the Fundamental Rights protected is in itself a fundamental right. This makes the fundamental rights real. That is why Dr. Ambedkar called Article 32 as the most important article of the Constitution—'an Article without which this constitution would be a nullity. It is the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it'.

**18. Consider the following statements regarding the Attorney General**

**Statement I:** The Indian Constitution has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India

**Statement II:** The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the Chief Justice of India

**Statement III:** The term of office of the Attorney General (AG) is fixed by the Constitution

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct**

**Explanation**

The Constitution (Article 76) has provided for the office of the Attorney General for India. He is the highest law officer in the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

**The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the president.** He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court. In other words, he must be a citizen of India and he must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of

some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the president. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

The term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

He holds office during the pleasure of the president. This means that he may be removed by the president at any time. He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the president.

Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice. The remuneration of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution. He receives such remuneration as the president may determine.

**19. Consider the following statements.**

1. To regulate business on stock exchanges
2. To register and overseeing the functioning of venture capital funds
3. To regulate investment of funds by insurance companies

4. To promote investor education and provide training to intermediaries in the securities market

5. To prevent insider trading and ensuring fairness in securities dealings

**How many of the above statements are correct regarding the functions of SEBI?**

(a) Only two

(b) Only three

(c) Only four

(d) All five

**Answer c) Only four**

**Explanation**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the key regulatory authority for the Indian securities market, established to protect investor interests, promote market growth, and ensure the fairness and transparency of financial transactions. Initially formed in 1988, **SEBI was given statutory powers through the SEBI Act, 1992**

Some of SEBI's key functions include:

- Regulating business on stock exchanges and other securities markets.

- Registering and regulating the functioning of intermediaries like stock brokers, sub-brokers, share transfer agents, merchant bankers, portfolio managers, investment advisers, and others associated with the securities market.

- Registering and regulating depositories, custodians of securities, foreign institutional investors, credit rating agencies, and other market participants specified by SEBI.

- Registering and overseeing the functioning of venture capital funds, collective investment schemes, and mutual funds.

- Preventing and prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices related to the securities market.

- Promoting investor education and providing training to intermediaries in the securities market.

- Preventing insider trading and ensuring fairness in securities dealings.

- Gathering information, conducting inspections, and audits of stock exchanges, mutual funds, market intermediaries, and self-regulatory organizations to ensure compliance.

- Sharing and receiving information from domestic and international

authorities regarding violations of securities laws, subject to agreements approved by the Central Government.

- Performing functions under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, as delegated by the Central Government.

- Levying fees and charges for carrying out its regulatory duties.

- Conducting research related to the development and regulation of the securities market.

- Calling for and providing information to relevant agencies for efficient market oversight.

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandates all the top 1000 listed companies in India by market capitalization to submit a Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR). The BRSR primarily requires disclosures on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, which are largely non-financial in nature

Regulating investment of funds by insurance companies is incorrect, as that is overseen by the **IRDAI. Hence option c is correct**

## **20.Consider the following statements**

1. It can accept demand deposits
2. It form part of the payment and settlement system
3. It can issue cheques drawn on itself
4. Deposit insurance facility is available to depositors of deposit taking NBFCs

**How many of the above are correct regarding functions of Non - Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs)?**

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

**Answer d) None**

### **Explanation**

Banks and NBFCs are different entities subject to different statutory and regulatory requirements. However, NBFCs lend and make investments and hence these activities are akin to that of banks. The major differences between banks and NBFCs are given below:

- (i) NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits;
- (ii) NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and

cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;  
(iii) Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

**Hence option d is correct**

### **21.Consider the following statements**

1. An increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve generally leads to capital outflows from emerging economies including India
2. An increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve generally leads to capital inflows from emerging economies including India
3. Government bond yields in India are determined only by domestic monetary policy and are not affected by global financial conditions

**Which of the above statements are correct regarding actions of the United States Federal Reserve?**

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

**Answer (a) 1 only**

### **Explanation**

An increase in interest rates by the Federal Reserve System generally leads to capital outflows from emerging economies like India. This happens because higher U.S. interest rates make U.S. assets more attractive, pulling global funds away from riskier emerging markets. Higher U.S. interest rates do not lead to capital inflows into emerging economies. Instead, they usually cause capital outflows from them. **Hence Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect**

Government bond yields in India are not determined only by domestic monetary policy. They are also influenced by: Global interest rates (especially U.S. rates), Foreign capital flows and Global risk sentiment. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

### **22.With respect to Time Use Survey(TUS), consider the following statements**

1. The primary objective of the survey is to measure the participation of men,

women, and other groups of persons in paid and unpaid activities

2. The first Time Use Survey(TUS) was conducted in 2024

3. Time Use Survey(TUS) was conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

**Which of the above statements 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**

**Time Use Survey(TUS) 2024 :** The TUS enables the measurement of the time individuals spend on different activities.

**The primary objective of the survey is to measure the participation of men, women, and other groups of persons in paid and unpaid activities.** India is among the few countries, including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the USA, and China, that conduct the National TUS to analyse how people allocate their time to various daily

activities. The MoSPI conducted the first all-India TUS from January to December 2019.

**Key Highlights of TUS 2024:**

**Coverage:** It covers individuals aged 6 years and above.

**Reference Period:** Data is collected based on a 24-hour reference period.

**Significance:** Unlike traditional employment surveys, it captures unpaid care work and volunteer work, providing critical data for understanding gender disparities in the labor market.

**23. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Clean Plant Programme (CPP)?**

(a) It aims to enhance the quality and productivity of horticulture crops by providing disease free planting material

(b) It aims to provide Carbon neutral crops which helps to minimize the net carbon footprint

(c) It aims to create technologies that converts waste materials into usable energy

(d) None of the above

**Answer a) It aims to enhance the quality and productivity of**

**horticulture crops by providing disease free planting material**

**Explanation**

The Union Cabinet, approved the **Clean Plant Programme (CPP)** with outlay of Rs. 1765.67 crore. **The CPP aims to enhance the quality and productivity of horticulture crops by providing disease free planting material and will benefit dissemination and adoption of climate resilient varieties, with yield enhancement. Hence option a is correct**

**24.The Sacred Relics, including a portion of the skull bone of Lord Buddha (Shakyamuni), were excavated in Kapilavastu in 1898 by**

- (a) Robert Bruce Foote
- (b) William Claxton Peppe
- (c) James Princep
- (d) Alexander Rea

**Answer b) William Claxton Peppe**

**Explanation**

The Sacred Relics, including a portion of the skull bone of Lord Buddha (Shakyamuni), were excavated in 1898 by British archaeologist William Claxton

Peppe in Kapilavastu, near the India-Nepal border. These relics are enshrined in a gold-plated stupa crafted by Thai artisans in 1997, featuring 109 grams of gold at its pinnacle—a testimony of the global reverence for Buddha.

**25.The concept of "Anekantavada" (reality is one and the same for all, but the experience of reality varies depending on one's viewpoint) is emphasized by which of the following Indian Philosophy?**

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Vaishnavism
- (c) Jainism
- (d) Shaivism

**Answer c) Jainism**

**Explanation**

The concept of "Anekantavada," which emphasizes that reality is multifaceted and can be perceived differently depending on one's viewpoint, is primarily associated with Jainism. **Hence option C is correct**

**26. From the decline of Maurya until the rise of Gupta, which of the above kingdoms were holding power in India?**

1. Sungas
2. Paramaras
3. Sakas
4. Satavahanas
5. Maitrakas

**How many of the above kingdoms are correct?**

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

**Answer b) Only three**

**Explanation**

The period which began in about 200 B.C did not witness a large empire like that of the Mauryas, but it is notable for intimate and widespread contacts between Central Asia and India, In eastern India, central India and the Deccan the **Mauryas were succeeded by a number of native rulers such as the Sungas, the Kanvas and the Satavahanas. In north-western India they were succeeded by**

**a number of ruling dynasties from Central Asia - Indo-Greeks, Parthians, Sakas and Kushans. Hence Option b is correct.**

**27. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Mahalwari Settlement in India during the British Rule?**

1. Holt Mackenzie
2. Lord Robert Clive
3. Robert Martins Bird

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

Mahalwari system, a brain child of **Holt Mackenzie** was modified version of the Zamindari settlement introduced in **the Ganga valley, the North-West Province, parts of the Central India and Punjab in 1822. Lord William Bentinck** was to suggest radical changes

in the Mahalwari system by the guidance of **Robert Martins Bird** in 1833. **Hence option (b) is correct.**

**Assessment of revenue** was to be made on the basis of the **produce of a Mahal or village**. All the proprietors of a Mahal were severally and jointly responsible for the payment of revenue. Initially the state share was fixed two-thirds of the gross produce. Bentinck, therefore, was reduced to fifty percent. The village as a whole, through its headman or Lambardar, was required to pay the revenue. This system was first adopted **in Agra and Awadh, and later extended to other parts of the United Provinces**. The burden of all this heavy taxation finally fell on the cultivators.

**28. Consider the following statements regarding Isobars:**

**Statement I:** The spacing of isobars depicts the pressure gradient across a portion of the Earth's surface.

**Statement II:** Closer the isobars, higher the pressure gradient resulting in higher wind speed

**Statement III:** Coriolis force is higher with decreasing altitude and latitude

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

(a) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct and both of them explain Statement-I

(b) Both Statement-II and Statement-III are correct, but only one of them explains Statement-I

(c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I

(d) Neither Statement-II nor Statement-III is correct

**Answer: (c) Only one of the Statement II and III is correct and that explains Statement-I**

**Explanation:**

**Statement I:** The spacing of isobars depicts the pressure gradient across a portion of the Earth's surface. Isobars are lines of equal pressure on a map. The closer the isobars, the greater the pressure gradient, and vice versa.

**Statement II:** Closer the isobars, higher the pressure gradient resulting in higher wind speed. When isobars are close together, the pressure gradient is steep, which leads to faster winds. Wind is caused by differences in air pressure, and

a steeper pressure gradient leads to stronger winds.

**Statement III:** The Coriolis force is **lowest at the equator (0°)** and **highest at the poles (90°)**.

Therefore, it actually *decreases* as you move toward lower latitudes. The Coriolis force is directly proportional to the **velocity** of the moving object (like wind). While it doesn't depend on altitude directly, winds at higher altitudes (like the Jet Stream) tend to be faster due to less friction, resulting in a *stronger* Coriolis effect at higher altitudes. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

**29. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** A cloudburst is a localized weather phenomenon characterized by extreme amounts of precipitation over a short period of time within a small geographical area.

**Statement II:** A cloudburst is accompanied by hail and thunderstorms which are capable of creating disastrous flood conditions.

**Statement III:** Cloudbursts are caused by a phenomenal condition known as orographic lift.

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer: (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I**

**Explanation**

**Statement I is correct:** It provides the standard meteorological definition of a **cloudburst**, which is a highly localized event with extreme precipitation (typically >100 mm/hour) over a small area.

**Statement II is correct and explains**

**Statement I:** Cloudbursts are associated with towering **cumulonimbus**

**clouds** that produce intense thunderstorms and sometimes **hail**.

These features represent the physical process of the "burst"—where massive

amounts of water are suddenly released—explaining why the precipitation is so extreme and localized as described in Statement I.

**Statement III is correct and explains Statement I: Orographic lift** is a primary cause of cloudbursts, especially in mountainous regions like the Himalayas. This process forces moist air rapidly upward over terrain, leading to the sudden condensation and concentrated downpour that characterizes the localized nature of the phenomenon mentioned in Statement I.

**30. With reference to the Montreal Protocol, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a legally binding international treaty under the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
2. The Kigali Amendment to the Protocol deals with phasing out Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which is the potential source for Ozone depletion.
3. India has not yet ratified the Kigali Amendment.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: (a) Only one**

Explanation

The Montreal Protocol is a **legally binding** international treaty adopted in 1987 under the framework of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

While the Kigali Amendment does deal with phasing out **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)**, HFCs are **not** a source of ozone depletion; they were originally used as non-ozone-depleting replacements for CFCs. The amendment targets them because they are **powerful greenhouse gases** that contribute significantly to global warming. Hence statement 2 is incorrect

India has already ratified the Kigali Amendment. The Union Cabinet of India approved the ratification in **August 2021**, and the instrument of ratification was deposited soon after, making India a

formal party to the amendment. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

**31. Which one of the following best describes the term 'Quantum tunneling', recently seen in news?**

(a) A phenomenon where two or more particles become linked, sharing the same fate regardless of the distance separating them. Measuring the state of one entangled particle instantly determines the state of the others.

(b) The ability of a quantum system to exist in multiple states at the same time. For example, a qubit can be in a superposition of 0 and 1 until measured.

(c) A quantum mechanical phenomenon where a particle can pass through a potential energy barrier that would be impenetrable in classical mechanics.

(d) A phenomenon where the wave-like properties of quantum particles, like electrons or photons, cause their probability amplitudes to combine, either reinforcing or canceling each other out.

**Answer: (c) A quantum mechanical phenomenon where a particle can pass through a potential energy**

**barrier that would be impenetrable in classical mechanics.**

**Explanation**

**Quantum tunneling** is a phenomenon where a subatomic particle can pass through a potential energy barrier that it lacks the energy to overcome according to classical physics. In classical mechanics, a particle would be reflected by such a barrier, but in quantum mechanics, the particle's wave-like nature gives it a finite probability of appearing on the other side. Hence option c is correct

**32. In the context of economic phenomena, which of the following best describes the term Dutch Disease?**

(a) Sustained capital inflows leading to nominal currency appreciation

(b) A boom in one sector of the economy leads to the contraction of other tradable sectors

(c) Contraction of foreign exchange reserves due to rising imports

(d) Protectionist trade measures increasing the price of imported goods

**Answer: (b) A boom in one sector of**

## **the economy leads to the contraction of other tradable sectors**

### **Explanation**

The term Dutch Disease was coined by The Economist in 1977 to describe the decline of the manufacturing sector in the Netherlands following the discovery of large natural gas fields in 1959.

It describes a paradoxical situation where a sudden boom in one sector—typically natural resources like oil, gas, or minerals—negatively impacts the rest of a country's economy.

The booming sector generates a massive inflow of foreign currency, causing the domestic currency to strengthen (appreciate) significantly.

stronger currency makes the country's other exports (such as manufacturing and agriculture) more expensive on the global market and imports cheaper, leading to the contraction or "de-industrialization" of these sectors. Hence option b is correct

### **33.Consider the following statements**

**Statement I:** Right to move the Supreme Court for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights is guaranteed under Article 32

**Statement II:** The Supreme Court shall have power to issue writs for the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights

**Statement III:** Both Parliament and State legislature can empower any other court to issue writs of all kinds

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

(a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement I explains Statement II**

### **Explanation**

The Supreme Court has ruled that Article 32 is a basic feature of the Constitution. Hence, it cannot be abridged or taken away even by way of an amendment to

the Constitution. It contains the following four provisions:

(a) The right to move the Supreme Court by appropriate proceedings for the enforcement of the Fundamental Rights is guaranteed. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

(b) The Supreme Court shall have power to issue directions or orders or writs for the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights. The writs issued may include habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo-warranto. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

(c) Parliament can empower any other court to issue directions, orders and writs of all kinds. However, this can be done without prejudice to the above powers conferred on the Supreme Court. Any other court here does not include high courts because Article 226 has already conferred these powers on the high courts. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

(d) The right to move the Supreme Court shall not be suspended except as otherwise provided for by the Constitution. Thus the Constitution provides that the President can suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of fundamental rights

during a national emergency (Article 359).

### **34.Consider the following members**

1. Elected members of the Lok Sabha
2. Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha
3. Elected members of Legislative councils of the State
4. Elected members of Legislative assemblies of the Union Territories
5. Elected members of Local Self Government

**How many of the above members form the part of the Electoral College for the election of the President of India?**

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

**Answer a) Only two**

### **Explanation**

The President is elected not directly by the people but by members of the electoral college consisting of:

1. the elected members of both the Houses of Parliament;
2. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the states; and
3. the elected members of the legislative assemblies of the Union Territories of Delhi and Puducherry .

Thus, the **nominated members of both of Houses of Parliament, the nominated members of the state legislative assemblies, the members (both elected and nominated) of the state legislative councils (in case of the bicameral legislature) and the nominated members of the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry do not participate in the election of the President. Hence Option a is correct**

**35. Who among the following is responsible for conducting and supervising elections to the State Legislature?**

- (a) Governors of the respective State
- (b) Respective State Government
- (c) Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed by the chief election commissioner in consultation with the State Governor

(d) Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed by the chief election commissioner in consultation with the State Government

**Answer d) Chief Electoral Officer who is appointed by the chief election commissioner in consultation with the State Government**

**Explanation**

The Election Commission is assisted by deputy election commissioners. They are drawn from the civil service and appointed by the commission with tenure system. They are assisted, in turn, by the secretaries, joint secretaries, deputy secretaries and under secretaries posted in the secretariat of the commission. At the state level, **the Election Commission is assisted by the chief electoral officer who is appointed by the chief election commissioner in consultation with the state government.** Below this, at the district level, the collector acts as the district returning officer. He appoints a returning officer for every constituency in the district and presiding officer for every polling booth in the constituency. **Hence option d is correct**

**36. Which of the following is/are instruments of debt financing used by a government?**

1. Treasury Bills
2. Dated Securities
3. Ways and Means Advances
4. Equity Shares of CPSE

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Answer a) 1, 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation**

Treasury Bills (T-Bills): These are short-term debt instruments issued by the Central Government to manage liquidity and bridge short-term fiscal deficits, with maturities of 91, 182, and 364 days.

Dated Securities: These are long-term debt instruments (government bonds) that carry a fixed or floating interest rate and have tenures typically ranging from 5 to 40 years.

Ways and Means Advances (WMA): This is a temporary debt/borrowing facility

provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to both Central and State governments to bridge temporary mismatches in receipts and payments.

Equity Shares of CPSE: These represent ownership/equity in Central Public Sector Enterprises. **While the government may sell these (disinvestment) to raise funds, they are not debt instruments; they are assets representing ownership. Hence option a is correct**

**37. With respect to Participatory Notes (P-Notes), consider the following statements**

1. P-Notes are financial instruments used by foreign investors to hedge their funds to invest in Indian securities
2. Investors who invest in P-Notes are required to register with the Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
3. Investments flowing in through P-Notes are considered as offshore derivative investments

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer b) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation**

Participatory Notes: These are often referred to as PNs or P-Notes. These are financial instruments used by investors and hedge funds to invest in Indian securities, and no registration is required with the Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI). These are issued by registered foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. While the FIIs have to report all such investments each quarter to SEBI, they need not disclose the identity of the actual investors. **Hence statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect**

Investments flowing in through PNs are considered as offshore derivative investments. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

**38. Consider the following pairs:**

<b>WTO Category</b>	<b>Description</b>
1. Amber Box	Domestic support measures that are trade-distorting
2. Blue Box	Subsidies that are minimally or non-trade distorting
3. Green Box	Subsidies linked to production-limiting programmes

**How many of the pairs given above are correct?**

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

**Answer a) only one**

**Explanation**

Under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, agricultural subsidies are categorized into "boxes" based on their impact on trade.

**Amber Box: Trade-distorting measures subject to reduction commitments.** They include direct price supports and input subsidies. **Hence pair 1 is correct**

**Blue Box: Direct payments under production-limiting programmes** (e.g., requiring farmers to set aside land). These are considered less distorting because they cap supply. **Hence pair 2 is incorrect**

**Green Box: Subsidies that do not distort trade (or do so minimally).** These must be government-funded and not linked to current production levels or prices. **Hence pair 3 is incorrect**

**39. Consider the following statements**

**Statement I:** C40 Cities and UN-Habitat have announced a landmark partnership to transform urban planning.

**Statement II:** It will launch an Urban Planning Accelerator to cut city emissions by 25% by 2050 while promoting safer, fairer and inclusive urban spaces.

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

(a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-I Statement-II explains

(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain 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-I Statement-II explains**

**Explanation**

C40 Cities and UN-Habitat have announced a landmark partnership to transform urban planning.

The partnership will create a new Urban Planning Accelerator to help cities cut emissions by 25% by 2050 while creating safer, fairer, and more inclusive urban environments. **Hence option a is correct**

**40. Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab are associated with which of the following crops?**

- (a) Bt Cotton
- (b) GM Mustard (DMH-11)
- (c) Golden Rice
- (d) Ht Soy bean

**Answer a) Bt Cotton**

**Explanation**

**Bt. cotton** is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop approved in 2002 by the **Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)** of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for commercial cultivation in the Country.

**In Bt cotton, Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab are genes inserted through genetic engineering that produce insecticidal proteins to control cotton bollworms.** Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab are combined in some Bt cotton varieties to enhance pest resistance. Hence Option a is correct

**The WTO's interaction with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) primarily revolves around trade regulations and disputes related to import restrictions, risk assessments, and labeling requirements.** The WTO's Sanitary and

Phyosanitary (SPS) Agreement, which governs trade in agricultural products, is often invoked in GMO-related disputes. The WTO also uses the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee to discuss product standards and regulations related to GMOs.

**41. Consider the following pairs**

<b>Place</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>On the Banks of</b>
1. Haridwar	-	Teesta
2. Ujjain	-	Shipra
3. Nashik	-	Krishna
4. Prayagraj	-	Ganges

**How many of the above pairs are correct?**

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

**Answer b) Only two**

**Explanation**

**Kumbh Mela:** Celebrated four times over 12 years, the Kumbh Mela rotates between four sacred sites in India: Haridwar on the banks of the Ganges, Ujjain along the Shipra, Nashik by the

Godavari, and Prayagraj at the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna, and the mythical Sarasvati. Each event aligns with specific astrological positions of the Sun, Moon, and Jupiter, marking the holiest time in Hinduism. Hence option c is correct

Prayagraj, the epicenter of Maha Kumbh, is a city steeped in history and spirituality. The city's significance as a pilgrimage site, aptly named 'Tirthraj' or the King of Pilgrimage Sites, is well documented in ancient texts and travelogues. The Chinese traveler Xuanzang, who visited India in the 7th century, described Prayagraj as a region of immense natural beauty, prosperity, and cultural depth. His observations about the Triveni Sangam and the rituals performed there resonate with the spiritual fervor of Maha Kumbh.

The Maha Kumbh, recognized by UNESCO as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017, is not just an event but a profound experience that transcends borders and unites people worldwide.

**42. Who among the following, has introduced a resolution in 1882 which is also called the Magna Carta of Local Self-Government in India?**

- (a) Lord Macaulay
- (b) Lord Canning
- (c) Lord Ripon
- (d) Lord William Bentinck

**Answer c) Lord Ripon**

**Explanation**

**The Ripon Resolution of 1882 is widely considered the "Magna Carta" of local self-government in India.** This resolution advocated for transferring certain functions and powers to local bodies like municipalities and district boards, including the election of some members by local people. It's seen as a crucial step towards decentralization and empowering local communities. **Hence Option c is correct**

**43. Consider the following statements regarding Lavender Cultivation**

1. It is endemic to South East Asia
2. It is a tropical evergreen crop
3. In India, Lavender is cultivated in some parts of Northern Himalayas

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

**Answer c) 3 only**

**Explanation**

Purple Revolution in Jammu and Kashmir  
Through the Aroma Mission, CSIR has catalyzed the cultivation of lavender in that region, which has given rise to a thriving ecosystem of Agri-startups. This initiative has not only empowered farmers by creating new sources of livelihood but has also brought prosperity to the region. **The lavender farming revolution has transformed the landscape of new Jammu and Kashmir, making it a hub for aromatic crops and Agri-based entrepreneurship. Hence statement 3 is correct**

Lavender is a crop native to Europe but was introduced in the temperate **regions of Jammu & Kashmir state** by the CSIR Aroma Mission. It is a small, perennial aromatic herb shrub used in the

fragrance, specialty food, and alternative medicine industries. Propagation of lavender can be done by seeds, rooted cuttings, tissue culture, and layering.

**Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

It can grow well in light well-aerated soil rich with organic matter. It grows best in neutral to alkaline soil which is free draining. This crop is very sensitive to waterlogging however can go well with poor or eroded soil. It can produce well with an annual rainfall range from 300 to 1400 mm per year. **It is a hard and temperate plant that can tolerate drought and frost conditions.** The ideal climatic conditions are **cool winters and cool summers.** It requires a good amount of sunlight. It can be grown in areas that experience snowfall and have a hilly terrain. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

**44. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kingdom of Golconda?**

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli
- (c) Machilipatnam
- (d) Mamallapuram

**Answer: (c) Machilipatnam**

**Explanation:**

**Machilipatnam** served as a major trading port on the eastern coast of India, facilitating maritime trade with various regions, including Southeast Asia and the Middle East. It was particularly significant during the **Golconda Sultanate's rule** in the 16th and 17th centuries, acting as a key centre for trade and commerce. **Hence option (c) is the answer.**

**Mamallapuram - The 7th century it was a port city of South Indian dynasty of the Pallavas.** It has a group of sanctuaries, which was carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries : rathas (temples in the form of chariots), mandapas (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air rock reliefs such as the famous Descent of the Ganges, and the Shore Temple, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva. The Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram has been classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Motupalli has been ruled by various dynasties over the centuries.** The village is mentioned as bustling port in several historical texts, including the

writings of Ptolemy, Pliny and Marco Polo. **In the 12th century, Motupalli was a major center of trade for horses, and it is said that the Kakatiya king imported Arabian horses through this port.** It served as the primary port of the Kakatiya realm with Marco Polo referring to the Kakatiya state as the Kingdom of Motupalli.

**Nelluru (Krishnapatnam) was a seaport during Vijayanagara king Krishna Deva Raya.**

**Kakinada was not a seaport.**

**45. Which one of the following statements is not part of the August Offer announced by Viceroy Linlithgow in 1940?**

- (a) Creation of an Indian Union with Dominion status as an objective.
- (b) Expansion of viceroy executive council with majority of Indians
- (c) Setting of constituent assembly after the war
- (d) Both Indian National Congress and Muslim League accepted the August Offer

**Answer: (d) Both Indian National Congress and Muslim League accepted the August Offer**

The government came up with its own offer to get the cooperation of India in the war effort. **Linlithgow announced the August Offer (August 1940) which proposed:**

- dominion status as the objective for India;
- expansion of viceroy's executive council which would have a majority of Indians (who would be drawn from major political parties);
- setting up of a constituent assembly after the war where mainly Indians would decide the constitution according to their social, economic, and political conceptions, subject to fulfilment of the obligation of the government regarding defence, minority rights, treaties with States, all India services; and
- No future constitution to be adopted without the consent of minorities. **Hence option (d) is correct.**

**46. Consider the following pairs**

	<b>Species</b>	<b>Planned to reintroduce /Reintroduced in</b>
1	Tiger	Rajaji National Park
2	Cheetah	Banni Grasslands
3	Asiatic lion	Kuno National Park

**How many of the above pairs are correct?**

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

**Answer c) All three**

**Explanation**

**Project Tiger, initiated in 1973, has been India's flagship conservation initiative, successfully completing 50 years in 2023.** Focused on tiger conservation through dedicated reserves and strict protection measures, it has played a crucial role in reviving tiger populations. Marking this milestone, the Prime Minister inaugurated a commemorative event in Mysuru, Karnataka, on April 9, 2023. As per the 5th cycle of All India Tiger Estimation 2022, India now hosts over 70% of the world's wild tiger population, reaffirming its leadership in global tiger conservation.

To commemorate 50 years of Project Tiger, the Prime Minister released key

reports, including the 'Amrit Kaal Ka Vision for Tiger Conservation', the 5th cycle of Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves, and the official summary of All India Tiger Estimation 2022. A commemorative coin was also issued.

India now has 54 tiger reserves, covering over 78,000 sq. km (2.30% of the country's geographical area), with Rani Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) being the latest addition.

**Tigers have been reintroduced in Rajaji (Uttarakhand), Madhav (Madhya Pradesh), Mukundra Hills (Rajasthan), and Ramgarh Vishdhari (Rajasthan) Tiger Reserves, with plans for Buxa Tiger Reserve next. Hence pair 1 is correct**

**New sites identified for cheetah reintroduction, including Gandhisagar Sanctuary (Madhya Pradesh) and Banni Grasslands (Gujarat). Hence pair 2 is correct**

The Indian government is re-examining the long-standing plan to translocate **Asiatic lions (Panthera leo persica)**

**from Gir National Park to Kuno National Park.** In 2013, the Supreme Court ordered the government to translocate Asiatic lions from Gujarat to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. **Hence pair 3 is correct**

**47. Consider the following:**

1. Stable climatic conditions
2. Perpetually warm waters
3. Shallow water
4. Moderate saline water
5. Abundant Plankton

**How many of the above factors are responsible for the ideal conditions for the growth of corals?**

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

**Answer: (d) All five**

**Explanation**

All of these factors are critical for the healthy growth and development of coral reefs:

Stable climatic conditions: Corals are highly sensitive to sudden changes in

temperature or water chemistry; they require a stable environment to thrive over long periods.

**Perpetually warm waters:** Tropical corals generally require water temperatures between 20°C and 29°C. They do not grow in cold water as it inhibits their calcium carbonate secretion.

**Shallow water:** Most reef-building corals have a symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae (algae), which need sunlight for photosynthesis. Therefore, corals are usually limited to depths of less than 50–60 meters where light can penetrate.

**Moderate saline water:** Corals need a specific salinity range (typically 27–40 parts per thousand). Excessively fresh water (near river mouths) or hypersaline water can stress or kill them.

**Abundant Plankton:** While zooxanthellae provide much of their energy, corals are also predatory animals that use their tentacles to feed on plankton to get essential nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.

**48. 'Young Champions of the Earth Prize' is awarded by the**

(a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

(b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

(c) World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

(d) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Answer: (b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

**Explanation**

**The Young Champions of the Earth** prize is the United Nations' most prestigious award for environmental action by young people, specifically targeting innovators between the ages of **18 and 30**. It is a flagship initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The award recognizes young entrepreneurs with "big ideas" to protect, restore, or safeguard the planet's future.

**49. With reference to the applications of Metal - Organic Frameworks (MOFs), consider the following:**

1. Carbon dioxide capture and storage
2. Water harvesting from air
3. Removal of chemical pollutants from water

**How many of the above are potential uses of MOFs?**

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

**Answer: (c) All three**

**Explanation**

Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) are highly porous, crystalline materials that can be engineered at the molecular level for various environmental and industrial applications. All three listed options are well-established or rapidly emerging potential uses of MOFs:

Carbon dioxide capture and storage: MOFs have ultra-high internal surface areas and tunable pore sizes, allowing them to selectively trap and store from industrial exhaust or directly from the

atmosphere.

Water harvesting from air: Specific MOFs (like MOF-303 or MOF-801) can pull water vapour from the air even in extremely dry, desert-like conditions (low humidity) and release it as liquid water when heated.

Removal of chemical pollutants from water: MOFs act as molecular sponges to filter harmful pollutants such as heavy metals, dyes, and "forever chemicals" (PFAS) from wastewater due to their customizable active sites and high adsorption efficiency.

**50. With respect to Cultural and Educational Rights of Indian constitution, consider the following statements.**

I. All the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own and shall have the right to conserve the same

II. No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds only on the grounds of religion or language

III. All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer (c) I and III only**

**Explanation**

Article 29 provides that any section of the citizens residing in any part of India having a distinct language, script or culture of its own, shall have the right to conserve the same. **Hence statement I is correct**

Further, no citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the State or receiving aid out of State funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or language. The first provision protects the right of a group while the second provision guarantees the right of a citizen as an individual irrespective of the community to which he belongs.

**Hence statement II is incorrect**

Article 29 grants protection to both religious minorities as well as linguistic minorities. However, the Supreme Court held that the scope of this article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as it is commonly assumed to be. This is because of the use of words 'section of citizens' in the Article that include minorities as well as majority.

Article 30 grants the following rights to minorities, whether religious or linguistic:

**(a) All minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. Hence statement III is correct**

(b) The compensation amount fixed by the State for the compulsory acquisition of any property of a minority educational institution shall not restrict or abrogate the right guaranteed to them. This provision was added by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 to protect the right of minorities in this regard. The Act deleted the right to property as a Fundamental Right (Article 31).

(c) In granting aid, the State shall not discriminate against any educational institution managed by a minority.

### 51. Consider the following statements

1. He/She may give his assent to the bill
2. He/She may withhold his assent to the bill
3. He/She may return all the bills for reconsideration of the state legislature
4. He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the President

**When a bill is passed by a State Legislature and presented to the Governor for assent, which of the following options are available to the Governor under Article 200?**

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 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 President has veto power with respect to state legislation also. A bill passed by a state legislature can become an act only if it receives the assent of the governor or the President (in case the bill is reserved for the consideration of the President). When a bill, passed by a state legislature, is presented to the governor for his assent, he has four

alternatives (under Article 200 of the Constitution):

1. He may give his assent to the bill, or
2. He may withhold his assent to the bill, or
3. He may return the bill (if it is not a money bill) for reconsideration of the state legislature, or
4. He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the President. **Hence option c is correct**

### 52. Consider the following statements

1. The preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the Election Commission of India
2. The state legislature may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the panchayats
3. There is no bar on any courts to interfere in the electoral matters of panchayats

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer a) Only one**

**Explanation**

The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the **state election commission. Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

The State Election Commission consists of a state election commissioner to be appointed by the governor. His conditions of service and tenure of office shall also be determined by the governor. He shall not be removed from office except in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of a judge of the state high court . His conditions of service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

**The state legislature may make provision with respect to all matters relating to elections to the panchayats.Hence statement 2 is correct**

**The act bars the interference by courts in the electoral matters of panchayats.** It declares that the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats

to such constituencies cannot be questioned in any court. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

**53.With reference to the "Coir Board" in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Coir Board is a statutory body
2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
3. The Coir Board's Head Office is situated in Hassan
4. Coir products are environmentally friendly and have received the "Eco Mark" certification from the Ministry of Environment and Forests

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer a) 1 and 4 only**

**Explanation**

**Coir Board was set up under the Coir Industry Act, 1953 by the Government of India for the overall sustainable**

development of coir industry in the Country. The functions of the Board as laid down under the Act include undertaking, assisting and encouraging scientific, technological and economic research, modernization, quality improvement, human resource development, market promotion and welfare of all those who are engaged in this industry. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

**Coir Board comes under the Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India. Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

The Head Quarters of the Board is located at Coir House, M.G. Road, Kochi, Kerala and is running 48 establishments including 28 marketing outlets across the country. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

Coir Artisans are covered under the scheme PM Viswakarma Yojana.

**Coir Products are eco friendly in nature and gained "Eco Mark" certification by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. Of India. Hence statement 4 is correct**

Coir products save the environment and help to reverse Global Warming. "Coir pith" used to save water, "Coir Geotextiles" used to save soil and "Coir

Wood" used to save trees and forest

**54. With reference to Central Depository Services (India) Ltd. (CDSL), Consider the following statements**

1. CDSL act as a facilitator for holding of securities in the dematerialised form and an enabler for securities transactions
2. CDSL is the first depository in the world to get listed in stock exchange
3. CDSL was initially promoted by RBI

**Which of the above statements is/are correct ?**

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

**Answer a) 1 only**

**Explanation**

**Central Depository Services (India) Ltd. (CDSL)** is an Indian central securities depository, founded in 1999.

CDSL is the largest depository in India in terms of the number of demat accounts opened. It acts as a facilitator for holding

of securities in the dematerialised form and an enabler for securities transactions. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

In February 2022, CDSL became the first depository in India to open 60 million active demat accounts. As of March 2022, the depository holds assets worth ₹37.2 trillion, with over 580 depository participants associated with CDSL.

On 30 June 2017, CDSL was listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) through initial public offering (IPO) making it the first depository in Asia-Pacific region and only the second depository in the world to get listed. **The first depository in the world to get listed was Bolsa de Valores de Colombia (BVC). Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

CDSL was initially promoted by BSE Limited (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) in association with leading banks like SBI, Bank of India, and HDFC Bank. **The RBI acts as a regulator and does not promote commercial depositories like CDSL. Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

**55. Which of the following statements best describes capital flight?**

- (a) It refers to the sudden and large-scale outflow of capital from a country due to loss of investor confidence
- (b) It is the movement of capital into a country for investment purposes
- (c) It is the transfer of funds by the government for infrastructure development
- (d) It is the increase in exports leading to higher foreign exchange earnings

**Answer a) It refers to the sudden and large-scale outflow of capital from a country due to loss of investor confidence**

**Explanation**

Capital flight refers to the sudden and large-scale outflow of capital from a country due to loss of investor confidence. It is the rapid and large-scale exodus of financial assets or money from a nation. It is typically driven by political or economic instability, such as currency devaluation, regime changes, or fear of government default. It occurs when residents and foreign investors lose confidence in the local economy and move their wealth to safer, more stable

destinations. Hence option a is correct

**56. Consider the following statements in respect of the International Development Association (IDA):**

I. It provides loans and guarantees to all the middle income countries

II. IDA's grants and low-interest loans help countries invest in their futures, improve lives, and create safer, more prosperous communities

III. It was established to help Europe rebuild after the World War II

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer b) II only**

**Explanation**

The **International Development Association (IDA)** is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's low-income countries. **IDA's grants and low-interest loans help countries invest in**

**their futures, improve lives, and create safer, more prosperous communities around the world. Hence statement II is correct**

The IDA provides interest-free loans (credits) and grants to the poorest countries in the world, specifically those with a GNI per capita below a certain threshold (e.g., \$1,335 for FY2025). It is the **IBRD** that provides loans and guarantees to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries. Similarly, it was the IBRD that was established in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference specifically to help Europe rebuild after World War II. **Hence statement I & III are incorrect**

**57. Trade and Development Report 2025 is prepared by**

- (a) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- (b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- (d) UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

**Answer d) UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

**Explanation**

**The Trade and Development Report 2025 is published by the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD).** UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body of the United Nations responsible for: Analyzing global trade trends, Examining development issues and Advising developing countries on trade and economic policies

**58. Consider the following literature**

1. Ramcharitmanas
2. Panchatantra
3. Bhagavad Gita
4. Sahṛdayaloka-Locana
5. Natyashastra

**How many of the above are included in the UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2025?**

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

**Answer a) Only two**

**Explanation**

**India now lists 14 inscriptions on this internationally acknowledged list of**

**UNESCO's Memory of the World Register**

In 2025, the inclusion of the Gita and Natyashastra in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register as a global recognition of our timeless wisdom and rich culture. **Hence pair a is correct**

In 2024, the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.

**59. Which one of the following pairs denoting various forms of 'Bhakti' is not correctly matched?**

- (a) Saguna : Belief in devotion of Shakti
- (b) Nirguna : Belief in Gods without attributes
- (c) Alvars: Believed in devotion of Vishnu
- (d) Nayanars : Believed in devotion of Shiva

**Answer a) Saguna : Belief in devotion of Shakti**

**Explanation**

Saguna : Belief in Gods with attributes. Hence option a is correct

Nirguna : Belief in Gods without attributes

Alvars: Believed in devotion of Vishnu

Nayanars : Believed in devotion of Shiva

**60.Consider the following pairs:**

Art and Sculpture	Location
1. A relief sculpture of king Ashoka and the queen with inscription read 'Ranyo Ashoka'	Kanaganahalli
2. The depiction of Ajatashatru's visit to the Buddha	Bharhut
3. The depiction of Ravana shaking Mount Kailash	Ajanta
4. Headless image of Kanishka	Matura

**How many of the above pairs are correct?**

- (a) Only One
- (b) Only Two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

**Answer: c) Only Three**

**Explanation:**

**Kanaganahalli is situated on the left bank of the Bhima river, 3 km east of the**

Chandralamba temple at Sannati. The discoveries at the site included a broken relief sculpture showing king Ashoka and the queen was flanked by female attendants, two of whom held up a parasol and fly whisk—symbols of sovereignty—in their hands with an inscription in Brahmi letters read 'Ranyo Ashoka' (king Ashoka). Hence **Pair 1 is correct.**

**Ajatashatru's visit to the Buddha was considered an important event in the Buddhist tradition.** It is depicted in a 2nd century BCE relief panel on one of the railing pillars of the western gateway that originally stood at the **central Indian Buddhist site of Bharhut.**Hence **Pair 2 is correct.**

**The depiction of Ravana shaking Mount Kailash is located in the Ellora Caves,** a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's largest rock-cut temple cave complexes. The panel is located on the left wall of Kailashnath temple (Cave No. 16) and is dated to the

eighth century CE. **Hence Pair 3 is incorrect.**

**The famous headless statue of Kanishka I, the Kushan emperor, was discovered in 1911 in the village of Mat near Mathura.** It is a life-sized sculpture carved from mottled red sandstone and is currently housed in the Government Museum, Mathura.**Hence Pair 4 is correct.**

**61. Consider the following statements:**

1. It was during the reign of Balban that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Alauddin Khalji that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Muhammad Shah that Nadir Shah plundered Delhi and imprisoned the king.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer c) 3 Only**

**Explanation**

In 1218, the Khwarizmi empire was destroyed by the Mongols who founded one of the strongest empires in history, which at its height extended from China to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, and from the Caspian Sea to the river Jaxartes. The Mongol threat to India appeared in 1221. **After the defeat of the Khwarizmi ruler, the crown prince, Jalaluddin, fled and was pursued by Changez Khan. Iltutmish, who was ruling at Delhi at the time, tried to appease the Mongols by politely refusing a request from Jalaluddin for asylum.** Jalaluddin remained, for some time, in the area between Lahore and the river Sutlej, that is the Cis-Sutlej area. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

After the death of Firuz, the Delhi Sultanate disintegrated and north India was divided into a series of small states. **Although the Tughlaqs continued to rule till 1412, the invasion of Delhi by Timur in 1398 may be said to mark the end of the Tughlaq dynasty and formation of Sayyid Dynasty. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

Muhammad Shah had a long reign of nearly 30 years (1719-1748) When his reign began Mughal prestige among the people was still an important political factor. Nadir Shah was attracted to India by the fabulous wealth for which it was always famous. Continual campaigns had made Persia virtually bankrupt. Money was needed desperately to maintain his mercenary army. At the same time, the visible weakness of the Mughal Empire made such spoliation possible. He entered Indian territory towards the end of 1738, without meeting with any opposition. The two armies met at Karnal on 13th February 1739 and the invader inflicted a crushing defeat on the Mughal army. **The Emperor Muhammad Shah was taken prisoner and Nadir Shah marched on to Delhi.** A terrible massacre of the citizens of the imperial capital was ordered by Nadir Shah as a reprisal against the killing of some of his soldiers. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

62. Which one of the following is a very significant aspect of the Kheda Satyagraha?

- (a) Active all-India participation of lawyers, students and women in the National Movement
- (b) Brought an awakening among the peasantry to fight against injustice and exploitation
- (c) Active involvement of Workers in the National Movement
- (d) Drastic decrease in the cultivation of plantation crops and commercial crops

**Answer: (b) Brought an awakening among the peasantry to fight against injustice and exploitation**

**Explanation:**

**Kheda Satyagraha (1918)**—First Non-Cooperation. Because of drought in 1918, the crops failed in Kheda district of Gujarat. According to the Revenue Code, if the yield was less than one-fourth the normal produce, the farmers were entitled to remission. **The struggle at Kheda brought a new awakening among the peasantry. They became aware that they would not be free of injustice and exploitation unless and until their country achieved complete**

**independence. Hence option (b) is correct.**

**63. Which of the following is/are cited by the scientists as evidence/evidences for the continued expansion of the universe as per the Big Bang theory?**

1. Redshift of galaxies
2. Cosmic Microwave Background
3. Abundance of Light Elements

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) 1, 2 and 3**

**Explanation:**

The evidence for the continued expansion of the universe is supported by three foundational pillars of the Big Bang theory. First, the redshift of galaxies shows that light from distant celestial bodies is shifted toward longer wavelengths, proving they are moving away from us as space itself expands.

Second, the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation serves as an "afterglow" of the early universe; its uniform presence across the sky in the microwave spectrum is a direct result of being stretched by billions of years of expansion. Finally, the abundance of light elements, such as hydrogen and helium, aligns with mathematical models that require a rapidly expanding and cooling universe to explain why these specific ratios exist today.

**64. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** Tidal flooding occurs due to temporary rise in sea level causing seawater ingress into low-lying coastal areas.

**Statement II:** Tidal flooding typically occurs twice daily and becomes more severe during full moon and new moon (spring tides).

**Statement III:** Coastal regions of Kerala along the Arabian Sea are particularly vulnerable to Tidal flooding.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III

are correct and both of them explain Statement I

(b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I

(c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I

(d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both of them explain Statement I**

Tidal flooding, also known as "sunny day flooding," is the temporary inundation of low-lying coastal land, roads, and infrastructure during exceptionally high tides rather than from storm surges or heavy rain. It occurs when sea levels temporarily rise above a defined threshold.

This phenomenon follows the natural lunar cycle, typically occurring twice daily due to regular tidal cycles. It intensifies significantly during full moon and new moon phases, known as spring tides, when the gravitational pull of the sun and moon align to create the highest tidal ranges. This provides the mechanical explanation for why the temporary rise mentioned in Statement I

happens.

Kerala's coastline along the Arabian Sea is uniquely vulnerable because of its geography. Key low-lying areas like Kuttanad lie below sea level, and cities like Kochi are situated barely above it. In early January 2026, Kerala became the first Indian state to officially declare tidal flooding a state-specific disaster due to this acute vulnerability. This geographical vulnerability explains where and why the ingress mentioned in Statement I specifically manifests.

Since Statement II explains the temporal/lunar mechanism and Statement III explains the geographic/topographic vulnerability that leads to the occurrence of tidal flooding (Statement I), both statements serve as valid explanations for the phenomenon described in Statement I

**65. What is the purpose of 'Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP)', launched by NASA recently?**

(a) To explore and map the very boundaries of the heliosphere

(b) To study the surface features of

exoplanets in nearby star systems

(c) To observe black holes and gravitational waves from deep space

(d) To monitor the ozone depletion and atmospheric changes on Earth from space

**Answer: (a) To explore and map the very boundaries of the heliosphere**

Explanation

The Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe (IMAP) is a NASA heliophysics mission launched on September 24, 2025, to investigate the boundaries of the solar system.

Key Purpose and Objectives:

Mapping the Heliosphere: IMAP acts as a "celestial cartographer," charting the heliosphere—the protective bubble created by the solar wind that shields our solar system from harsh interstellar radiation.

Boundary Interaction: It specifically studies how this solar bubble interacts with the local interstellar medium (the space between stars).

Particle Acceleration: The probe investigates how charged particles from the Sun are energized and accelerated as they travel toward the edge of the solar system.

Space Weather Forecasting: Stationed at the L1 Lagrange point (1.5 million km from Earth), IMAP provides real-time observations that offer a ~30-minute advanced warning for solar storms and harmful radiation

**66. Consider the following statements: With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon**

1. Legislative function of the State government
2. Legislative function of the Central government
3. Executive function of the State government
4. Executive function of the Central government
5. Local Self Government

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

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

**Answer: None (Question Dropped)**

## Explanation

The Directive Principles of State Policy are enumerated in Part IV of the Constitution from **Articles 36 to 51**. The framers of the Constitution borrowed this idea from the **Irish Constitution of 1937**, which had copied it from the Spanish Constitution. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described these principles as 'novel features' of the Indian Constitution.

The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the **State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws**. These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters. According to Article 36, the term 'State' in Part IV has the same meaning as in Part III dealing with Fundamental Rights. Therefore, it includes the **legislative and executive organs of the central and state governments, all local authorities and all other public authorities in the country**.

## 67. Which of the following is/are the exclusive power(s) of Rajya Sabha?

1. To authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List
2. To authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states
3. To pass a motion of no-confidence against the Council of Ministers
4. To impeach the President of India
5. To make resolution for the removal of the Vice-president

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer b) 1, 2 and 5 only**

## Explanation

The Rajya Sabha has been given **four exclusive or special powers** that are not enjoyed by the Lok Sabha:

1. It can authorise the Parliament to make a law on a subject enumerated in the State List (Article 249). **Hence**

**statement 1 is correct**

2. It can authorise the Parliament to create new All-India Services common to both the Centre and states (Article 312).

**Hence statement 2 is correct**

3. It alone can initiate a move for the removal of the vicepresident. In other words, a resolution for the removal of the vice-president can be introduced only in the Rajya Sabha and not in the Lok Sabha (Article 67). **Hence statement 5 is correct**

4. If a proclamation is issued by the President for imposing national emergency or president's rule or financial emergency at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place within the period allowed for its approval, then the proclamation can remain effective even if it is approved by the Rajya Sabha alone (Articles 352, 356 and 360).

**68. With reference to the Family Courts, consider the following statements**

1. Family Courts are established under the Family Courts Act, 1984

2. Family Courts are established by the Central Governments in consultation with the Supreme Court of India

3. Family Courts allow Social welfare agencies, counsellors, and mediators for reconciliation

4. The proceedings of Family courts will be informal and rigid rules of procedure shall not apply

5. Family Courts provides for only one right of appeal which shall lie to the District Courts

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer b) Only three**

**Explanation**

The Family Courts Act, 1984 was enacted to provide for the establishment of Family Courts with a view to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family Affairs. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

1. It provides for the establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts.

**Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

2. It makes it obligatory on the State Governments to set up a Family Court in every city or town with a population exceeding one million.

3. It enables the State Governments to set up Family Courts in other areas also, if they deem it necessary.

4. It provides for the association of social welfare agencies, counsellors, etc., during the conciliation stage and also to secure the service of medical and welfare experts.**Hence statement 3 is correct**

5. It makes it obligatory on the part of the Family Court to endeavour, in the first instance, to effect a reconciliation or a settlement between the parties to a family dispute. During this stage, the proceedings will be informal and rigid rules of procedure shall not apply.**Hence statement 4 is correct**

6. It provides for only one right of appeal which shall lie to the High Court.**Hence statement 5 is incorrect**

**69.Consider the following statements**

1. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) compares currencies market exchange rates between different countries

2. India is the fourth largest economy in the world in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)

**Which of the above statements 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**

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) does not compare currencies using market exchange rates. Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is an economic concept that compares currencies based on how many goods and services they can buy in different countries. **It adjusts for cost-of-living differences, making international comparisons more accurate than market exchange rates.** PPP shows the real value of money by

measuring the price of a common basket of goods. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

Based on recent IMF data (as of 2024–2026), **India is actually ranked as the 3rd largest economy in the world in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, behind China and the United States.** India is currently the fourth-largest economy in the world in terms of Nominal GDP, having overtaken Japan in 2025 (only after the United States, China, and Germany). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

**70. The term “Pink Tax”, recently seen in the news, refers to:**

(a) a tax imposed by the Government on women-specific goods and services

(b) a subsidy given to women entrepreneurs under government schemes

(c) a form of price discrimination where products marketed to women are priced higher than similar products for men

(d) a special tax exemption provided under GST for women-oriented products

**Answer (c) a form of price discrimination where products marketed to women are priced higher than similar products for men**

**Explanation**

The pink tax refers to the extra amount that women pay for certain products (such as used cars, personal care products, and clothing) and services (such as mortgages and dry cleaning). The pink tax on mobility refers to the fact that women may have to pay a higher price to reach the same destinations because of gender-specific needs that are not addressed by the transport system. **Hence Option c is correct**

**71. Consider the following statements in respect of the World Economic Forum (WEF):**

1. It is established in 1971 as an independent, not-for-profit organization

2. It serves as a platform for public-private cooperation, fostering trust, dialogue and collaborative action

3. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting is held every year at Davos

4. Its headquarters is located in New York

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer a) 1, 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation**

The World Economic Forum (WEF), established in 1971, operates at the intersection of geopolitics and global cooperation. It is an independent, not-for-profit organization. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland, with additional offices in New York, San Francisco, Beijing, and Tokyo. **Hence statement 4 is incorrect**

It believes that global challenges can be addressed by connecting leaders from different sectors, regions, ideologies, and generations. It serves as a platform for public-private cooperation, fostering

trust, dialogue, and collaborative action. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

For over five decades, it has functioned as an impartial and globally respected forum for international cooperation.

Its Annual Meeting in Davos brings together global leaders to discuss and address major global issues. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

Throughout the year, WEF facilitates continuous engagement through various communities, initiatives, and dialogues that translate ideas into action.

**72. Consider the following statements**

1. Baramasa is a popular theme of Bundi paintings
2. Bani Thani is a popular theme of Kishangarh paintings
3. Maru Ragini is a particular set of Ragamala paintings from Bengal region

**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**

Baramasa, Ragamala, and Rasikapriya are popular themes in Indian painting, particularly in the Rajasthani and Malwa schools. They represent different aspects of Indian art and culture, often depicted in miniature paintings

**Baramasa is a popular theme of Bundi paintings.** As mentioned earlier, it is an atmospheric description of the 12 months by Keshav Das that is part of the tenth chapter of Kavipriya written for Rai Parbin, a celebrated courtesan of Orchha.

**Hence statement 1 is correct**

**The exaggerated facial type of Kishangarh, which becomes the distinctive and salient stylistic feature of the Kishangarh School, is believed to have been derived from the attractively sharp facial features of Bani Thani.** Artist Nihal Chand is attributed with the credit of contriving this exquisite and characteristic Kishangarh physiognomy that is perceived in figures of Sawant Singh and Bani Thani is always represented as Krishna and Radha in brilliantly coloured, panoramic landscapes. **Hence statement 2 is correct**

**Maru Ragini: A particular set of Ragamala paintings from Mewar(not from Deccan region) is, especially, important as one of its paintings bears crucial documentary evidence regarding its artist, patron, place and date of painting.Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

**73.Recently, Global Tax Convention is seen in news, related to**

- (a) G20
- (b) OECD
- (c) United Nation
- (d) World Trade Organization

**Answer c) United Nation**

**Explanation**

UN's Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Terms of Reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation approved a package of guidance **for UN Global Tax Convention.**

It aims at establishing a **UN Global Tax Treaty for legitimate, fair, stable, inclusive and effective international tax system. Hence option C is correct** Developing countries (including India) largely voted in favour of treaty's terms

of reference while industrialized nations such as Australia, Israel, Japan, UK and USA voted against it. Strengthening international tax cooperation and making it inclusive and effective. Addressing existing tax-related challenges including digitalization and global operations of large Multinational Corporations (MNCs). Mobilize domestic resources and use tax policy for sustainable development. Accelerating implementation of Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and 2030 Agenda for SDGs.

**74. With reference to Indian history, consider the following texts**

1. Dipavamsa
2. Prajnaparamita Sutras
3. Visuddhimagga
4. Sarvastivada Vinaya

**How many of the above are Jaina texts?**

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

**Answer d) None**

**Explanation :**

**All the text are Buddhist literature**

**The Pali or Sri Lankan chronicles—the Dipavamsa (4th–5th centuries) and the Mahavamsa (5th century)—contain a historical-cum-mythical account of the Buddha's life, the Buddhist councils, the Maurya emperor Ashoka, the kings of Sri Lanka, and the arrival of Buddhism on that island.**

**Several Mahayana Sutras** were translated into Chinese in the late 2nd century. The composition of the earliest Sutras can be placed in the 2nd century BCE.

These Sutras claim to contain the teaching of the Buddha and do not project themselves as representing a radical break with the older tradition; in fact they directly draw on this tradition. For instance, the **Lalitavistara contains many passages from the Pali canon.** There was an increasing use of Sanskrit in Mahayana texts. The important Mahayana Sutras include the **Prajnaparamita Sutras**, of which the Ashtasahasrika seems to be the oldest. Mahayana received its classic exposition in the writings of thinkers such as

Nagarjuna, Aryadeva, Asanga, and Vasubandhu. The accounts of the Chinese pilgrims also throw light on the history of Mahayana in India.

In the 5th century, the monk **Buddhaghosha travelled to Sri Lanka. He translated several scriptural commentaries into Pali and wrote a work called the Visuddhimagga (Path of Purification), which soon attained the status of a classic work on Theravada doctrine and meditation.**

Many Buddhist Indian monks who travelled to China during these centuries belonged to Kashmir. **Sanghabhuti, author of a commentary on the Sarvastivada Vinaya, who was in China in 381–84 CE. Hence pair d is correct.**

**75. With reference to the history of India, consider the following pairs:**

Leader	Associated with
1. Dadabhai Naoroji	Indian Association
2. Justice Ranade	Bombay Presidency Association
3. Anandamohan Bose	Madras Mahajana Sabha

**How many of the pairs given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: (d) None**

**Explanation:**

**In 1866, Dadabhai Naoroji organised the East India Association in London to discuss the Indian question and to influence British public officials to promote Indian welfare. Later he organised branches of the association in prominent Indian cities.**

**Surendranath and Anandamohan Bose, the younger nationalists of Bengal founded the Indian Association in 1876. Indian Association aims to create strong public opinion on political questions and the unification of the Indian People under a common political programme. Hence Pair 1 is incorrect. Justice Ranade and others organised the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha in 1870. Pherozeshah Mehta, K.T. Telang, Badruddin Tyabji and others formed the Bombay Presidency Association in 1885. Hence Pair 2 is incorrect**

The Madras Mahajana Sabha was an Indian nationalist organization that was founded in May 1884. It was established by P. Ananda Charlu, G. Subramania Iyer, and M. Veeraraghavachariar. Hence Pair 3 is incorrect

**76. Consider the following statements about the seaports in India:**

1. There are 43 major and 302 minor seaports in India
2. The major ports are under the administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
3. The minor ports are under the jurisdiction of respective State Maritime Board or the State Government

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer d) 2 and 3 only**

**Explanation**

**India has 13 major ports and over 200**

**non-major ports (also known as minor or intermediate ports). The 14th major port of India is Vadhavan Port, a proposed deep seaport in Palghar district, Maharashtra. It's being developed as an International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP). The Central Government has notified Vadhavan Port under the Indian Ports Act. Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

The 13 major ports are managed by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** under the Government of India, while the **non-major ports are managed by the respective state governments. Hence statement 2 and 3 are correct**

**77. Consider the following statements**

1. The Constitution of India explicitly mentions the post of the Leader of the Opposition
2. The position of Leader of the Opposition exists only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha
3. The leader of the largest opposition party in the House is recognized as the Leader of the Opposition only if that

party holds at least one-third of the total membership of the House

4. The Leader of the Opposition are entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister

**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 Constitution of India does not explicitly mention the post of the Leader of the Opposition. The leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were accorded statutory recognition in 1977. It was in 1969 that an official leader of the opposition was recognised for the first time. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

**In each House of Parliament, there is the 'Leader of the Opposition'. Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

The leader of the largest Opposition party having **not less than one-tenth seats of the total strength of the House**

is recognised as the leader of the Opposition in that House. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

In a parliamentary system of government, the leader of the opposition has a significant role to play. His main functions are to provide a constructive criticism of the policies of the government and to provide an alternative government. They are also entitled to the salary, allowances and other facilities equivalent to that of a cabinet minister. **Hence statement 4 is correct**

**78. Consider the following provisions**

1. Article 21A under Fundamental Rights
2. Article 45 under Directive Principles
3. Article 51A under Fundamental Duties

**Which of the above articles are amended by 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002?**

- (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**

The 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, in India made education a fundamental right for children aged 6–14 years, providing free and compulsory education.

**Key features of the 86th Amendment Act (2002):**

**Fundamental Right (Article 21A):** Inserted by this act, it mandates the state to provide free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14.

**Directive Principle (Article 45):** Amended to require the state to endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for children below the age of six.

**Fundamental Duty (Article 51A):** Added clause (k), making it the duty of every parent or guardian to provide educational opportunities to children between 6 and 14 years. **Hence option d is correct**

**79. Which of the following organizations act as a primary manager of public debt for both the Central and State governments?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (b) Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC)
- (c) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)
- (d) National Investment Fund (NIF)

**Answer a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

**Explanation**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) remains the primary manager of public debt for both the Central and State governments under the statutory provisions of the RBI Act, 1934, handling market borrowings and issuing government securities.

Concurrently, the Finance Ministry's Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC), established within the Department of Economic Affairs, **acts as an interim arrangement to plan borrowings, manage liabilities, monitor cash balances, and improve cash forecasting, with the ultimate goal of transitioning to an independent Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA).** This is an interim advisory body established within the Ministry of Finance to eventually

transition into an independent Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA). **While it plans borrowings, the operational management remains with the RBI.**

**80.What is the aim of the ‘NIPUN Bharat Mission’?**

(a) To achieve universal adult literacy through community participation and volunteer teaching

(b) To connect higher education institutions with rural communities for technology-driven development solutions

(c) To provide skill development and vocational training to unemployed youth in rural areas

(d) To ensure that every child attains foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3

**Answer (d) To ensure that every child attains foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3**

**Explanation**

The NIPUN Bharat Mission (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) is launched under the Ministry of

Education as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

Its primary goal is to ensure that every child achieves foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3 by 2026–27. It focuses on early reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, which are essential for future learning.

**81.Consider the following**

1. Excessive use of Chemical fertilizers
2. Zero tillage
3. Adopting Monoculture crops
4. Stubble Burning
5. Low water content in the Soil

**How many of the above are the reasons for the decrease in organic carbon in soil?**

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

**Answer c) Only Four**

**Explanation**

**The presence of organic carbon in agricultural land is regularly checked through Soil Health Card (SHC). As per**

guidelines of the scheme, States generate Soil Health Cards **once in a three years** to address nutrient deficiencies in soil.

The major reasons for decrease in organic carbon in soil are, **(i) defective practices such as injudicious or excessive use of chemical fertiliser, frequent tillage / ploughing, stubble burning, overgrazing, and erosion; (ii) replacing perennial vegetation with monoculture crops and pastures and (iii) soil physicochemical properties such as soil bulk density, high gravel content, soil erosion and low soil water content / poor moisture conservation measures. Hence option c is correct**

**82. Consider the following pairs:**

Neolithic Sites	Present State
1. Gufkral	Gujarat
2. Takkalakota	Kerala
3. Dajoli Hading	Assam
4. Hallur	Karnataka

**How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: (b) Only two**

**Gufkral** (Jammu and Kashmir)- The site shows evidence of early agriculture and domestication of animals, as well as mud-brick structures. Pottery and stone tools were also discovered, highlighting the region's early Neolithic culture.

**Hence Pair 1 is incorrect**

**Takkalakota** (Karnataka) Artefacts found here include stone axes, pottery, and tools, indicating a settled lifestyle. The site is part of the Southern Neolithic culture, where early domestication of animals and agriculture was evident. **Hence Pair 2 is incorrect**

**Dajoli Hading** (Assam)- Dajoli Hading is one of the few known Neolithic sites in Assam. The site gives insight into the early human settlement patterns in the northeastern part of India. **Hence Pair 3 is correct**

**Hallur** (Karnataka)- Excavations have revealed evidence of early agriculture, with crops like millets, and the domestication of cattle, sheep, and goats.

The site also shows the use of iron in later periods, indicating a transition into the Iron Age. Hence Pair 4 is correct

### 83. Consider the following pairs

Kings	Dynasty
1. Amoghavarsha	Rashtrakuta
2. Prataparudra	Hoysala
3. Rajendra I	Chola
4. Vishnuvardhana	Kakatiya

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

**Answer b) only two pairs**

#### Explanation

Amoghavarsha I (Rashtrakuta Dynasty) is often compared to Emperor Ashoka due to his peace-loving nature and deep interest in religion and the arts. He is credited with authoring (or co-authoring) the Kavirajamarga, the earliest known literary work on poetics in the Kannada language.

Prataparudra II (Kakatiya Dynasty) was the final monarch of the Kakatiya dynasty, reigning from Warangal (Orugallu) until the kingdom fell to the Delhi Sultanate in 1323. He faced multiple invasions from the Delhi Sultanate. Initially a tributary to Alauddin Khalji, he later resisted, leading to the final annexation by Muhammad bin Tughlaq.

Rajendra I (Chola Dynasty). After a successful military expedition to the Ganges in North India, he assumed this title and built the new capital city, Gangaikondacholapuram. He

established one of India's earliest **blue-water navies**, conquering territories in **Southeast Asia**, including the Srivijaya Empire (modern Indonesia/Malaysia) and the Maldives.

Vishnuvardhana (Hoysala Dynasty). Initially a vassal of the Western Chalukyas, his military successes—particularly the Battle of Talakad against the Cholas—helped establish the Hoysalas as an independent power. Originally a follower of Jainism (known as Bitti Deva), he converted to Vaishnavism under the influence of the philosopher Ramanujacharya.

**84. Which one of the following is correct regarding the Doctrine of Lapse introduced by Lord Dalhousie?**

- (a) Annexation of Princely states when the ruler misgoverned the state
- (b) To maintain a large standing army at other's expense
- (c) Annexation of Princely states when the ruler died without a natural heir unless the adoption approved by the British authorities
- (d) To secure a fixed income for the company

**Answer c) Annexation of Princely states when the ruler died without a natural heir unless the adoption approved by the British authorities**

**Explanation**

**The chief instrument through which Lord Dalhousie implemented his policy of annexation was the Doctrine of Lapse. Under this Doctrine, when the ruler of a protected state died without a natural heir, his state was not to pass to an adopted heir as sanctioned by the age-old tradition of the country. Instead, it was to be annexed to the British dominions unless the adoption had been clearly approved**

earlier by the British authorities. Many states, including Satara in 1848 and Nagpur and Jhansi in 1854, were annexed by applying this doctrine.

Dalhousie also refused to recognise the titles of many ex-rulers or to pay their pensions. Thus, the titles of the Nawabs of Carnatic and of Surat and the Raja of Tanjore were extinguished. Similarly, after the death of the ex-Peshwa Baji Rao II, who had been made the Raja of Bithur, Dalhousie refused to extend his pay or pension to his adopted son, Nana Saheb.

Lord Dalhousie was keen on annexing the kingdom of Avadh. But the task presented certain difficulties. For one, the Nawabs of Avadh had been British allies since the Battle of Buxar. Moreover, they had been most obedient to the British over the years. The Nawab of Avadh had many heirs and could not therefore be covered by the Doctrine of Lapse. Some other pretext had to be found for depriving him of his dominions. **Finally, Lord Dalhousie hit upon the idea of alleviating the plight of the people of Avadh. Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was accused of having misgoverned his state and of refusing**

to introduce reforms. His state was therefore annexed in 1856. Hence option c is correct.

**85. Consider the following statements:**

**Statement I:** El Nino events generally lead to below-average southwest monsoon rainfall over India.

**Statement II:** El Nino refers to the abnormal cooling of the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

**Statement III:** ENSO-neutral conditions indicate a strong La Nina event.

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

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct but only one of them explains Statement I
- (c) Only one of the Statements II and III is correct and that explains Statement I
- (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct

**Answer: (d) Neither Statement II nor Statement III is correct**

**86. Consider the following statements**

1. The Central government may determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of the Delimitation Commission Act
2. Delimitation of constituencies requires a constitutional amendment by a special majority of the two Houses of Parliament with ratification by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States
3. The Delimitation Commission of India is set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Law and Justice

**Which of the above statements 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**

The Election Commission has the authority to determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies throughout the country on the basis of

the Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. Delimitation does not require a constitutional amendment by a special majority; it is conducted through a Delimitation Act passed by Parliament and implemented by the Commission.

**Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

Delimitation of constituencies in India is carried out under the Delimitation Act passed by Parliament, based on the provisions of the Constitution of India. The Delimitation Commission of India, constituted by the Ministry of Law and Justice, is responsible for determining the territorial boundaries of constituencies. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

**87. Consider the following statements**

1. India is the largest recipient of remittances in the World
2. India is the largest recipient of gross FDI inflows in Asia
3. In recent times, the foreign exchange reserves of India are sufficient to cover around 22 months of goods imports

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer a) 1 only**

**Explanation**

Economic Survey notes that **India remained the world's largest recipient of remittances**, with inflows reaching USD 135.4 billion in FY25, supporting stability in the external account. The share of remittances from advanced economies increased, reflecting a growing contribution from skilled and professional workers. **Hence statement 1 is correct**

India has consistently attracted sizeable gross investment inflows, amounting to 18.5 per cent of GDP in FY25, even amid tightening global financial conditions. According to UNCTAD data, **India remained the largest recipient of**

**gross FDI inflows in South Asia** and surpassed major Asian peers such as Indonesia and Vietnam. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

India's foreign exchange reserves increased to USD 701.4 billion as of 16 January 2026, up from USD 668 billion as of the end of March 2025. **In terms of adequacy, the reserves are sufficient to cover around 11 months of goods imports and about 94 per cent of the external debt outstanding at the end of September 2025,** providing a comfortable liquidity buffer. **Hence statement 3 is incorrect**

**88. What is the purpose of the 'ULLAS (Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram) Scheme'?**

1. To provide free higher education to students from economically weaker sections in private universities
2. To achieve universal adult literacy by involving volunteers, community participation and digital learning platforms
3. To promote foundational literacy and numeracy among children in primary schools

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**Answer b) 2 only**

**Explanation**

The ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society) is a transformative initiative launched by the **Indian government to promote lifelong learning and bridge the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills among citizens aged 15 and above.**

The program aims to empower individuals with essential knowledge and skills for personal and national development. ULLAS User-Friendly Mobile Application serves as a digital gateway to diverse learning resources via the DIKSHA portal.

**Key Features of ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram:**

- **Lifelong Learning Focus:** Emphasizes continuous learning throughout life. Fosters a culture of knowledge-sharing and personal development.
- **Digital and Financial Literacy:** Equip participants with digital literacy skills.

Promotes financial awareness and empowerment.

- Critical Life Skills: Impart important life skills such as legal literacy and digital literacy. Enhances citizenship and empowerment.

- Incentives for Student Volunteers: Provides credits in school/university for student volunteers. Offers appreciation through certificates, letters, and felicitations. **Hence option b is correct**

**89. Consider the following pairs**

Inscriptions located at	Associated King	Associated Kingdom
1. Junagadh	Rudradaman I	Sakas
2. Aihole	Pulikeshin II	Western Chalukyas
3. Allahabad	Samudra Gupta	Gupta
4. Kudumiya n Hill	Mahendravarman I	Pallavas

**How many of the above pairs are correct ?**

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

**Answer c) All four pairs**

**Explanation**

Ancient India's history is vividly preserved through several key inscriptions. The **Junagadh Rock Inscription of Rudradaman I (Sakas)** is a landmark in Classical Sanskrit, detailing the restoration of the Sudarshana Lake.

In the south, the **Aihole Inscription composed by Ravikirti celebrates Pulakeshin II (Western Chalukyas)** and his famous victory over Emperor Harshavardhana.

The **Allahabad Pillar Inscription, or Prayag Prashasti**, composed by **Harisena** serves as a detailed military biography of Samudragupta (Gupta Empire), listing his extensive conquests across the subcontinent.

**Kudumiya Hill Inscription of Mahendravarman I (Pallavas)** stands out for its focus on the arts, serving as a rare and significant early record of Indian musical notations. **Hence option d is correct**

**90. In the context of Colonial India, Raja Sir Deo Narayan Singh, Maharaja Narendra Singh and Sir Dinkar Rao are considered as**

- (a) Leaders who renounced their knighthood in response to the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy
- (b) Ardent Gandhian followers leading regional national movements
- (c) Members included in the Imperial Legislative council for the first time
- (d) Active participants of the Great Revolt of 1857

**Answer: (c) Members included in the Imperial Legislative council for the first time**

**Explanation**

**Indian Councils Act 1861:**

**The Indian Councils Act 1861 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that transformed India's executive council to function as a cabinet run on the portfolio system. It was introduced because the British Government wanted to involve the Indian people with the process of law making. This Act was passed on 1st August 1861.**

**Main provisions of the Act:**

It made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with law-making

Viceroy nominated some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council  
Lord Canning nominated- **Raja of Benaras (Sir Deo Narayan Singh), the maharaja of Patiala (Narendra Singh) and Sir Dinkar Rao** Restored legislative making powers of Bombay and Madras Establishment of new Legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Frontier Province and Punjab Viceroy could make provisions for convenient transactions of business in the council. Hence option (c) is correct.

It gave recognition that the 'portfolio system' of Lord Canning Ordinances could be issued by the Viceroy without the concurrence of the council during an emergency. However, the life of such an ordinance was six months.

**91. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can assist disaster management authorities in which of the following ways?**

1. Hazard zonation and vulnerability mapping

2. Evacuation route optimization
3. Real-time rainfall forecasting
4. Overlaying population density with flood zones

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are powerful spatial analysis tools used in disaster management primarily for organizing and visualizing physical and demographic data.

Analysis of the Options:

Hazard zonation and vulnerability mapping: GIS is fundamentally used to identify and map areas prone to natural hazards (e.g., landslides or earthquakes) by analyzing topography, geology, and historical data.

Evacuation route optimization: GIS enables disaster authorities to calculate the most efficient and safe evacuation paths by analyzing road networks, terrain, and traffic capacity.

Real-time rainfall forecasting: While GIS can display weather data, the actual forecasting of rainfall is a function of Meteorological Models and atmospheric science (using tools like radar and supercomputers). GIS acts as the platform for visualizing this forecast rather than generating it.

Overlaying population density with flood zones: This is a core strength of GIS. By layering different datasets (e.g., placing a population map over a flood-prone area map), authorities can precisely identify exactly how many people and which infrastructures are at risk. Hence Option 2 is correct

**92.Consider the following statements regarding National Security Council (NSC)**

1. The National Security Council (NSC) of India is responsible for advising the Prime Minister on matters of national security but not on foreign policy
2. It is a five-tier organisation that oversees strategic, political, economic, energy and security issues
3. The National Security Advisor oversees the National Security Council (NSC)

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

**Answer d) 3 only**

**Explanation**

The National Security Council (NSC) of India is a vital strategic body responsible for advising the Prime Minister on matters of national security, foreign policy, defence strategy, and other crucial issues affecting the country's security interests. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect**

It is a three-tier organisation that oversees strategic, political, economic, energy, and security issues:

- Strategic Policy Group
- National Security Advisory Board
- National Security Council Secretariat.

**Hence statement 2 is incorrect**

It works within the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), liaising between the government's executive branch and the intelligence services and advising

leadership on intelligence and security issues.

The National Security Advisor oversees the NSC and serves as the Prime Minister's primary advisor. **Hence statement 3 is correct**

**93. Which of the following are short-term foreign borrowings of the Government of India?**

1. Foreign Currency Deposits
2. Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)
3. External Commercial Borrowings (ECB)
4. IMF borrowings
5. Sovereign Bonds issued in international markets

**Select the correct answer using the code below:**

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

**Answer d) 4 only**

**Explanation**

**Foreign Currency Deposits:** While these are foreign capital inflows, they are primarily held by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in commercial banks. They are classified as NRI deposits and are **not direct borrowings by the Government of India.**

**Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI):** FPI refers to investments in financial assets like stocks and bonds. While FPIs can buy government securities (G-Secs), this is considered an **investment in the secondary market rather than a direct "borrowing" instrument** initiated by the government for short-term needs.

**External Commercial Borrowings (ECB):** These are loans from non-resident lenders (commercial banks, etc.) to Indian entities. In India, the vast majority of ECBs are raised by **private and public sector corporations, not the "General Government"** for its own short-term funding.

**IMF Borrowings:** Borrowings from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are **direct obligations of the government** (or the central bank on its behalf). Historically, these have been used to address short-term balance of payments (BoP) crises.

**Sovereign Bonds issued in**

**international markets:** These are typically **long-term debt instruments** (maturities often 10+ years). India has traditionally avoided issuing short-term sovereign bonds in international markets to manage its public debt. **Hence option d is correct**

**94. Consider the following pairs**

Places	On the Banks of
1. Pattadakal	Malaprabha river
2. Gangaikonda cholapuram	Pennar river
3. Hampi	Tungabhadra river
4. Tiruchirappalli	Cauvery river

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer c) Only three**

**Explanation**

**Pattadakal is a sleepy village nestled in a bend of the Malaprabha river in Bagalkot district of Karnataka.** It is famous for its exquisite temples, which

were built during the time of the early Western Chalukyas and which combine elements of both the Nagara (northern) and the Dravida (southern) styles. **The Virupaksha temple** is considered the finest among them. The temple was constructed at the behest of queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate the conquest of Kanchipuram by her husband Vikramaditya II. Monuments are generally associated with the rulers who had them built. **Hence pair 1 is correct**

**Gangaikondacholapuram is situated on the eastern bank of the Kaveri River.** It became the capital of the Chola dynasty in the 11th century during the reign of Rajendra Chola I, and served as the Chola capital for about 250 years. The city was built to commemorate Rajendra Chola I's conquest of the Gangetic plains. **Hence pair 2 is incorrect**

**Hampi is situated on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in the eastern part of central Karnataka near the state border with Andhra Pradesh.** Hampi continues as a religious centre, with the Virupaksha Temple, an active Adi Shankara-linked monastery and various monuments belonging to the old city. **Hence pair 3 is correct**

**Tiruchirappalli (Trichy) is located on the banks of the Kaveri (Cauvery) River in Tamil Nadu, India.** The city is also bounded and influenced by its distributary, the Kollidam River. The river splits into these two branches just west of the city to form the island of Srirangam. **Hence pair 4 is correct**

**95. With reference to the Moderates, which one of the following statements is not correct?**

- (a) Economic critique of the British imperialism
- (b) Demand for separation of judiciary from executive
- (c) Believed in the political participation of masses
- (d) Criticism of aggressive foreign policy of the British

**Answer: (c) Believed in the political participation of masses**

**Explanation:**

The most important part of the early nationalists' political work was their economic critique of imperialism. They took note of the all three forms of contemporary colonial economic

exploitation, namely, through trade, industry and finance. **Hence statement (a) is correct.**

From the beginning the early nationalists believed that India should eventually move towards democratic self-government. But they did not ask for the immediate fulfillment of their goal. They hoped to win freedom through gradual steps.

The Moderates campaigned on the following grounds:

(ii) **Call for separation of judicial from executive functions. Hence statement (b) is correct.**

(iii) Criticism of an oppressive and tyrannical bureaucracy and an expensive and time-consuming judicial system.

(iv) **Criticism of an aggressive foreign policy which resulted in annexation of Burma, attack on Afghanistan, and suppression of tribals in the North-West—all costing heavily for the Indian treasury. Hence statement (d) is correct.**

**The moderate phase of the national movement had a narrow social base and the masses played a passive role. This was because the early nationalists lacked political faith in the masses; they felt that there were**

numerous divisions and subdivisions in the Indian society, and the masses were generally ignorant and had conservative ideas and thoughts. **Hence statement (C) is not correct.**

**96."3D sensors" have applications in which of the following?**

1. Identify potholes
2. Quality inspection
3. Gesture-based control of lights
4. Crop yield estimation
5. Augmented Reality apps

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

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

**Explanation**

3D sensors, which include technologies like LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), Time-of-Flight (ToF), and Structured Light, are highly versatile and apply to all five fields listed:

Identify potholes: 3D scanning systems

and LiDAR can detect and measure road surface irregularities, such as depth and shape of potholes, for automated road maintenance.

**Quality inspection:** In industrial manufacturing, 3D sensors are used for high-precision quality control, detecting surface defects or verifying product dimensions.

**Gesture-based control of lights:** 3D sensors (like those in gaming consoles or smart home devices) track human movement and depth to enable touchless gesture control for lighting and other systems.

**Crop yield estimation:** In precision agriculture, LiDAR-based 3D sensors are used to analyze crop height, biomass, and plant volume, which helps in calculating estimated yields.

**Augmented Reality (AR) apps:** AR relies on 3D depth sensors to map real-world environments, allowing digital objects to be placed accurately in physical space

### **97. Consider the following assets**

1. Inventory
2. Intellectual Property
3. Adoption of Artificial Intelligence
4. Brand Recognition
5. Land

**How many of the above are considered as Intangible capital assets?**

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

**Answer b) Only three**

### **Explanation**

Capital assets are long-term, tangible, or intangible assets owned by individuals or businesses to generate income or value, such as property, machinery, stocks, and patents.

In accounting and economics, assets are classified based on their physical substance. Intangible assets are non-physical resources that hold value and provide long-term economic benefits, while tangible assets have a physical form and can be seen or touched.

### **Classification of the Listed Assets**

**Intellectual Property (Intangible):** This includes patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets. These are legal rights protecting non-physical creations and

are classic examples of intangible capital. Adoption of Artificial Intelligence (Intangible): In the modern economy, AI adoption—comprising software, proprietary algorithms, data, and organizational know-how—is treated as a "meta-capability" and a significant intangible resource.

Brand Recognition (Intangible): This refers to consumer awareness and reputation. While it has no physical presence, it provides a competitive advantage and is often recorded as an intangible asset (or "goodwill").

Inventory (Tangible): This consists of physical goods, raw materials, and products held for sale. Because it is a physical item that can be counted and touched, it is a tangible asset.

Land (Tangible): Land is a fixed physical asset and is consistently classified as a tangible capital asset. **Hence option b is correct**

### 98. Consider the following pairs

Places	Located near	Tradition followed
1. Ajanta	Waghora river	Buddhism
2. Sanchi	Chambal river	Vaishnavism
3. Pandu-lena	Narmada river	Buddhism and Jainism
4. Amaravati	Godavari river	Buddhism

**How many of the above pairs is/are correct ?**

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

**Answer a) Only one pair**

**Explanation**

**Ajanta : The 29 rock-cut Buddhist caves** are situated in a horseshoe-shaped gorge of the **Waghora (or Waghur) River in Maharashtra.**

While Sanchi is a major Buddhist complex, it is located on a **hilltop near**

**the Betwa River, not the Chambal River.**

Pandu-lena is associated with Buddhism and Jainism (also known as Pandavleni) are located near Nashik on the Trirashmi hills, **which are in the Godavari River basin, not the Narmada.**

**The Amaravati Stupa is located on the banks of the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh, not the Godavari.**

**99. With reference to the National Pension System Vatsalya (NPS Vatsalya) scheme, Consider the following statements:**

1. The scheme is based on intergenerational equity, covering both older and young members of the family.
2. All minor citizens aged below 21 years of age are eligible to be beneficiaries.
3. On attaining the age of majority, the plan can be converted seamlessly into a normal National Pension System account.

**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: (c) 1 and 3 only**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister for Finance launched the National Pension System Vatsalya (NPS Vatsalya) scheme, 'a pension scheme for minors'. The NPS Vatsalya was announced by the Union Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2024-25.

**National Pension System Vatsalya (NPS Vatsalya) scheme:**

- NPS Vatsalya is a new pension scheme designed to promote long-term financial planning and security for citizens, focusing on both older and younger generations. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme is based on intergenerational equity, covering both older and young members of the family.
- It aims to inculcate the habit of savings among young subscribers, with wealth accumulation through the power of compounding.

**Benefits and Impact:**

- Ensures a dignified life in old age for subscribers.
- Builds on the success of Atal Pension Yojana (APY), which has garnered 6.90

crore subscribers and accumulated a corpus of Rs 35,149 crore.

- NPS offers competitive returns: 9.5% CAGR for government sector subscribers.

**Eligibility for NPS Vatsalya as follows:**

- All minor citizens (age below 18 years). **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Account can be opened in the name of minor and operated by parent or guardian. Minor will be the beneficiary.
- Scheme can be opened through various Points of presence regulated by PFRDA such as major banks, India Post, Pension Funds and Online platform (e-NPS).
- Subscriber to make a minimum contribution of Rs 1000/- per annum. There is no limit on the maximum contribution.
- PFRDA will provide multiple investment choices to subscribers.
- Subscribers can take exposure in government securities, corporate debt, and equity in different proportions based on risk appetite and desired returns.
- On attaining the age of majority, the plan can be converted seamlessly into a normal NPS account. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

**100. Which one of the following movements through which the underground radio was started in Bombay to fight against the British government in India?**

- (a) Swadeshi Movement
- (b) Non-cooperation Movement
- (c) Quit India Movement
- (d) Civil disobedience movement

**Answer: (c) Quit India Movement**

**Explanation:**

**Usha Mehta was a prominent freedom fighter who played a key role in the Quit India Movement of 1942.** She set up an underground radio station in Bombay (Mumbai) to disseminate news and messages from leaders of the movement after the British had cut off regular communication channels to suppress the movement. This underground radio became an important tool of resistance during this phase of the freedom struggle. **Hence option (c) is correct.**

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