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T.B.C.: KMIAS-C- TP/ MOCK TEST-4

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.

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1. With reference to the PM SHRI Schools Scheme, consider the following statements:

- 1.The schools managed by private entities are eligible to receive benefits under the scheme.
- 2.The scheme is funded and implemented entirely by the respective State Governments.
- 3.These schools integrate environmental awareness into their curriculum and operations, focusing on water conservation, waste recycling, energy efficiency, and eco-friendly infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer c) 3 only

Explanation

PM SHRI Schools Scheme: This initiative is intended to develop more than 14500 **PM SHRI Schools** managed by Central Government/State/UT Government/local bodies. Hence private entities are not beneficiaries of this programme.

PM SHRI School is a centrally sponsored scheme by the Government of India. This means the programme is being implemented by state governments but funded partly or fully by the Central Government to address national priorities.

PM Shri schools will be developed as “green schools” with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of an organic lifestyle in the curriculum.

2. Which of the following are natural sinks of Carbon dioxide emissions?

- 1.Groundwater
- 2.Lakes
- 3.Ice caps
- 4.Seawater

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation

Carbon dioxide is transparent to visible light but absorbs infrared radiation, acting as a greenhouse gas. Carbon dioxide is soluble in water, thus they are found in

- Lakes absorb CO₂ through photosynthesis by aquatic plants and dissolution.
- Ice caps act as long-term carbon sinks by trapping carbon in frozen form.
- Seawater is one of the largest carbon sinks, absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere.

- Groundwater is also a natural sink in the global carbon cycle.

3. With reference to the Fold Mountains, consider the following statements:

- 1.They are associated with the region of volcanic activity.
- 2.They are often rich in mineral deposits such as gold and petroleum.
- 3.Alps and Andes Mountains are classic examples of Fold Mountains.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer c) All three

Explanation

Fold mountains are the most widespread and important type of mountains. They form when large-scale movements in the Earth's crust create stresses. Fold Mountains are closely linked to volcanic activity. They often have active volcanoes, especially in regions like the Circum-Pacific fold mountain system.

Fold Mountains contain rich mineral resources such as tin, copper, gold and petroleum.

The Himalayas, Rockies, Andes, and Alps are

the classic examples of major fold mountains.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the system of "Swarm Drones" appeared in the news:

- 1.In such systems, failure of an individual drone results in the collapse of an entire system.
- 2.Swarm drones can distribute and coordinate tasks among themselves with minimal human intervention.
- 3.These systems are immune to hacking threats.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

Swarm drones refer to a coordinated group of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) operating under a decentralized control system. Swarm Drone systems consist of multiple drones operating together in a coordinated manner, often inspired by the collective behavior of ants, bees, or birds.

They use: Artificial Intelligence (AI), communication networks, sensors, and

autonomous coordination algorithms to perform tasks collectively.

A defining feature of swarm drone systems is **decentralization, which allows the system to remain functional even if some individual drones fail.** The loss of a few units does not lead to system collapse, as the remaining drones can dynamically reorganize and complete the task.

Swarm drones are designed to autonomously distribute tasks and coordinate actions among themselves with minimal or no human intervention. This capability allows them to respond to real-time changes in the environment or mission parameters, ensuring continuity of operations even if one or more drones malfunction.

Swarm drones are not immune to cyber threats. Despite their decentralized nature, they rely heavily on inter-drone communication and shared control protocols, which can be exploited by hackers.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Government Securities (G-Secs):

- 1.They can be traded only in physical form, making them immune from cyber fraud.
- 2.Small investors are not allowed to hold G-Secs.
- 3.They provide maximum safety compared to corporate or private bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer b) 3 only

Explanation

Government Securities (G-Secs) can be held and traded in both physical and digital forms.

G-Secs today are primarily held and traded in electronic/demat form, RBI Retail Direct accounts, securities accounts through banks and brokers. Since they are digitally traded, they are not immune to cyber risks.

In addition to commercial banks, insurance companies, and other large investors, small investors such as cooperative banks, provident funds, and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are also permitted to invest in G-Secs.

Small retail investors are allowed to invest in G-Secs through the RBI Retail Direct Scheme, stock exchanges, mutual funds and banks. The government has specifically encouraged retail participation.

These securities are backed by the Government's sovereign commitment to pay interest and repay the principal. Government Securities carry sovereign guarantee, very low

default risk and high credibility. Therefore, they are generally considered safer than corporate bonds and private debt instruments.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs)?

Statement I: RTGs play a crucial role in ensuring the sustained success of deep-space missions.

Statement II: RTGs work primarily by converting sunlight into electrical energy.

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

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (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 not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

Explanation

Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTGs) are highly reliable power sources used in deep-space missions where sunlight is too weak for solar panels to function effectively. They generate electricity continuously for

many years, making them crucial for long-duration missions such as Voyager 1, Voyager 2, and Curiosity. Hence, they ensure the sustained success of such missions. Hence Statement I is correct

RTGs do not convert sunlight into energy. Instead, they generate electricity by converting the heat released from the natural radioactive decay of isotopes such as plutonium-238 into electrical energy using thermocouples. Hence Statement II is incorrect

7. What is "Massive Ordnance Penetrator" sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) An American precision-guided bunker-buster bomb
- (c) An Israeli all-weather mobile air defense system designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets
- (d) A defence collaboration between Iran and Lebanon

Answer b) An American precision-guided bunker-buster bomb designed to destroy deeply buried underground targets

Explanation

The GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) is a precision-guided bunker-buster bomb designed to destroy deeply buried and heavily fortified underground targets such as nuclear facilities, command centers, and weapon storage sites. It is specifically built to

penetrate hardened structures before detonation.

Recently, fourteen GBU-57 MOPs were reportedly used against the Fordo and Isfahan nuclear enrichment facility in Iran, which is located deep beneath a mountain near Tehran. Due to the extreme depth and protection of the site, only such specialized bunker-buster weapons could potentially reach it.

The GBU-57 weighs around 13,000 kg (30,000 pounds) and can penetrate nearly 18 meters of concrete or about 61 meters of earth before exploding. At present, only the United States operates this weapon system, making it unique in targeting deeply concealed underground facilities.

8. Consider the following airports:

1. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
2. Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
3. Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

How many of the above Indian Airports are recognized as Level 5 certification under the Airport Council International's (ACI) Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer c) All three

Explanation

Airport Carbon Accreditation is the only institutionally-endorsed, global carbon management certification programme for airports. It independently assesses and recognises the efforts of airports to manage and reduce their carbon emissions through 7 levels of certification: 'Level 1', 'Level 2', 'Level 3', 'Level 3+', 'Level 4', 'Level 4+' and 'Level 5'.

Level 5 is the topmost level in the Airport Carbon Accreditation programme, setting high standards for airports to significantly reduce their absolute carbon emissions. The following three airports are given level 5 certificates.

- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport
- Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi

9. With reference to the system of Dyarchy introduced under the Government of India Act 1919, the provincial subjects were classified into "Reserved" and "Transferred" categories. Which of the following were included under the "Transferred Subjects"?

- 1.Law and Order
- 2.Irrigation
- 3.Land Revenue
- 4.Education
- 5.Local Self-Government

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer a) Only two

Explanation

Under the Government of India Act 1919, provincial subjects were divided into:

Reserved Subjects – administered by the Governor and his executive council.

Transferred Subjects – administered by Indian ministers responsible to the legislative council.

Transferred Subjects: Education & Local Self-Government

Reserved Subjects: Law and Order, Irrigation, Land Revenue, Finance, Defense, Police, Justice and Land revenue

10. During the medieval period, a group of religious practitioners emerged in North India who challenged conventional ritualism through the path of Yoga and meditation. Known for their focus on

'Hatha Yoga' and the pursuit of immortality, they were led by figures like Gorakhnath. This group was known as

- (a) Virashaivas
- (b) Pushtimargis
- (c) Avadhoots
- (d) Nathpanthis

Answer d) Nathpanthis

Explanation

The Nathpanthis (also known as Siddhas or Yogis) were a religious and social movement that gained prominence primarily in North and Western India during the medieval period.

The movement was founded/led by legendary figures like Matsyendranath and, most famously, his disciple Gorakhnath.

They were critical of conventional religion, Vedic rituals, and the caste system. They believed that the path to salvation lay in the realization of the formless Ultimate Reality.

To achieve this realization, they advocated for intense meditation, breathing exercises (Pranayama), and Hatha Yoga to unite the mind and body. Social Because they used simple, local languages and rejected social hierarchies, they became very popular among "lower" caste groups and influenced later Bhakti saints like Kabir.

11. Consider the following statements :

I. The Constitution of India mentions that the Speaker has the power to adjourn both the Houses sine die.

II. On prorogation, it is only the Speaker who can summon the Houses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer d) Neither I nor II

Explanation

The Constitution of India does not empower the Speaker to adjourn both Houses of Parliament sine die. The power to adjourn a House sine die belongs individually to the presiding officers of each House—i.e., the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Speaker's authority is limited to the Lok Sabha only and does not extend to both Houses collectively.

After prorogation of Parliament, the power to summon either House does not lie with the Speaker. Under Article 85 of the Constitution, the President of India has the authority to summon Parliament. The Speaker has no role in summoning the Houses after prorogation.

12. Consider the following statements about the powers of the Governor of a State:

1. The Governor has the power to appoint the Advocate-General.

2. Advocate-General holds office during the pleasure of the Governor.

3. The members of the State Public Service Commission are appointed by the Governor.

4. The members of the State Public Service Commission can be removed by the President of India on the report of the Governor.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Under Article 165, the Governor of a State appoints the Advocate-General.

The Advocate-General holds office during the pleasure of the Governor (i.e., no fixed tenure).

Under Article 316, members of the State Public Service Commission are appointed by the Governor.

Removal is done by the President of India, but: It is based on a Supreme Court inquiry, not on the Governor's report. The Governor does not play a role in the removal process.

13. Which of the following statements about the Preamble to the Constitution of India is/are correct?

1. The Preamble was amended by the 44th Constitutional Amendment Act.

2. The term 'Republic' in the Preamble means that the Head of State is elected and is not a hereditary monarch.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer b) 2 only

Explanation

The Preamble was amended by the 42nd Amendment of the Constitution of India

During this amendment, three words were added to the Preamble - Socialist, Secular & Integrity. The 44th Amendment did not amend the Preamble. Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.

In a Republic, the Head of State is elected, directly or indirectly, political power does not pass through hereditary succession. In India, the President is the elected Head of State, unlike constitutional monarchies such as the United Kingdom where the monarch inherits the position. Hence, Statement 2 is correct.

14. Consider the following statements about India's Green Credit Programme (GCP), launched in 2023:

1. The Green Credit Programme is established under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to incentivize voluntary environmental actions.

2. Under this programme, individuals and companies can earn "Green Credits" for activities like tree plantation.

3. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) has been designated as the administrator for the Green Credit Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation

The Green Credit Programme (GCP) was notified in 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to promote voluntary environmental actions through tradable credits. Hence Statement 1 incorrect

Individuals, communities, and organizations can earn Green Credits for activities like tree plantation and other eco-friendly initiatives. Hence Statement 2 correct

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is the designated administrator, responsible for implementation and monitoring. Hence Statement 3 correct

15. Which of the following organizations launched an initiative named “The Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP)”?

- (a) The World Bank
- (b) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- (c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- (d) International Energy Agency (IEA)

Answer c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Explanation

The “Just Transition Work Programme (JTWP)” was launched under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It focuses on ensuring that the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies is fair and inclusive, particularly for workers and communities dependent on fossil fuels.

The programme was formalized during recent UN climate negotiations (notably around COP27). It aims to integrate social justice, employment, and economic equity into climate action.

16. Volcanic eruptions across the world vary in their nature—some are highly explosive, while others are relatively quiet. Which of the following is the primary factor responsible for this variation?

- (a) Variation in the composition of magma, especially silica content
- (b) Differences in the temperature of magma within the Earth’s interior
- (c) Variation in the types of rocks present in the Earth’s crust
- (d) Differences in atmospheric pressure at the Earth’s surface

Answer a) Variation in the composition of magma, especially silica content

Explanation

The nature of volcanic eruptions is primarily determined by the composition of magma, especially its silica content. Magma with high silica content is more viscous, which traps gases and leads to explosive eruptions. In contrast, magma with low silica content is less viscous, allowing gases to escape easily, resulting in non-explosive or effusive eruptions.

Temperature and rock type do influence volcanism, but the primary control is magma composition and gas content. Atmospheric pressure is negligible compared to internal geological forces.

17. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres receive equal amounts of solar radiation during equinoxes.

Statement II: Equinoxes occur when the Earth's axis is neither tilted towards nor away from the Sun.

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

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

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

Explanation

During the Equinox, the Earth's axis is positioned in such a way that it is neither tilted toward nor away from the Sun. Because of this alignment, the Sun's rays fall directly on the Equator, and both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres receive nearly equal amounts of solar radiation. As a result, day and night are approximately equal in duration across the

world. Therefore, Statement II correctly explains Statement I.

18. With reference to cloud seeding, consider the following statements:

- 1. Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique that involves dispersing substances into clouds to enhance precipitation.
- 2. Silver iodide is used in cloud seeding to promote the formation of raindrops.
- 3. Cloud seeding is only used for increasing rainfall and has no applications in reducing hail or fog.

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 a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Cloud seeding is a weather modification technique where substances like silver iodide, potassium iodide, or dry ice are dispersed into clouds to enhance precipitation.

Silver iodide has a crystal structure similar to ice, which helps in the formation of ice crystals, leading to precipitation.

Cloud seeding is not limited to increasing rainfall. It is also used for Hail suppression and Fog dissipation.

19. Consider the following schemes/programmes:

1. Santushti Scheme
2. Prerna Scheme
3. Mission Parivar Vikas

How many of the above are specifically aimed at reducing the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in India?

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

Answer c) All three

Explanation

Jansankhya Sthirtha Kosh (JSK), an autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, implemented the following schemes:

- Prerna Scheme (for delaying marriage, childbirth and spacing) - it encourages delaying marriage, first childbirth, and proper spacing between children, which helps lower fertility rates.

- Santushti Scheme (Public Private Partnership for sterilization services)- Supports sterilization services through Public-

Private Partnership, directly promoting permanent family planning.

- National Helpline (for information on family planning).

Mission Parivar Vikas – Specifically launched in high-fertility districts (TFR 3+) to improve access to contraception and reduce TFR toward replacement level

20. With reference to Indian economy, consider the following statements regarding the 'e-rupee' recently in the news:

1. It is a digital equivalent of physical currency that can be transferred electronically without the necessity of banks.
2. The e-rupee can enhance the security of transactions through the use of blockchain-based technology.
3. It is considered as a fiat currency.

Which of the statement/s given above is/are correct?

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

Answer d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched the e-rupee also known as Central Bank Digital

Currency (CBDC), a digital rupee or e-rupee for the common man and woman. It is a legal tender issued by the RBI in digital form and the same as the fiat currency.

The e-rupee is a digital form of the Indian rupee, which can be transferred electronically, and it does not necessarily require traditional banks for transactions. However, it is important to note that the e-rupee would still be regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. e-rupee does not need bank accounts for transactions and people can transfer e-rupee electronically from one holder to another.

While blockchain technology can enhance security and transparency in transactions, it does not completely eliminate instances of financial cyber fraud. The e-rupee can make transactions more secure given it is built on blockchain technology. Therefore even with the introduction of e-rupee, the problem of financial cyber frauds may prevail.

The e rupee is a fiat currency. Fiat currency is government-issued money not backed by physical commodities like gold or silver. Its value is derived from government decree, trust in the issuing authority, and supply-demand, rather than intrinsic value.

21. Consider the following states:

- 1.Gujarat
- 2.Rajasthan
- 3.Delhi
- 4.Punjab
- 5.Madhya Pradesh

The Aravalli Range passes through which of the above states?

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

Answer a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

The Aravalli Range passes through the following three states and one union territory in northwestern India

- Rajasthan: Where the range is most prominent and extensive
- Haryana: Particularly through the southern districts like Gurgaon and Faridabad.
- Gujarat: Where the range terminates near Ahmedabad.
- Delhi (UT): Where it appears as the "Delhi Ridge".

The range extends approximately 670–800 km in a south-west to north-east orientation, starting from Delhi and ending in Gujarat

22. With reference to the Cripps Mission, consider the following statements regarding how it differed from earlier constitutional proposals under British rule:

1. For the first time, the British government explicitly declared its intention to establish a responsible government in India.
2. It recognised Pakistan as a separate nation.
3. It formally recognized the sole right of Indians to frame their own Constitution.
4. It offered complete independence to India in return for support during the Second World War.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer b) 3 only

Explanation

The British did not for the first time declare the intention to establish a responsible government in India. Earlier proposals like the August Offer (1940) and Government of India Act, 1935 had already indicated moves toward responsible governance, though limited.

The Cripps Mission made no mention of Pakistan or recognition of a separate nation. The idea of Pakistan was still under

political negotiation and was not part of this proposal.

The mission proposed that after the end of World War II, an Indian Constituent Assembly would be formed, consisting mainly of elected Indian members, to frame the Constitution of India. This effectively gave Indians the primary role in constitution-making.

The proposal did not offer complete independence immediately or in exchange for wartime support. It only promised dominion status after the war, and even that was conditional.

23. Consider the following statements

Statement I: Food Processing Sector is included in the list of the Sunrise Sectors in India.

Statement II: Sunrise Sector refers to a rapidly growing industry that is in its early stages but holds significant potential for future expansion and innovation.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

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

Explanation

The Food Processing Sector is officially recognized as a "sunrise sector" in India due to its potential for high growth and its role in bridging agriculture and industry.

This is the standard definition of a Sunrise Sector. It refers to an industry that is in its infancy but is expected to grow rapidly and become a significant part of the economy in the future.

24. The famous male figurine known as 'Priest King', found at Mohenjo-daro, is made of

- (a) Carnelian
- (b) Clay
- (c) Bronze
- (d) Steatite

Answer d) Steatite

Explanation

The Priest-King is a masterpiece of Indus Valley craftsmanship, specifically carved from steatite and measuring about 17.5 cm in height. A few notable details about its artistry include: He wears a shawl draped over the left

shoulder, decorated with a distinct trefoil (three-lobed) pattern, which likely held religious or royal significance.

25. Consider the following statements :

I. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

II. The Rajya Sabha has no power to reject a Money Bill but can suggest amendment(s).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer (b) II Only

Explanation

A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, and that too only on the recommendation of the President (Article 110 of the Constitution).

The Rajya Sabha can Only make recommendations within 14 days, Cannot amend or reject the bill. Lok Sabha may accept or reject those recommendations

26. With reference to Financial matters of the Union Government, consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution mandates the President to lay before both Houses of Parliament a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India.

2. The Salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament (MPs) are subject to vote by the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

Under Article 112 of the Constitution of India, the Annual Financial Statement (Budget) is caused to be laid before Parliament by the President, but it is presented in Parliament by the Union Finance Minister. The President does not jointly present it. Hence Statement 1 is correct

Article 112 provides for the laying of the Annual Financial Statement before both Houses of Parliament.

Salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament are charged from the Consolidated Fund only after being determined by

Parliament through legislation, and hence are subject to parliamentary vote and approval. Hence Statement 2 is correct

27. With reference to the constitutional position of local governments in India prior to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments (1992), consider the following statements:

1. Matters relating to local government were under the exclusive legislative control of the respective State governments.

2. Although mentioned explicitly in the Constitution, it was not enforceable in a court of law.

3. Provisions relating to local governments were included in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Prior to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments in 1992, State governments held exclusive control over local government matters. However, following the constitutional amendments, the States were required to

revise their local government laws to align them with the amended Constitution. They were granted a one-year period to make the required adjustments in their state laws in accordance with these amendments.

The local government provisions were explicitly mentioned in the Part IV of the Constitution related to Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP). However they were not legally enforceable in the court of law prior to the 73rd and 74th Amendments in 1992..

Local governments were not included in the Fourth Schedule, which pertains to nominations to the Rajya Sabha. Instead, certain local government positions and representatives were nominated to the Legislative Councils of the States (Article 171), not the Rajya Sabha.

28. Which gas is the most significant ozone-depleting substance today and is not controlled under the Montreal Protocol?

- (a) Nitrous oxide (N_2O)
- (b) Methane (CH_4)
- (c) Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC)
- (d) Chlorofluorocarbon-12 (CFC-12)

Answer a) Nitrous oxide (N_2O)

Explanation

Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is currently the most significant ozone-depleting substance emitted by human activities. It is not regulated under

the Montreal Protocol (which mainly targets CFCs, HCFCs, halons, etc.). It is controlled under climate agreements like the Kyoto Protocol, not ozone treaties.

29. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Increased dissolution of atmospheric carbon dioxide in oceans enhances the availability of Bicarbonate.

Statement II: Increased dissolution of atmospheric carbon dioxide in oceans promotes the coral reef formation

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

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (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 not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct but Statement II is correct

Answer c) Statement I is correct but Statement II is not correct

Explanation

Increased carbon dioxide in oceans leads to ocean acidification, which reduces the availability of carbonate ions needed for coral skeleton formation. This harms coral reefs, rather than improving their formation. Hence

statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is incorrect

Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere dissolves in ocean water, similar to how gas dissolves in a soda drink. This is a well-known physical process

30. Consider the following description :

- 1.The annual average rainfall varies from 80 to 160 cm.
- 2.The dry and wet seasons are most distinct
- 3.The diurnal range of temperature is high.

What is this type of climate?

- (a) The Equatorial climate
- (b) The Humid subtropical climate
- (c) The Mediterranean climate
- (d) The Savanna Climate

Answer d) The Savanna Climate

Explanation

The Savanna Climate is characterized by:

Annual rainfall between 80 and 160 cm

Distinct wet and dry seasons

High diurnal (day-night) temperature range

Savanna Climate is typically found in regions of tropical grasslands, such as parts of Africa, Brazil and northern Australia.

31. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Namdapha flying squirrel is classified as a critically endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Statement II: Its extensive flying capacity made it vulnerable to accidental risk with modern infrastructure.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (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 c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect

Explanation

The Namdapha flying squirrel is indeed classified as a Critically Endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is one of the rarest mammals in India and is known from the Namdapha region of Arunachal Pradesh.

The Namdapha flying squirrel (*Biswamoyopterus biswasi*) is a glider, not a

true flier. It uses a skin membrane (patagium) stretched between its limbs to glide from tree to tree. The major threats to the Namdapha flying squirrel are habitat loss, deforestation, and limited population size, not accidental risks from modern infrastructure due to extensive flying capacity. Flying squirrels glide between trees rather than undertake long-distance powered flight. Hence Statement II is incorrect.

32. Consider the following statements regarding Capitals used in production activities:

1. Working capital is generally considered a tangible asset used in day-to-day operations.
2. Unlike fixed capital, working capital usually does not appreciate over time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

Working capital refers to short-term assets such as raw materials, cash, fuel, and inventories required for the daily functioning of production. These are generally tangible and are used up in the production cycle.

Fixed capital includes long-term assets such as machinery, buildings, and tools that are used repeatedly over time.

Fixed capital may appreciate in value in some cases (such as land or buildings), whereas working capital is usually consumed or converted into finished goods and therefore does not appreciate over time.

33. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements:

1. The Companies Act, 2013 mandates both certain listed and unlisted organisations to spend at least 2 per cent of their average net profit of the last three years on CSR activities.
2. Protection of national heritage, art, and culture is included among the activities eligible for spending CSR funds.
3. Any unspent CSR amount must be transferred directly to the National Investment Fund at the end of the financial year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013,

both listed and unlisted companies with a net worth of ₹500 crore or more, or turnover of ₹1,000 crore or more, or net profit of ₹5 crore or more must spend at least 2% of their average net profits of the last three years on CSR activities. Hence Statement 1 is correct
Schedule VII of the Act specifically includes the protection of national heritage, art, and culture as an approved CSR activity. Hence Statement 2 is correct

Unspent CSR amounts are not transferred to the National Investment Fund. They must first be transferred within 30 days to a special "Unspent CSR Account" in a scheduled bank and should be spent within the next three financial years. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect

34. Which of the following gases is used as an anaesthetic and pain reliever in medical procedures?

- (a) Nitric oxide
- (b) Nitrous oxide
- (c) Nitrogen dioxide
- (d) Nitrogen pentoxide

Answer b) Nitrous oxide

Explanation

Nitrous oxide, commonly known as "laughing gas," acts as a weak anesthetic, analgesic (pain reliever), and anxiolytic (anti-anxiety agent) in the human body by inhibiting. The N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor receptors and activating GABA-A receptors in the central nervous system.

35. Consider the following Air Missiles:

- 1.S-400 Triumph
- 2.Barak 8
- 3.Akash
- 4.BrahMos

How many of the above missiles are indigenously developed by India?

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

Answer a) Only One

Explanation

Based on the current development status of these air missile systems:

Akash: This is India's first indigenously developed surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, created by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

S-400 Triumph: This is a long-range air defence system developed by Russia. India procures these systems through a multi-billion dollar contract with the Russian government.

Barak 8: This system was jointly developed by India (DRDO) and Israel (Israel Aerospace Industries). While it is a key part of India's arsenal, it is classified as a collaborative venture rather than a purely indigenous Indian development.

BrahMos: This is a supersonic cruise missile developed through a joint venture between

India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. Although it has significant indigenous content (over 70% in recent versions), it remains a joint development.

36. Consider the following financial instruments in India:

1. Tri-Party Repo (TREPS)
2. Certificates of Deposit (CD)
3. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)

How many of the above are included in money markets?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Tri-Party Repo (TREPS) is a short-term money market instrument used for borrowing/lending funds against government securities. Operates under the supervision of Reserve Bank of India

Certificates of Deposit (CD) Issued by banks and financial institutions. Short-term instrument (typically 7 days to 1 year). Another classic money market instrument

Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) are investment funds traded on stock exchanges.

They track indices, commodities, etc. These belong to the capital market, not the money market.

37. In the context of Colonial India, which of the following statements correctly describes the meaning of 'Cartaz System'?

- (a) A system by which the Portuguese tried to establish their monopoly over the Indian Ocean.
- (b) A cartel system of Portuguese and Arab merchants to determine the price of traded commodities.
- (c) A system in which European trading companies agreed to not interfere in others trade activities.
- (d) A system introduced by the Mughal empire to prevent the military threat posed by the Portuguese on the Indian Ocean.

Answer a) A system by which the Portuguese tried to establish their monopoly over the Indian Ocean.

Explanation

The Cartaz System was a naval permit system introduced by the Portuguese in the early sixteenth century to establish and maintain their monopoly over trade in the Indian Ocean. Under this system, all merchant ships sailing in the region were required to obtain a cartaz (sea-pass) from the Portuguese authorities. Ships without valid cartaz were liable to seizure or attack by the Portuguese navy.

The first cartazes were issued in 1502 after Vasco da Gama established Portuguese influence along the Malabar Coast. Through this system, the Portuguese regulated maritime trade by controlling the movement, destination, and number of ships engaged in commerce.

Initially, some local rulers allied with the Portuguese were permitted to issue cartazes in return for a fee. However, the Portuguese later withdrew this privilege to tighten their direct control over Indian Ocean trade routes.

38. In 1947, B. R. Ambedkar proposed that the Constitution of India should incorporate the principle of "State Socialism." In this context, which of the following best describes the idea of State Socialism?

- (a) Elimination of private ownership in key industries and treating agriculture as a state-controlled industry.
- (b) Need-based production instead of large-scale consumerism and excessive industrial growth.
- (c) Special emphasis on village economy by treating agriculture as community based activity.
- (d) Transfer of all political and economic powers to the State.

Answer a) Elimination of private ownership in key industries and treating

agriculture as a state-controlled industry.

Explanation

B. R. Ambedkar, in his 1947 work States and Minorities, proposed the idea of "State Socialism" as a constitutional safeguard for economic justice.

His model included State ownership and control of key industries, Nationalisation of agriculture (organized and collectively managed by the State), Public ownership of basic services like insurance and banking and Ensuring economic equality as a constitutional objective

39. With reference to the Directorate of Enforcement, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
2. It functions under the Department of Revenue in the Union Ministry of Finance.
3. It is empowered to arrest persons under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

The Directorate of Enforcement is not a statutory body created under FEMA. It is a specialised law enforcement agency functioning under the Government of India. However, it is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999, which regulates foreign exchange transactions and dealings involving foreign assets.

The Enforcement Directorate functions under the Department of Revenue in the Union Ministry of Finance. Its primary role is to enforce economic laws related to foreign exchange violations, money laundering, and other financial crimes.

The ED has the power to investigate offences and arrest individuals under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

40. Who among the following was called by Gandhiji as his Rajya Guru in May, 1915?

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (c) G.G. Agarkar
- (d) Dadabhai Naoroji

Answer b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Explanation

Gandhiji regarded Gopal Krishna Gokhale as

his political mentor and referred to him as his "Rajya Guru" (Political Guru). After Gandhiji returned to India from South Africa in January 1915, Gokhale advised him to spend at least one year traveling across India to observe the socio-political conditions before taking an active role in politics.

41. Consider the following statements about the Sargasso Sea:

1. It is the only sea without a land boundary.
2. The Sargasso Sea records the lowest salinity in the Atlantic Ocean.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

The Sargasso Sea is unique because it is the only sea on Earth that does not have a land boundary. While other seas are at least partially defined by coastlines, the Sargasso Sea is defined entirely by four ocean currents: the Gulf Stream (west), the North Atlantic Current (north), the Canary Current (east), and the North Atlantic Equatorial Current (south). On the contrary, the Sargasso Sea records some of the highest salinity levels in the

Atlantic Ocean. This high salinity (approximately 37 parts per thousand) is caused by its location in a subtropical high-pressure zone where high evaporation rates occur alongside minimal freshwater influx from rivers or precipitation

42. As per Article 324 of the Constitution of India, the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as

- (a) a Judge of the Supreme Court
- (b) a Judge of a High Court
- (c) the Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- (d) the Governor of a State

Answer a) a Judge of the Supreme Court

Explanation

According to Article 324(5) of the Constitution of India, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is provided with security of tenure to ensure the independence of the Election Commission. The article specifically states: The CEC shall not be removed from office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court. This means the removal requires a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament with a special majority (a majority of the total membership of that House and a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting). The grounds for removal are limited to proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

43. With reference to Writ jurisdiction of the Indian Judiciary, consider the following pairs:

Writs	Purpose
1. Mandamus	To mandate a lower court or tribunals to perform their duties
2. Quo Warranto	To inquire into the legality of a person holding a public office
3. Certiorari	To transfer a case from a lower court to a higher court for review
4. Prohibition	To mandate a public official to refrain from an unlawful act

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer c) Only three

Explanation

Mandamus literally means “we command.” It is issued by a court to a public authority, tribunal, lower court, or government body directing it to perform a public duty that it has failed or refused to perform. It cannot be

issued against private individuals or private bodies. Hence Pair 1 is correct

Quo Warranto means "by what authority." It is issued to examine the legality of a person's claim to a public office. The office must be a substantive public office created by the Constitution or a statute. It cannot be issued for private or purely ministerial offices. Hence Pair 2 is correct

Certiorari is issued by a higher court to review the legality of decisions or proceedings of a lower court, tribunal, or quasi-judicial authority. It is generally used to correct jurisdictional errors. It can also be issued against administrative authorities affecting individual rights, but not against legislative bodies or private persons. Hence Pair 3 is correct

Prohibition means "to forbid." It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or quasi-judicial tribunal to prevent it from exceeding its jurisdiction. It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, or private individuals. Hence Pair 4 is incorrect

44. Consider the following organizations

1. Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
2. Asia-Pacific (APEC) Economic Cooperation
3. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

In how many of the above multilateral organizations/forums is India a member?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic, and security organization established in 2001.

Founding Members - China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan. India became a full member in 2017.

APEC is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to promote free trade, economic cooperation and investment among Pacific Rim economies. APEC has 21 member economies including the United States, China, Japan, Australia and Canada. India is not yet a member.

The IAEA was established in 1957 under the United Nations system. The main objective is to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy, and prevent military use of nuclear technology.

Nuclear safety and safeguards

India is an active member and cooperates with the IAEA in civilian nuclear energy, nuclear safety and safeguards agreements.

45. At which one among the following places did the British East India Company found its factory in the year 1611?

- (a) Madras
- (b) Masulipatam
- (c) Surat
- (d) Balasore

Answer b) Masulipatam

Explanation

The British East India Company established its first factory in South India at Masulipatam (also known as Machilipatnam) in 1611. This was a strategic move to access the Coromandel Coast for trading textiles and spices. They secured permission from Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the Sultan of Golconda.

46. Which of the following are considered the liability of the Reserve Bank of India?

1. Buying Government bonds.
2. Deposits of Government banks.
3. Deposits of Private Banks
4. Currency in circulation.
5. Gold held by the RBI in foreign reserves outside India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer b) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation

Currency in Circulation (4): This is the biggest liability for the RBI. Every currency note is a "promissory note." When the Governor signs the note saying "*I promise to pay the bearer...*", the RBI is taking the responsibility to provide that much value to the holder

Deposits of Government Banks (2) & Private Banks (3): All commercial banks must keep a certain amount of their money with the RBI (known as the **Cash Reserve Ratio** or CRR). Since this money belongs to the banks and the RBI is just "holding" it, the RBI owes it back to them. Hence, it is a liability.

Buying Government Bonds (1): When the RBI buys a bond, it is essentially lending money to the Government. The Government owes the RBI interest and the principal amount. Since it is a "receivable" for the RBI, it is an **Asset**.

Gold held by the RBI (5): Gold is a precious metal that the RBI owns as part of its reserves to back the Indian Rupee. Anything the RBI owns directly—like Gold or Foreign Currency (Dollars/Euros)—is an **Asset**.

47. Consider the following statements regarding 'Grey Hydrogen':

1. Grey hydrogen is generated by utilizing clean energy from surplus renewable sources.
2. It is commonly used in the chemical industry to make fertilizers.
3. It is a clean-burning fuel source that produces only water as its byproduct.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Green hydrogen, also known as "clean hydrogen," is generated by utilizing clean energy from surplus renewable sources like solar or wind power to conduct electrolysis splitting water into two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. Conversely, Grey hydrogen originates from natural gas, or methane, through steam methane reforming without capturing the greenhouse gases emitted during the process. Grey hydrogen is similar to blue hydrogen but lacks carbon capture and storage. Hence statement 1 is incorrect

The predominant type of hydrogen produced presently is grey hydrogen. It is cost-effective and widely employed in the chemical sector for fertilizer production and oil refining. Hence statement 2 is correct

Hydrogen represents the simplest and smallest element on the periodic table. Regardless of its production method, it exclusively emits water as a byproduct upon combustion, so is the Grey hydrogen upon its combustion. Hence statement 3 is correct

48. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) becoming a cause of concern. In this consider the following statements:

1. Non-stick cookware
2. Food packaging
3. Textiles
4. Firefighting foams
5. Aerospace and automotive industries

How many of the above are known sources of PFAS contamination?

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

Answer d) All five

Explanation

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

(PFAS) are a group of synthetic “forever chemicals” widely used for their water-, grease-, and heat-resistant properties.

All the listed sources are associated with PFAS:

- Non-stick cookware (e.g., Teflon coatings)
- Food packaging (grease-resistant papers, fast-food wrappers)
- Textiles (waterproof/stain-resistant fabrics)
- Firefighting foams
- Aerospace and automotive industries (used in coatings, lubricants, and insulation materials)

49. Which of the following best describes the term ‘Industrial Symbiosis’ recently seen in the news?

- (a) A model where industries maximize profit through economies of scale and specialization.
- (b) A practice where one industry's waste is used as a resource by another industry.
- (c) A framework where industries operate independently to reduce competition and environmental footprint.
- (d) A government scheme for promoting joint ventures between heavy industries and start-ups.

Answer b) A practice where one industry's waste is used as a resource by another industry.

Explanation

Industrial symbiosis is the sharing of a by-product or service that would otherwise

have been disposed of or underused in order to minimise waste. Industrial symbiosis and circular economy are interrelated concepts. A circular economy is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources.

50. Towards 1000 strategy, recently seen in news is related to:

- (a) mobilising 1000 billion USD to Green Climate Fund by the end of 21st century.
- (b) revamping at least 1000 hectares of degraded land in the Sahel region of Africa, by 2050.
- (c) mobilising 1000 billion USD to create 1000 GW of solar energy capacity by 2030.
- (d) creating at least 1000 women led environment organisations across the world to mainstream gender issues in climate change.

Answer c) mobilising 1000 billion USD to create 1000 GW of solar energy capacity by 2030.

Explanation

The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** is guided by its ‘Towards 1000’ strategy which aims to mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity. This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of CO₂ every year.

51. With reference to Indian economy, consider the following financial institutions:

1. Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)
2. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
3. Small Finance Banks (SFBs)
4. Mutual Funds
5. Insurance Companies

How many of the above institutions are required to maintain a minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) and are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ?

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

Answer b) Only three

Explanation

As of 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) requires **commercial banks to maintain a minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) of 9%**, with no banks expected to fall short of this, even under adverse scenarios. Key minimum capital requirements include ₹500 crore for new universal banks and ₹200 crore for small finance banks.

Urban Co-operative Banks are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and are required to maintain prescribed Capital

Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) norms to ensure financial stability.

Non-Banking Financial Companies are regulated by RBI under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and must maintain minimum CRAR as per prudential guidelines issued by the central bank.

Similarly, Small Finance Banks are licensed and supervised by RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and are subject to Basel-based capital adequacy requirements prescribed by RBI.

Mutual Funds and Insurance Companies are required to maintain minimum capital as per SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) respectively.

52. Consider the following statements

Statement I: Recently, India became the largest holder of US treasury securities overtaking China.

Statement II: The United States' treasury securities are exempt from state and local taxes in the United States.

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

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

(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 not correct

(d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

Answer d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

Explanation

India (15th largest holder) has not become the largest holder of US Treasury securities.

Traditionally, Japan holds the top position, followed by China. India has increased its holdings in recent years, but it has not overtaken both to become number one.

US Treasury securities are indeed exempt from state and local taxes in the United States (though they are subject to federal taxes). This is a well-known feature that makes them attractive to investors. While exempt at state/local levels, this income is fully taxable at the federal level.

53. With reference to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), consider the following statements:

1. N. M. Joshi played an instrumental role in the formation of AITUC in 1920.

2. Lala Lajpat Rai was the first President of AITUC.

3. The Trade Disputes Act, 1929, was enacted by the British government to support trade union activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was established in 1920. N. M. Joshi played an instrumental role in mobilising support for its formation.

Lala Lajpat Rai was the first President of AITUC, while Dewan Chaman Lal served as General Secretary. In his presidential address, Lajpat Rai emphasized: "Organise, Agitate, Educate"

The Trade Disputes Act was not enacted to pacify trade unions, but to suppress labour movements.

- It imposed restrictions such as:
- Mandatory notice before strikes
- Ban on strikes in public utility services

54. During the period 100 BCE - 200 CE, valuable evidence of India's maritime trade links has been identified from which of the following sites on the Coromandel Coast?

- (a) Arikamedu
- (b) Tamralipti
- (c) Bharukachcha
- (d) Muchiri

Answer a) Arikamedu

Explanation

Arikamedu is the correct choice because it is a renowned archaeological site located near modern-day Puducherry on the Coromandel Coast. Excavations have yielded extensive evidence of maritime trade with the Roman Empire between roughly 2nd century BCE and 2nd century CE, including Roman amphorae, Arretine ware pottery, glass beads, and Roman coins

55. With reference to the mandatory provisions of the 106th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA), 2023, consider the following statements:

1. Reservation of one third of seats to women in Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha.
2. Reservation of one fifth of seats to women in the Council of Ministers.
3. Rotation of reserved seats for women in Lok Sabha after every general election.

4. One-third of the seats reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are reserved for women.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer d) None

Explanation

The Act does not provide reservation for women in the Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Councils. Its provisions are limited to the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Act does not reserve positions in the Council of Ministers. It deals only with reservation of seats in legislatures.

Reserved seats for women are to rotate after each delimitation exercise, not after every election. The reservation will come into effect only after the publication of the first Census conducted after the enactment of the law and the subsequent delimitation exercise. The reservation is intended to operate for 15 years, unless extended by Parliament.

Within the seats reserved for women, one-third of the seats already reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also be reserved for SC/ST women. But there is no reservation provision for OBCs.

56. Consider the following statements regarding the amendment procedure under Article 368 of the Constitution of India:

1. Constitutional amendment bills can be introduced in either House of the Parliament.
2. Constitutional amendment bills should be passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting.
3. All Constitutional amendment bills must be ratified by the Legislature of not less than two-third of the States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

An amendment bill can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha (and not in state legislatures).

“Constitutional amendment bills should be passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.” This is called the special majority requirement under Article 368: Majority of total membership of the House & 2/3rd of members present and voting

Only certain types of amendments require ratification by states (e.g., federal structure, judiciary, distribution of powers, etc.). Even then, it is not two-third of states, but at least half of the state legislatures.

57. Consider the following statements regarding Mineral resources in India:

1. Odisha produces more than half of the total Iron Ore.
2. Jharkhand is the largest producer of Copper in India.
3. Karnataka is the largest producer of Gold in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (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

Odisha is the largest producer of iron ore in India. The state has rich deposits in districts such as Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Mayurbhanj. India's major iron ore belt lies in the eastern region, especially Odisha and nearby states. Due to vast hematite reserves and large-scale mining operations, Odisha contributes more than 50% of India's total iron ore production.

The largest producer of copper in India is Rajasthan, not Jharkhand. Rajasthan has the famous Khetri Copper Belt (Jhunjhunu district)

Karnataka is the leading gold-producing state in India. Important Gold Fields: Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) & Hutti Gold Mines

58. With reference to the pardoning powers of the President of India and the Governors of States, consider the following statements:

1. The President can grant pardon in cases involving the death sentence, whereas a Governor cannot pardon a death sentence.

2. The President's power extends to offences under both Union and State laws, whereas the Governor's power is confined to offences against state laws.

3. The President and Governor exercise pardoning powers on the aid and advice of their respective Councils of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

The pardoning power of the President of India is broader than that of a Governor. The President can grant pardons for offences under Union laws, court-martial cases, and death sentences, whereas the Governor's power is limited to offences under State laws and does not extend to military court cases.

Further, while the President can completely pardon a death sentence, the Governor can only suspend, remit, or commute it. The Governor is unable to pardon the death sentence. Even if a state law calls for the death penalty, the President, not the governor, has the authority to grant a pardon.

Both exercise this power on the advice of their respective Councils of Ministers. The President may once return the advice for reconsideration, while no such explicit provision exists for the Governor. Their decisions are also subject to limited judicial review.

59. Which one of the following is incorrect regarding the legislative power of Parliament?

- (a) It can make laws on matters related to enlargement of jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- (b) It can make laws on the state list under certain circumstances.
- (c) Its approval is mandatory for the appropriation of money from the Public Accounts of India.
- (d) It can amend any of the provisions related to Fundamental rights.

Answer c) Its approval is mandatory for the appropriation of money from the Public Accounts of India.

Explanation

The Public Account of India was constituted by Article 266(2) of the Indian Constitution and any expenditure incurred from the account is the sole decision of the executives, thus Parliament cannot authorise expenditure from this account. In contrast Parliament's approval is mandatory to appropriate money from the Consolidated Fund of India.

60. Which of the following statements with reference to National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) is/are correct?

- 1. It was originally constituted in the year 2006.

2. Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the Institute has been entrusted to assist in national level policy formulation with reference to Disaster Management.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer b) 2 only

Explanation

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was constituted under the Disaster Management Act and became operational in 2006.

It functions as the premier institute for disaster management training, capacity building, research and documentation.

Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, NIDM is entrusted with training and capacity building, research and documentation, development of national-level disaster management strategies and policies and assistance in policy formulation and planning.

61. Consider the following statements:

- 1. More than 90% of the total mass of the atmosphere is confined within about 25 km from the Earth's surface.

2. Almost all the water vapour and dust particles are present in the Troposphere.

3. Unlike the troposphere, the stratosphere is characterized predominantly by horizontal movement of air.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation

The density of the atmosphere decreases with altitude. Approximately 97% of the total atmospheric mass is concentrated within the first 25 km, and nearly 50% lies within about 5.5 km from the Earth's surface. Hence statement 1 is incorrect

The troposphere contains almost all water vapour, dust, and aerosols, which is why weather phenomena occur here. Hence statement 2 is correct

The stratosphere is relatively stable and shows horizontal (lateral) air movement, unlike the troposphere where vertical convection currents dominate. Hence statement 3 is correct

62. Consider the following countries:

- 1. Russia
- 2. Finland
- 3. Spain
- 4. Germany

How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

The countries that have a border with the North Sea are: United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and France

These countries lie along the coasts of the North Sea in Northern and Western Europe.

63. Consider the following pairs:

Funds	Associated Organizations
1. Loss and Damage Fund	Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Green Climate Fund (GCF)	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

3. Cali Fund for Nature	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
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How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

The Loss and Damage Fund is associated with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was operationalized during COP28 in Dubai.

The Green Climate Fund was established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change during COP16 in Cancún.

The Cali Fund for Nature is linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity not UNFCCC. It emerged from biodiversity discussions at CBD COP16 in Cali.

64. India has approved twenty one greenfield airport projects to enhance connectivity. In this context which of the following correctly describes the meaning of the term “Greenfield projects”?

- (a) Projects developed by upgrading existing infrastructure with minimal environmental impacts.
- (b) Projects developed on previously undeveloped land without prior infrastructure.
- (c) Projects with heavy focus on renewable energy infrastructure.
- (d) Projects involving redevelopment of existing or contaminated sites.

Answer b) Projects developed on previously undeveloped land without prior infrastructure.

Explanation

Greenfield projects **involve building new infrastructure from scratch on unused land**, offering design freedom but higher initial investment.

Brownfield projects involve upgrading, repairing, or repurposing existing facilities, offering faster market entry and lower initial costs.

65. Consider the following statements regarding Cosmic rays:

1. Distant black holes are one of the sources of cosmic rays.

2. Cosmic rays travel in a straight line as they are charged particles.

3. Cosmic rays can cause clouds to form in the upper atmosphere.

4. Cosmic rays travel nearly the speed of light.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer c) Only three

Explanation

Cosmic rays originate from multiple high-energy astrophysical sources such as supernova explosions, active galactic nuclei, pulsars, and sometimes black holes. Distant black holes are not considered the sole or main source.

Since cosmic rays are mostly charged particles (such as protons and atomic nuclei), their paths are deflected by magnetic fields in space. Hence, they do not usually travel in straight lines.

Cosmic rays ionize atmospheric particles, which may help in the formation of cloud condensation nuclei, thereby influencing cloud formation.

Cosmic rays travel at speeds close to the speed

of light. They move extremely fast, nearly the speed of light, but when they hit the Earth they are generally blocked by our atmosphere and made harmless to humans.

66. Consider the following schemes of the Government of India:

1. The Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
2. The Pradhan Mantri Kusth Yojana
3. The National Green Hydrogen Mission
4. GOBARdhan scheme
5. SHAKTI scheme

How many of the above can increase the production of Distributed Energy Resources (DER)?

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

Answer c) Only four

Explanation

Distributed Energy Resources (DER) refer to small-scale, decentralized energy generation or storage systems located close to the point of consumption, such as rooftop solar, solar pumps, biogas plants, and decentralized renewable energy systems.

Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana promotes rooftop solar installations for

households. This directly supports decentralized electricity generation.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan encourages decentralized solar pumps, small solar power plants and distributed renewable generation in rural areas. Thus, it promotes DER.

National Green Hydrogen Mission promotes decentralized green hydrogen production using renewable energy, local clean energy ecosystems and distributed energy integration. Hence, it can support DER expansion.

GOBARdhan Scheme supports biogas plants, compressed biogas production and waste-to-energy systems at local/community levels. These are decentralized energy resources.

SHAKTI Scheme relates to allocation of coal linkages to thermal power plants. It supports centralized fossil-fuel-based electricity generation, not distributed energy resources.

67. With reference to Indian economy, consider the following statements regarding "Consortium Finance":

1. It spreads the risk of borrower default across multiple lenders.

2. It is primarily used by early-stage investors such as angel investors to provide debt funding to startups.

3. There is no effective legal framework for resolution of stressed assets in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

Consortium Financing in India refers to a system where multiple banks jointly lend to a single borrower, usually for large infrastructure or corporate projects. This helps in spreading the risk of default among lenders.

India does have a structured framework for bad loan resolution such as Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Inter-Creditor Agreement (ICA) mechanism under RBI. These have actually strengthened, not weakened, consortium lending.

Consortium financing is used by banks and financial institutions, not angel investors. Angel investors typically provide equity funding, not joint debt financing.

68. In the context of colonial India, after the announcement of the Communal Award (1932) granting separate electorates to the Depressed Classes, Mahatma Gandhi undertook a fast unto death in Yerwada Jail. During the negotiations that led to the Poona Pact, which of the following pair of leaders played a major role in persuading Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and facilitating a compromise ?

- (a) Madan Mohan Malaviya and M. C. Rajah
- (b) Acharya Narendra Dev and Jayaprakash Narayan
- (c) Vallabhbhai Patel and Rajendra Prasad
- (d) Annie Besant and Jawaharlal Nehru

Answer a) Madan Mohan Malaviya and M. C. Rajah

Explanation

The Communal Award (1932) granted separate electorates to the Depressed Classes.

Mahatma Gandhi opposed this and began a fast unto death in Yerwada Jail. Negotiations took place between B. R. Ambedkar and caste Hindu leaders. Madan Mohan Malaviya and M. C. Rajah played an important role in facilitating the compromise that led to the Poona Pact (1932). It is also to be noted here that Malaviya signed the Poona Pact on behalf of Mahatma Gandhi and other Hindus.

69. With reference to the Delimitation Commission of India, consider the following persons:

1. A retired Judge of the Supreme Court
2. The Chief Election Commissioner of India
3. The State Election Commissioners of the concerned States
4. The Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
5. The Union Home Minister

Which of the persons given above are members of the Delimitation Commission?

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

Answer c) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

The Delimitation Commission of India is generally composed of:

- A retired Judge of the Supreme Court as the Chairperson,
- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, and
- The respective State Election Commissioners of the concerned States as ex officio members.
- Associate Members: Selected MPs/MLAs (consultative only, no voting power).

The Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Union Home Minister are not members of the Delimitation Commission.

70. Consider the following statements about the Gupta administrative system:

1.The Gupta kings assumed imperial titles such as Maharajadhiraja, Parama-bhattaraka and Parameshvara.

2.The Gupta kings also connected themselves with the Gods through epithets such as Parama-daivata and Parama-bhagavata.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

The Gupta kings assumed imperial titles such as Maharajadhiraja, Parama-bhattaraka and Parameshvara.

“The Gupta kings also connected themselves with the Gods through epithets such as Parama-daivata and Parama-bhagavata.” Gupta rulers did adopt divine associations to strengthen legitimacy. Parama-bhagavata is especially well-attested, reflecting devotion to Vishnu (Vaishnavism), which many Gupta rulers followed. Such religious epithets were indeed used to project divine favor and legitimacy.

71. Consider the following pairs

Rescue Operations carried out by the Government of India	Countries
1.Operation Kaveri	Haiti
2.Operation Indravati	Israel
3.Operation Ajay	Ukraine
4.Operation Ganga	Sudan

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Answer d) None

Explanation

Operation Kaveri was launched in April 2023 to evacuate Indian citizens from Sudan during the conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces.

Operation Indravati was initiated in March 2024 to evacuate Indian nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic due to escalating gang violence.

Operation Ajay was launched in October 2023 to facilitate the return of Indian citizens from Israel following the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war.

Operation Ganga was the high-profile mission conducted in 2022 to rescue Indian nationals,

primarily students, from Ukraine after the Russian invasion

72. In the context of recent decision by BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation) to assign lead member country a specific area to drive regional integration consider the following pairs

Lead Country	Sector
1. India	Security
2. Bangladesh	Trade
3. Thailand	Connectivity

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Answer c) All three

Explanation

BIMSTEC - Sector-wise Lead Countries

India - Security

Bangladesh - Trade, Investment & Development

Thailand - Connectivity

Myanmar - Agriculture & Food Security

Sri Lanka- Climate Change

Bhutan - Environment & Disaster Management

Nepal - People-to-People Contact

73. Which one among the following international borders of India is the longest?

- (a) Indo - Nepal Border
- (b) India - Bhutan Border
- (c) Indo - Myanmar Border
- (d) India - Bangladesh Border

Answer d) India - Bangladesh Border

Explanation

The India-Bangladesh border is the longest international border of India, and one of the longest land borders in the world. It passes through five Indian states West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

74. With reference to the financial relations between the Union and the States in India, consider the following statements:

1. While the Union Government can borrow outside India, State Governments are constitutionally prohibited from borrowing abroad.

2. Normally, a State Government cannot raise any loan without the consent of the Union Government.

3. Loans granted by the Union Government to the States are charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

The constitution of India lays down certain provisions with respect to the borrowing powers of the centre and the states.

The constitution of India empowers the central government to borrow outside India upon the security of the consolidated fund of India. On the other hand, the constitution prohibits the state government from borrowing outside India. Hence Statement 1 is correct

Normally a state can raise a loan without the consent of the centre. It is mandatory for states to take central government's consent for raising any loan if the state owes any outstanding liabilities to the central government. Hence Statement 2 is incorrect

Loans granted by the Union to States may be paid out of the Consolidated Fund of India, but they are not classified as 'charged expenditure' on the CFI. Statement 3 is incorrect

75. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Temperature plays a significant role in the process of weathering.

Statement II: Unlike metals, rocks are immune to thermal weathering.

Statement III: High diurnal temperature fluctuation helps in weathering.

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

Explanation

Statement I: Temperature plays a significant role in the process of weathering. (TRUE)

Temperature is a primary driver of **physical (mechanical) weathering**. It causes expansion and contraction in rocks and also influences chemical reaction rates. High temperature ranges (like in deserts) lead to significant rock disintegration.

Statement II: Unlike metals, rocks are immune to thermal weathering. (FALSE)

This statement is completely wrong. Rocks are **not** immune. In fact, rocks are composed of various minerals, each with a different coefficient of expansion. When heated, some minerals expand more than others. This internal stress leads to:

- **Exfoliation:** The peeling of outer layers of rock (like an onion).

• **Granular Disintegration:** The rock breaking down into smaller grains.

Statement III: High diurnal temperature fluctuations cause mechanical stress through expansion and contraction, while freezing temperatures trigger frost wedging. Furthermore, higher temperatures exponentially increase the rate of chemical decomposition of minerals.

76. Consider the following plants:

1. Rice
2. Bamboo
3. Mustard
4. Cotton

How many of the above belong to the "Grass" family?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

Among the given plants, Rice and Bamboo belong to the Poaceae, commonly known as the grass family.

Rice is cereal grass. Bamboo is also a member of the grass family, though it appears woody.

However Mustard belongs to the Brassicaceae family and Cotton belongs to the Malvaceae family. Neither Mustard nor Cotton belongs to the Poaceae (grass family).

77. Consider the following pairs:

River	Dam	Drains in
1. Narmada	Omkareshwar dam	Arabian Sea
2. Subarnarekha	Chandil dam	Bay of Bengal
3. Siang	Icha dam	Arabian Sea

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

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

Answer b) Only two

Explanation

The Narmada is a west-flowing river. It empties into the Arabian Sea. Omkareshwar Dam is built on the Narmada River.

The Subarnarekha River drains into the Bay of Bengal. Chandil Dam is constructed on the Subarnarekha River.

The Siang River is part of the Brahmaputra system and ultimately drains into the Bay of Bengal, not the Arabian Sea. Icha Dam belongs to the Subarnarekha River project, not the Siang River.

78. Which of the following emerging technologies uses the subtle vibrations generated by breathing and heartbeats of the human body for secure, continuous, and automatic login authentication and is primarily designed for extended reality (XR) environments?

- (a) Vein Pattern Recognition
- (b) Vital ID
- (c) Virtual matrix
- (d) Biometric recognition

Answer b) Vital ID

Explanation

Vital ID is an emerging authentication technology that identifies users based on the subtle body vibrations produced by breathing, heartbeats, and other internal physiological movements. These vibrations are unique to each individual and can be continuously monitored for secure and automatic login authentication.

It is particularly useful in Extended Reality (XR) environments such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and mixed reality (MR), where traditional methods like passwords or fingerprint scans may be inconvenient.

Unlike conventional biometric systems such as retina scans or fingerprint recognition, Vital ID enables continuous authentication, ensuring that the authorized user remains verified

throughout the session without repeated manual login.

79. Consider the following pairs

Applications	Used for
1. UPI Lite	Designed for quick small-value digital payments without entering a UPI PIN every time
2. UPI 123PAY	A UPI payment system for feature phones
3. NUUP Services	Allows users to access banking services on mobile phones without internet by dialing *99#

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Answer c) All three

Explanation

UPI Lite is a simplified version of the Unified Payments Interface developed for making small-value digital payments quickly and conveniently. It allows users to carry out low-value transactions **without entering the UPI PIN every time**, thereby speeding up payments for daily expenses such as tea, groceries, parking fees, and local transport.

UPI 123PAY is another important initiative introduced by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to extend digital payment services to people using feature phones instead of smartphones. It enables users to make UPI transactions through methods such as IVR calls, missed calls, and sound-based systems without requiring internet connectivity.

Similarly, NUUP Services (National Unified USSD Platform) provide banking and payment facilities through the USSD-based service *99#, which works even without internet access. By dialing *99# from a registered mobile number, users can check account balances, transfer money, and access various banking services on basic mobile phones.

80. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: In India, National Technology Day is observed on 11th May.

Statement II: On this same date in 1975, India launched its first satellite, "Aryabhata."

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.

(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

(d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Answer c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.

Explanation

National Technology Day is celebrated in India annually on May 11 to honor the nation's technological advancements and scientific achievements.

It commemorates the successful **Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti) on May 11, 1998, and the first indigenous aircraft, Hansa-3, flight.** The day focuses on fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and indigenous solutions.

81. Consider the following pairs with reference to the Constitution of India :

Parts	Context
1. Part IX A	The Municipalities
2. Part IX B	The Cooperative Societies
3. Part X	Relations between the Union and States
4. Part XII	Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) All the four

Answer c) Three

Explanation

Part IX A — The Municipalities: This pair is correct. It was added by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

Part IX B — The Cooperative Societies: This pair is correct. It was added by the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011.

Part X — Relations between the Union and States: This pair is incorrect. Part X actually deals with The Scheduled and Tribal Areas. Part XI is the part that covers Relations between the Union and the States.

Part XII — Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits: This pair is correct. It covers Articles 264 to 300A.

82. Which one of the following is not covered under Article 21 (Protection of life and personal liberty) of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Right to livelihood
- (b) Right to reputation
- (c) Right to go abroad
- (d) Right to vote

Answer d) Right to vote

Explanation

Article 21 of the Constitution states:

“No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.”

Over time, the Supreme Court of India has expanded the meaning of “life” and “personal liberty” through judicial interpretation.

Rights Covered Under Article 21

1. Right to Livelihood - Recognized in *Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation*. The Court held that livelihood is an integral part of life, deprivation of livelihood affects the right to live with dignity.

2. Right to Reputation - The Supreme Court has held that: reputation is part of human dignity, dignity is protected under Article 21. Thus, protection of reputation is included within the right to life.

3. Right to Go Abroad - Recognized in: *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India*. The Court ruled that: personal liberty includes the freedom to travel abroad, such liberty cannot be restricted arbitrarily.

4. Right to Vote - The right to vote is not a Fundamental Right, it is a constitutional/statutory right. It is provided mainly under Representation of the People Acts, constitutional provisions relating to elections.

83. With reference to the Gram Sabha in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is the basic unit of local self-government in which every adult resident of the village is entitled to participate.

2. Apart from its deliberative role, the Gram Sabha may also monitor and audit certain developmental programmes and schemes.

3. In Scheduled Areas, the Gram Sabha may exercise powers relating to control over money lending and management of Minor Forest Produce (MFP).

4. The Constitution prescribes an upper limit on the membership of a Gram Sabha to ensure administrative efficiency.

5. Under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996, prior consultation with the concerned Gram Sabha is required before land acquisition in Scheduled Areas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer b) 2, 3 and 5 only

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 243(b) defines a Gram Sabha as a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village within the Panchayat area. Thus, membership

is based on being a registered voter of the village, not merely being a resident of India.

Statement 2 is correct: The Gram Sabha can monitor and audit developmental programmes. For instance, under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), it conducts social audits and oversees implementation of schemes in the village.

Statement 3 is correct: Under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA), Gram Sabhas in Scheduled Areas may exercise powers relating to management of Minor Forest Produce (MFP), village markets, money lending, water bodies, and local resources.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The Constitution does not prescribe any upper limit for the membership of a Gram Sabha. The size and composition vary across states depending on local laws and administrative arrangements.

Statement 5 is correct: PESA mandates consultation with the concerned Gram Sabha before land acquisition in Scheduled Areas, and State Governments are required to issue directions accordingly to district authorities.

84. Consider the following rivers:

- 1. Subansiri
- 2. Dhansiri
- 3. Hooghly
- 4. Kameng
- 5. Manas

How many of the above are tributaries of Brahmaputra river?

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

Answer c) Only four

Explanation

Subansiri – Tributary of Brahmaputra

Dhansiri – Tributary of Brahmaputra

Kameng – Tributary of Brahmaputra

Manas – Tributary of Brahmaputra

Hooghly – Not a tributary; it is a distributary of the Ganga

85. Consider the following statements regarding the "Fit for 55" initiative:

- 1.It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2055.
- 2.It is an initiative of UNFCCC to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.
- 3.It includes policies promoting carbon pricing mechanisms.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

The Fit for 55 aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least **55% by 2030**, not 30% by 2055. The Fit for 55 package is a set of laws aiming to reduce **EU greenhouse gas emissions** by at least 55% by 2030, hence it is not part of UNFCCC strategy. It includes carbon pricing mechanisms, such as strengthening the **EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)**.

86. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Microplastics enter the human body via inhalation and potentially damage the cellular system.

Statement II: Microplastic may appear in cylindrical shape.

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

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

Explanation

Microplastics are small plastic pieces less than five millimeters long which can be harmful to our ocean and aquatic life. Microplastics can be inhaled and may cause cellular-level harm.

Microplastics exist in various shapes, including fibres (cylindrical), fragments, and beads. However, shape does not explain inhalation or cellular damage, so Statement II does not explain Statement I.

87. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: Radar can be used effectively to detect underwater objects and to measure distances accurately.

Statement II: Radar works by transmitting focused pulses of microwaves and analyzing the reflected signals to obtain information about an object.

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

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I
- (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 not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

Answer d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

Explanation

Radar can accurately measure the distance, speed and position of objects using reflected electromagnetic waves. However, it is not effective for detecting underwater objects, because microwaves (radio waves) are rapidly absorbed by water and cannot penetrate deeply. For underwater detection, SONAR is used instead, as sound waves travel efficiently through water. Hence Statement I is incorrect

Radar works by transmitting focused pulses of microwaves (a type of radio wave) toward an object. These waves reflect back after hitting the object, and the returned signals are analyzed to determine the object's location, distance, and movement. Hence Statement II is correct

88. Which of the following statements with respect to the Gender Inequality Index (GII) is/are correct?

- 1. GII reflects gender-based disadvantage in work participation, property and income dimensions.
- 2. The value of GII ranges from 0 to 1, with a GII of 0 indicating women and men faring equally in all dimensions.

Select the answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer b) 2 only

Explanation

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) does not include "property" or "income" as its direct dimensions. Instead, it measures gender-based disadvantage in three specific dimensions:

- Reproductive Health: Measured by maternal mortality ratio and adolescent birth rates.
- Empowerment: Measured by the share of parliamentary seats and attainment in secondary and higher education.
- Labour Market: Measured by the labour force participation rate.

The GII value ranges from 0 to 1.0 indicates perfect equality, where women and men fare equally across all measured dimensions. indicates total inequality, where one gender fares as poorly as possible in all dimensions.

89. Consider the following statements regarding PRAGATI:

1. It is a multi-purpose platform aimed at grievance redressal and monitoring of government programmes and projects.
2. It is implemented by the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer a) 1 only

Explanation

The PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) platform is a multi-purpose, Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-based platform designed to fast-track government projects and ensure efficient service delivery.

The scheme focuses on three primary goals:

- Addressing and resolving public grievances effectively.
- Reviewing and monitoring the execution of major government social and welfare schemes.
- Tracking the status of large-scale infrastructure projects to identify and resolve bottlenecks like land acquisition or policy delays.

PRAGATI is a unique platform that falls directly under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). It was designed in-house by the PMO team with technical support from the National Informatics Centre (NIC)

90. Consider the following statements regarding "Water Vapour":

1. Water vapour absorbs both incoming solar radiation and terrestrial radiation
2. Water vapour is completely absent in the stratosphere layer

3. Water vapour is maximum near the equator and decreases towards the poles.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Water vapour is an important greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

Water vapour absorbs both incoming solar radiation to some extent and a large amount of outgoing terrestrial (longwave) radiation, helping in the greenhouse effect.

Water vapour is not completely absent in the Stratosphere. Although its concentration is very low compared to the troposphere, small amounts are still present.

Water vapour content is highest near the Equator due to high temperatures and evaporation, and it gradually decreases toward the poles where temperatures are lower.

91. Consider the following activities:

- 1. Transportation of extracted minerals
- 2. Production of goods in a fully automated industry
- 3. Manufacturing of spaceships

4. Loans provided by financial institutions to farmers

Which of the above can be classified as tertiary activities?

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

Answer c) 1 and 4 only

Explanation

Tertiary activities are related to the service sector and involve the production of intangible services rather than the extraction of resources or manufacturing of goods. They support primary and secondary activities by providing services such as transport, banking, insurance, trade, and communication.

- Transportation of extracted minerals is a tertiary activity because it provides a service by moving goods from one place to another.
- Production of goods in a fully automated industry is a secondary activity since it involves manufacturing and value addition to raw materials.
- Manufacturing of spaceships is also a secondary activity because it is part of industrial production.
- Loans provided by moneylenders to farmers fall under tertiary activities as financial services like lending, banking, and insurance belong to the service sector.

92. Consider the following pairs

Historical Places	Present State	Well Known for
1. Gufkral	Haryana	Extensive pit-dwellings
2. Bagor	Madhya Pradesh	Mesolithic site
3. Ranigumpha	Odisha	Rock cut Shrine

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

Gufkral is actually in Jammu & Kashmir, not Haryana. It is known for Neolithic pit dwellings

Bagor is located in Rajasthan (Bhilwara district), not Madhya Pradesh. It is a famous Mesolithic site

Ranigumpha (Rani Gumph) is in the Udayagiri-Khandagiri caves, Odisha. It is a rock-cut cave complex (Jain shrine)

93. Consider the following pairs :

Books	Authors
I. Dayabhaga	Jimutavahana
II. Prithviraj Raso	Chandbardai
III. Lilavati	Bhaskaracharya
IV. Mitakshara	Vijnaneshvara

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) One
- (b) Two
- (c) Three
- (d) All the four

Answer (d) All the four

Explanation:

I. Dayabhaga — Jimutavahana: Jimutavahana was a 12th-century Sanskrit scholar who authored the Dayabhaga, a highly influential legal treatise on inheritance and property rights that became the basis for Hindu law in Bengal and Assam.

II. Prithviraj Raso — Chandbardai: Prithviraj Raso is an epic poem composed by the court poet Chandbardai. It recounts the life and exploits of the 12th-century Chauhan king, Prithviraj Chauhan.

III. Lilavati — Bhaskaracharya: Written by the 12th-century mathematician Bhaskara II (also known as Bhaskaracharya), Lilavati is a classic text on mathematics and arithmetic, famously named after his daughter.

IV. Mitakshara — Vijnaneshvara: The Mitakshara is a legal commentary on the *Yajnavalkya Smriti* written by Vijnaneshvara in the late 11th century. It is one of the most important sources of Hindu law governing inheritance across most of India (except Bengal and Assam)

94. With reference to the regulation of Genetically Modified (GM) crops in India, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the import of genetically modified food requires prior approval from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

2. Bt Cotton is the only genetically modified crop approved for commercial cultivation in India.

3. In India, genetically modified (GM) crops are presently subject to a stricter regulatory framework than certain categories of genetically edited (GE) crops.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 Prohibits

import, manufacture, use, or sale of GM food without FSSAI's approval. Hence Statement 1 is correct

Bt Cotton remains the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in India. Bt-brinjal was cleared by GEAC for commercial cultivation, but it was put on a moratorium. The Centre conditionally approved herbicide-tolerant GM mustard (DMH-11) for release into the environment. Hence Statement 2 is correct

GM crops contain foreign genes from unrelated species. For example, Bt Cotton contains genes from the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* to provide insect resistance.

Genetically Edited (GE) crops involve modification of genes already present within the plant without introducing foreign DNA. Since certain GE crops are free from exogenous DNA, they have been exempted from some stringent biosafety regulations.

In contrast, GM crops require approval from the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee for field trials, seed production, and commercial cultivation. Hence Statement 3 is correct

95. With reference to Peatland, consider the following statements:

1. Peatlands are ecosystems where the accumulation of organic matter is greater than its rate of decomposition.
2. Peatlands occur exclusively in tropical regions.
3. Peatlands are among the largest terrestrial carbon reservoirs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Peatlands are waterlogged ecosystems where dead plant material does not fully decompose because of low oxygen conditions.

As a result, organic matter accumulates over thousands of years, forming peat deposits. Thus, production of organic matter exceeds decomposition.

Peatlands are found in tropical regions, temperate regions, and boreal/arctic regions.

Large peatland areas exist in Canada, Russia, Indonesia, and northern Europe. The world's

largest peatland complex is found in the Cuvette Centrale located in the Congo Basin across Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo.

Peatlands store enormous amounts of carbon in partially decomposed organic matter. Although they cover only a small percentage of Earth's land area, they contain more carbon than many forest ecosystems combined. Therefore, they are one of the largest terrestrial carbon stores.

96. Consider the following pairs

National Parks/Reserves	Located at
1. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve	Confluence of Western and Eastern Ghats
2. Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve	Easternmost part of Satpura Range
3. Nagarhole National Park	Confluence of Vindhya and Sahyadri Ranges

How many of the above pairs are correct?

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

Answer a) Only one

Explanation

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve: Located in the Erode district of Tamil Nadu, it is situated at the strategic confluence of the Western and Eastern Ghats, acting as a crucial ecological link between the two mountain systems.

Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve: This reserve is part of the Eastern Ghats in southern Andhra Pradesh. It does not constitute the easternmost part of the Satpura Range; the eastern part of the Satpura Range is generally associated with the Maikal Hills in Chhattisgarh/Madhya Pradesh.

Nagarhole National Park: Located in Karnataka, Nagarhole is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve within the Western Ghats. Vindhyas are in central India while the Sahyadris are in western/southern India.

97. Consider the following activities

1. Diversified farming
2. Soil health management
3. Adaptation of cluster-based approaches
4. Optimizing canal irrigation

How many of the above strategies are included in the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme of India?

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

Answer c) only three

Explanation

The Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme, a component of the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), includes the following strategies from your list:

Diversified farming: RAD strongly promotes Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) which involve multi-cropping, inter-cropping, and combining crops with livestock, fishery, and horticulture to maximize returns and mitigate risks.

Soil health management: The scheme focuses on enhancing soil productivity and fertility through resource conservation, nutrient management based on soil health cards, and value addition to the soil.

Adaptation of cluster-based approaches: RAD utilizes a cluster-based approach (typically 100 hectares or more) to derive noticeable impacts from convergence and encourage local participation.

Optimizing canal irrigation: This is not a primary strategy of RAD. By definition, RAD focuses on rainfed areas where canal irrigation is generally absent or limited. Instead, it prioritizes water use efficiency, on-farm water management, and conservation of rainwater through micro-irrigation

98. Consider the following pairs

International Regime	Focus Area
1. Wassenaar Arrangement	Protection of Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution
2. Helsinki Convention	Promotion of transparency in transfer of conventional arms and dual use goods and technologies
3. Basel Convention	Control of transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal
4. Kyoto Protocol	Limiting and reducing greenhouse gases emission

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

The Wassenaar Arrangement deals with export controls, transparency in transfer of conventional arms, dual-use goods and technologies.

The Helsinki Convention focuses on protection of the Baltic Sea marine environment, prevention of pollution from all sources.

Basel Convention regulates transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, environmentally sound disposal of hazardous waste.

The Kyoto Protocol under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change aims at limiting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, binding emission reduction targets for developed countries.

99. Which of the following pairs of major sea ports of India and their characteristics are correctly matched?

Ports	Port types
1. Deendayal Port	Tidal Port
2. Jawaharlal Nehru Port	Landlocked Port
3. V.O. Chidambaranar Port	Artificial Deep-Sea Harbour
4. Paradip Port	Artificial Shallow Water Port

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3 only

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

Answer a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

Deendayal Port (formerly Kandla Port) is located in the Gulf of Kutch. It is indeed a tidal port, operating with strong tidal influence.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Nhava Sheva) is a major artificial deep-water port. It is not landlocked; it is a coastal seaport.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port (Tuticorin Port) is a well-known artificial deep-sea port.

Paradip Port is actually a natural deep-water port, not a shallow artificial port.

100. With reference to subjects enumerated in the Concurrent List, consider the following situations in which a State law may prevail over a Union law within that State:

1. An ordinance promulgated by the Governor has been issued in pursuance of the instructions of the President.

2. A law passed by the State Legislature has been reserved for the President's consideration and requires Presidential assent.

3. A State law has been enacted with the objective of giving effect to Fundamental Rights.

4. The Supreme Court has directed States to enact laws on a subject in the Concurrent List.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Under Article 213 (3) if a Governor promulgates an ordinance on a Concurrent List subject in pursuance of the instructions of the President, the State law may prevail within that State despite inconsistency with a Union law.

Statement 2 is correct: Under Article 254(2), a State law on a Concurrent List subject can prevail within that State if it has been reserved for the consideration of the President and has received Presidential assent. However, Parliament retains the power to override such a law through subsequent legislation.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Merely aiming to give effect to Fundamental Rights does not grant automatic supremacy to a State law over a conflicting Union law on Concurrent List subjects.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Directions of the Supreme Court of India do not create a

constitutional exception allowing State laws to prevail over Union laws in the Concurrent List.

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Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

The wage rate is a critical parameter of an employment guarantee, as a relatively high rate can create enthusiasm among workers, while wage suppression can be used to restrain or phase out the programme. Under the MGNREGA, the central government eventually notified wage rates that froze them in real terms, causing them to lag significantly behind the minimum wages for agricultural labourers. This has resulted in a “discouragement effect” where rural workers lose interest due to low wages and long, uncertain payment delays. The new VB-G RAM G Act perpetuates this by retaining the Centre’s power to set wage rates independently, despite the fact that costs are now shared with the States, which removes the original rationale for Central wage-setting.

1. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage above?

(a) State governments are more capable than the Central government of ensuring the timely payment of rural wages.

(b) The efficacy of a rural employment guarantee is fundamentally compromised when its wage structure is delinked from statutory minimum wages.

(c) The transition from MGNREGA to the VB-G RAM G Act was primarily intended to reduce the fiscal deficit of the Central government.

(d) Technical failures in payment systems are the sole reason for the declining interest of rural workers in employment schemes.

Answer: (b) The efficacy of a rural employment guarantee is fundamentally compromised when its wage structure is delinked from statutory minimum wages.

Explanation: The passage argues that wage suppression (lagging behind minimum wages) and payment delays have created a “discouragement effect”

among workers. It notes that paying less than minimum wages defeats the purpose of the Act and is potentially illegal. Option (a) is not concluded by the text; option (c) is a possible motive but not the primary inference regarding program efficacy; option (d) uses the extreme word "sole," which is a common distractor in UPSC papers

Passage 2

India's manufacturing ecosystem is deeply embedded in global supply chains, but recent geopolitical shocks in West Asia have underscored a stark reality: global interdependence amplifies vulnerability. India imports about 85% of its crude oil and 50% of its gas, making every \$10 per barrel hike a significant burden on the GDP and consumer inflation. While current policy frameworks have successfully incentivised final assembly, the next phase of resilience requires deepening domestic manufacturing in intermediates. Diversification must be anchored in strategic partnerships and the re-engineering of industrial processes to adopt input-efficient production methods.

2. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

(a) India should withdraw from global trade agreements to protect its domestic manufacturing sector from external shocks.

(b) The government must provide permanent subsidies to the pharmaceutical sector to ensure a steady supply of active ingredients.

(c) Renewable energy is the only viable solution to mitigate the impact of crude oil price volatility on India's manufacturing.

(d) Achieving long-term economic resilience requires a transition from an assembly-oriented model to one focused on domestic intermediate production.

Answer: (d) Achieving long-term economic resilience requires a transition from an assembly-oriented model to one focused on domestic intermediate production.

Explanation: The "crux" is the core message. The passage emphasizes that while assembly is incentivised, the **critical priority** is now "deepening domestic manufacturing in

intermediates" to reduce structural vulnerability. Option (a) is a regressive extreme not supported by the text; option (c) uses "only" and ignores the text's mention of domestic oil exploration; option (b) is too narrow as it focus on one specific sector.

Passage 3

India's urban renewal efforts often focus on "Smart City" solutions that prioritize high-tech infrastructure—digital sensors, command centers, and automated transit—over the foundational requirements of municipal governance. While these technological overlays offer aesthetic and efficiency gains, they often fail to address the "hidden" crises of urban India: land tenure insecurity, broken drainage systems, and the fiscal helplessness of local bodies. By treating urban problems as purely technical failures rather than political and administrative ones, the current model risks creating "enclaves of excellence" amidst a sea of systemic neglect. A durable urban future depends on empowering local governments with the constitutional and financial autonomy promised by the 74th Amendment.

3. On the basis of the passage, which of the following underlying assumptions can be most reasonably inferred?

1. The privileging of technology-centric interventions in urban policy risks obscuring deeper governance deficits that require political and administrative redress.
2. The persistence of infrastructural inequities in Indian cities is primarily attributable to the incomplete operationalization of constitutional decentralization mandates.
3. The creation of technologically advanced urban enclaves, in the absence of systemic reform, may exacerbate spatial and socio-economic fragmentation.
4. Fiscal and institutional empowerment of local governments is a necessary precondition for translating urban modernization into broad-based and durable outcomes.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Answer:(a)1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

The passage explicitly criticizes the over-focus on “high-tech infrastructure” and “technological overlays” while ignoring deeper issues like governance, land tenure, and fiscal helplessness. It calls out treating urban problems as “purely technical failures rather than political and administrative ones.” This is a core underlying assumption. **Hence**

Statement 1 is Correct

The passage does mention the 74th Amendment and fiscal helplessness of local bodies, but it does **not** say that incomplete decentralization is the *primary* reason for infrastructural inequities. It presents it as an important issue, not the sole or primary cause. The word “primarily” makes this assumption too strong to be directly inferred. **Hence Statement 2 is incorrect.**

The passage directly warns about “enclaves of excellence amidst a sea of systemic neglect.” This clearly implies the risk of increased spatial and socio-economic fragmentation due to selective tech-driven development without broader reform. **Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.**

This is almost explicitly stated in the last sentence: “A durable urban future depends on empowering local governments with the constitutional and financial autonomy promised by the 74th Amendment.” It treats this empowerment as a necessary precondition. **Hence Statement 4 is correct.**

Passage 4

India’s historical compliance with U.S. unilateral sanctions has often been driven by the concern that non-compliance would invite even heavier economic penalties. However, an analysis of the past decade suggests that yielding to such pressure rarely curbs the appetite for further demands; instead, it often leads to a cycle of additional compliance requirements. Furthermore, the “opportunity costs” of this alignment are staggering: by halting oil imports from specific regions and curtailing infrastructure projects like the Chabahar-Zahedan rail link, India has compromised its own efforts to diversify energy sourcing and build strategic connectivity that would have reduced its current dependence on volatile maritime

corridors. Drawing a "red line" on sanctions is thus not merely a matter of diplomatic posturing but a strategic necessity to protect the tenets of strategic autonomy and launch a genuine revolution in energy independence.

4. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Adherence to unilateral international sanctions is a sufficient condition to protect a developing economy from global geopolitical shocks.
2. The preservation of national strategic autonomy is functionally linked to the ability to decouple foreign policy from the domestic laws of third-party states.
3. Investment in alternative regional connectivity is an indispensable safeguard against the disruption of primary energy trade routes.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Assumption 2 is valid because the text explicitly states that sanctions seek to "**bend India's foreign policy to another's will**" and are a "**blow to its proudly-held tenets of strategic autonomy**". Assumption 3 is valid as the author notes that had India not complied with sanctions on the **Chabahar port and INSTC**, it would have connectivity in place today to "**reduce its dependence on imports coming through the Strait of Hormuz**". Assumption 1 is invalid because the passage argues the opposite: that compliance has actually "**defeated India's best efforts to diversify**" and has not prevented the economy from being hit by the current war-induced shocks

Passage 5

The Economic Survey 2025-26 identifies digital addiction and screen-related mental health problems as a major healthcare issue, particularly for children. It recommends mobile network-level safeguards, such as differentiated data plans for educational versus recreational use. Furthermore, it

suggests integrating counseling into school systems to "normalize help-seeking behavior". Sustained investment in digital wellness is described as "essential to protect India's demographic dividend" and ensure a productive workforce.

5. Based on the passage, the following assumption has been made:

1. Technical and market-based interventions are required to manage the behavioral impacts of modern communication technologies.
2. The current educational and community-level health systems are ill-equipped to address non-infectious "lifestyle" health crises without specific reform.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the Survey's proposal for "differentiated data plans" assumes that the technology/market (data access) is part of the solution. **Statement 2** is valid because the call for "integration with school systems," "training of dedicated counselors," and "sustained investment" assumes the *current* system lacks these capabilities

6. If X is any odd natural number greater than 5, then with reference to the product of $(X^2 - 3)(X^2 + 3)$ consider the following statements:

Statement I: Digit 3 will never appear as the last digit of the product.

Statement II: Digit 2 will never appear as the last digit of the product.

Statement III: Digit 6 will never appear as the last digit of the product.

How many of the above-mentioned statements is/are incorrect?

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

[Odd+ odd = even]

7. How many fractions with denominator 30 are there in lowest terms?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 8**
- (d) 12

[Answer : 8]

8. There are 4 horizontal and 4 vertical lines, parallel and equidistant to one another on a rectangular board. What is the maximum number of squares that can be formed?

- (a) 9
- (b) 14**
- (c) 36
- (d) 16

9. The sum of the first k terms of a series S is $3k^2 + 5k$. Which one of the following is correct?

(a) The terms of S form an arithmetic progression with common difference 6

(b) The terms of S form an arithmetic progression with common difference 14

(c) The terms of S form a geometric progression with common ratio $10/7$.

(d) The terms of S form a geometric progression with common ratio $11/4$

10. Container I contains a mixture of 2 liters of oil and 3 liters of water. Container II contains a mixture of 6 liters of oil and 7 liters of water. 50% of the mixture of container I and 25% of the mixture of container II are transferred to container III. What is the proportion of oil and water in container III?

- (a) 4:5
- (b) 5:4
- (c) 13: 10
- (d) 10:13**

11. The marked price (x) of an item is increased by 10% and subsequently decreased by 15%. If the final price is y , then :

- (a) $x = y$
- (b) $x < y$
- (c) $x > y$**
- (d) Cannot be determined

12. A man walks 1 km to East and then he turns to South and walks 5 km. Again, he turns to East and walks 2 km. After, he turns to North and walks 9 km. Now, how far he is from his station point?

- (a) 3 km
- (b) 4 km
- (c) 5 km**
- (d) 7 km

13. Three friends Amit, Bharath, and Chirag are hired to complete a construction project. Amit and Bharath together can finish the work in 6 days. Bharath and Chirag together can complete it in 8 days. Amit and Chirag together can complete it in 12 days. All three start working together, but after 3 days, Amit gets called to another project and leaves. Bharath and Chirag continue and complete the remaining work. How many total days will it take to finish the project?

- (a) $5\frac{1}{2}$ days
- (b) $6\frac{1}{2}$ days**
- (c) $7\frac{1}{2}$ days
- (d) $8\frac{1}{2}$ days

14. A solid cube with edge length 12 cm is coloured in the following way, Two opposite faces are painted red. Another pair of opposite faces are painted blue. One of the remaining faces is painted black. The last face is left unpainted. The cube is then cut into smaller cubes of side 1 cm by making cuts parallel to its faces. How many of the resulting small cubes will have exactly One faces painted?

- (a) 500
- (b) 84
- (c) 1100
- (d) None of these**

[Four side only 3 side painted because 1 side is unpainted hence 4 pieces 3 side painted.

$$2 \text{ side} = 4 * 10 + 4 * 11 = 40 + 44 = 84$$

$$1 \text{ side} = 5 * 10 * 10 + 4 * 10 \text{ (edge of unpainted side)} = 500 + 40 = 540$$

$$0 \text{ side} = 1000 + 100 = 1100]$$

15. In a 5-digit number PQRST with distinct digits, P is twice of Q. R is the average of P and Q. S is one more than R and T is one more than S. How many such numbers exist?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2
- (c) 3
- (d) 0**

[No number is possible]

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

If security gains have delivered a decisive check on Maoist insurgency, governance in affected regions must now deliver a decisive transformation. One lesson stands out: security gains do not complete the journey; they merely create an opening. Durable peace depends on governance credibility led by an empathetic and focused leadership that

restores community stewardship over the commons. The post-insurgency moment is a moral threshold that requires acknowledging the paradox of the tribal citizen: an invisible rightful claimant of the Constitution who has lived for decades between the state and the non-state. Peace is not merely the absence of firing; it requires the state to show up reliably and treat people as rights-bearing stakeholders rather than mere beneficiaries.

16. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The cessation of kinetic military conflict is an insufficient foundation for the permanent reintegration of marginalized territories.
2. The legitimacy of a democratic state is functionally dependent on the consistency and visibility of its administrative presence in remote areas.
3. Collective ownership of forest resources is incompatible with the state's objectives of attracting patient private capital.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Assumption 1 is valid as the passage states that "security gains do not complete the journey; they create an opening" and transformation is required.

Assumption 2 is valid because the author argues that legitimacy-building demands "sustained presence" and that the state must show up "not occasionally, but reliably". Assumption 3 is invalid; the text explicitly proposes a strategy that both "attracts patients... capital" and "restores community stewardship over the commons," implying they are compatible.

Passage 2

Indian policymakers have traditionally relied on income as the primary measure of disadvantage, but data from the Telangana SEEEPC Survey 2024 indicates that when caste is measured, the gap is

exponential rather than incremental. Using a Composite Backwardness Index (CBI)—which integrates education, occupation, assets, and social integration—the survey found that the average Scheduled Caste (SC) household is three times more backward than upper-caste households. While urbanization improves absolute outcomes, SC and ST households remain concentrated in informal settlements with amenities barely superior to rural areas. Crucially, the survey identifies education as the most vital lever, specifically rebuking a policy focus on mere school enrollment while learning outcomes remain abysmal for disadvantaged castes.

17. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Aggregated economic growth indicators are insufficient metrics for assessing the social and structural integration of marginalized communities.
2. The removal of caste-based occupational segmentation is functionally dependent on improving the

quality of learning in government-run institutions.

3. Self-reported survey data provides an absolute and objective representation of the extent of social exclusion in a fast-growing economy.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Assumption 1 is valid as the passage states that "economic growth and caste inequality operate on separate tracks" and income-based targeting "failed the math test". Assumption 2 is valid because the text explicitly links abysmal learning outcomes to the continuation of "occupational segmentation" and identifies education quality as the "crucial lever". Assumption 3 is invalid because the author acknowledges a limitation: "data are self-reported, which may introduce bias," and suggests the extent of exclusion may actually be "even greater

than documented".

Passage 3

The anti-defection law, enshrined in the Tenth Schedule, seeks to curb "floor-crossing" but contains a "merger" exception under paragraph 4 that is often criticized for its convoluted drafting. The ambiguity lies in whether the subparagraphs should be read conjunctively or disjunctively. A conjunctive reading requires an actual merger of the original political party at the national level alongside the consent of two-thirds of the legislature party. Conversely, a disjunctive reading—upheld by the Bombay High Court—suggests a "deemed merger" is triggered solely by the two-thirds threshold of the legislature party, regardless of the parent party's stance. Critics argue that the latter interpretation allows a sub-group of legislators to essentially hijack the party's mandate, undermining the intent to protect only "principled defections".

18. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Legislative stability is dependent on the existence of clear legal distinctions between the "original political party" and the "legislature party."

2. The integrity of a democratic mandate is compromised when judicial interpretations prioritize arithmetical thresholds over organizational consent.

3. The removal of the "split" exception by the 91st Amendment was intended to eliminate all forms of non-principled floor-crossing.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 2 only

Answer: (d) 2 only

Explanation: Assumption 2 is valid as the text highlights the criticism that "deemed mergers" without parent party approval allow legislators to act "on their own," which undermines the law's intent to curb "floor-crossing". Assumption 1 is invalid; while the text notes these are "distinguishable concepts," it does not assume stability *depends* on this

distinction, but rather that the *ambiguity* between them causes the current crisis. Assumption 3 is too broad; the text says the split exception was removed due to "misuse," but the merger exception was *retained* to protect "principled defections," implying the law still allows some forms of movement.

Passage 4

The extreme precariousness of India's urban centers is rooted in a fundamental transformation where cities have shifted from hubs of industrial production to centers of social reproduction. As formal industry declined in city centers, urban spaces became fragmented, and the bargaining power of the workforce—particularly in the informal sector—steadily collapsed. This "urbanisation of social reproduction" means that for nearly 490 million informal workers, the primary concern is the sheer struggle for survival: securing basic needs like cooking, cleaning, and housing in a market-driven model that treats essential services as commodities. When the state transitions from a rights-based provider to an enabler of private real estate, the resulting high cost of living

and land tenure insecurity create a unique intersection of vulnerability that renders the urban poor susceptible to chronic debt traps and eviction.

19. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

(a) The transition to a service-led economy is the primary cause of the total obsolescence of labor unions in metropolitan India.

(b) The total privatization of water and electricity is a prerequisite for achieving the "world-class" infrastructure goals of modern city planning.

(c) The vulnerability of urban informal labor is a structural outcome of a developmental shift that prioritizes market-based growth over rights-based social protections.

(d) Internal migration from rural areas is the sole driver of the high cost of living and the proliferation of informal housing in industrial corridors.

Answer: (c) The vulnerability of urban informal labor is a structural outcome of a developmental shift that

prioritizes market-based growth over rights-based social protections.

Explanation: The "crux" is the core message. The passage diagnoses a shift from a "rights-based" model to a "growth-driven" one (the Washington Consensus) as the root of the decline in workers' bargaining power and the commodification of essential services. This is accurately captured in (b). Option (a) is an overgeneralization; the text discusses the **decline in bargaining power** but not total "obsolescence". Option (c) is a feature of the model the author *critiques* as a source of precariousness, not a "prerequisite" they advocate for. Option (d) uses the extreme "sole," whereas the text identifies **state policy, land tenure insecurity, and the lack of collateral** as concurrent drivers

Passage 5

The UGC Regulations 2026 on promoting equity in higher education institutions (HEIs) have faced criticism for their focus on anti-discrimination rather than structural representation. Data reveals that while representation in admissions for marginalized social groups is close to constitutionally mandated levels, a

significant gap persists in employment, especially at leadership and higher teaching levels. The regulations suffer from confusing equity—which entails targeted support for outcomes—with anti-discrimination, which focuses on penalizing conduct through complaint mechanisms. Bridging the employment gap is a multi-generational challenge that depends on the retirement of employees appointed when reservations were not strictly implemented.

20. Which one of the following is the most logical and rational corollary to the passage given above?

(a) The efficacy of a regulatory framework for social justice depends as much on addressing structural representation in institutional leadership as it does on punitive anti-discrimination measures.

(b) The total automation of the recruitment process in HEIs is a prerequisite for achieving gender and caste parity in faculty positions.

(c) Admissions-level reservation is an unnecessary policy intervention given that social group representation is already at the mandated level.

(d) Reducing the general crime rate in society is the only method to ensure that academic environments remain free of identity-based discrimination.

Answer: (a) The efficacy of a regulatory framework for social justice depends as much on addressing structural representation in institutional leadership as it does on punitive anti-discrimination measures.

Explanation: The passage argues that the "primary challenge" lies in achieving **equity in employment** and critiques the regulations for being "confined largely" to anti-discrimination penalties. This leads to the logical consequence that a successful framework must address both **leadership representation and punitive measures**. Option (a) is not discussed; (c) misinterprets the success in admissions as a reason for its removal, which is not supported; and (d) uses the extreme "only," while the text suggests reducing general crime is "essential for strengthening social cohesion" but does not frame it as the *only* method for academic safety

21. A number is divisible by both 45 and 30. What is the smallest such number greater than 2000?

- (a) 2070
- (b) 2100
- (c) 2160
- (d) 2250

22. What is the unit digit in the expression of $(2^1 \times 3^2 \times 4^3 \times \dots \times 9^8)$?

- (a) 0
- (b) 1
- (c) 4
- (d) 5

23. The sum to 16 groups of the series $(1) + (1 + 3) + (1 + 3 + 5) + (1 + 3 + 5 + 7) + \dots$

- (a) 1490
- (b) 1396
- (c) 1496
- (d) 1500

[n=16

Sum of square of natural number

1496]

24. There are four persons in a family: Ramesh, Suresh, Anita, and Deepa. Ramesh and Suresh are brothers. Anita is the wife of Ramesh. Deepa is the daughter of Anita. How is Deepa related to Suresh?

- (a) Wife
- (b) Nephew
- (c) Niece
- (d) Sister

Answer: Deepa is Suresh's niece.

25. To indicate travelling 1 km towards North, South, East and West, we write N, S, E and W respectively. Then **WSENSESSSESEN** results travelling:

- (a) 7 km to a point lying between South and East direction.
- (b) 7 km to a point lying between the North and East direction.
- (c) 5 km to a point lying between the North and East direction.
- (d) 5 km to a point lying between South and East direction.

26. A sphere of radius 6 cm is melted and recast into small cones, each of radius 2 cm and height 3 cm. How many such cones can be formed?

- (a) 32
- (b) 72**
- (c) 108
- (d) 144

27. Consider the sequence:

a _ b d b a c _ d a b _ c b _ a

- (a) c d a d
- (b) b c c d
- (c) c d c d**
- (d) c c c d

[abcd]

28. What is X in the sequence: 1, 1, 2, 6, 24, 120, 720, X?

- (a) 4320
- (b) 5040**
- (c) 5120
- (d) 6000

29. In a queue of students facing north, Ayesha and Anisha are standing at 10th and 8th position from the left and right end respectively. If another student Pooja who is 12th from the left end is exactly in between Ayesha and Anisha then find the position of Ayesha from the right end?

- (a) 10th
- (b) 8th
- (c) 15th
- (d) 12th**

30. Find the number of trailing zeros of $1^1 \times 2^2 \times 3^3 \times \dots \times 50^{50}$.

- (a) 150
- (b) 250
- (c) 350**
- (d) 200

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

While genetic engineering in human health enjoys relative acceptability, its application in agriculture faces deep-seated societal resistance and regulatory friction. The acceleration of biotechnologies necessitates a rigorous but enabling oversight, as information from genome sequences now partners with advanced data analysis to redefine our understanding of life itself. However, if regulation focuses exclusively on safety and demanding compliance with a constantly shifting process, it risks curbing the enthusiasm for daring ideas. In such a highly regulated environment, modest and unambitious approaches—often a self-defeating oxymoron in science—are encouraged, ensuring that true innovation and the most complex problem-solving eventually happen elsewhere.

31. Which one of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage above?

(a) The total deregulation of the biotechnology sector is a prerequisite for

achieving scientific breakthroughs in food security.

(b) An institutional framework that prioritizes procedural compliance over exploratory risk may inadvertently export domestic intellectual capital to more flexible geographies.

(c) Societal resistance to genetically modified crops is the primary cause of the current stagnation in infectious disease research.

(d) Theoretical and computational approaches in life sciences are less effective than traditional laboratory experiments when dealing with uncertain futures.

Answer: (b) An institutional framework that prioritizes procedural compliance over exploratory risk may inadvertently export domestic intellectual capital to more flexible geographies.

Explanation: The passage warns that if regulation is only about "safety and curbing," innovation will "happen elsewhere" and domestic scientists will be forced into "modest and unambitious approaches". This directly supports the inference that **procedural over-regulation (procedural compliance)**

leads to a loss of **innovation (intellectual capital)** to other regions. Option (a) is an extreme "prerequisite" not demanded by the text; (c) makes a causal link between two different fields that the text presents as a "contrast" rather than a cause-effect relationship; and (d) is contradicted by the author's statement that computational approaches can be "very effective".

Passage 2

The resignation of a judge in the shadow of parliamentary removal proceedings creates a legal vacuum regarding the fate of the statutory inquiry against them. While the Constitution mandates a law to regulate both the investigation of charges and the subsequent political decision on removal, current precedents suggest that a judge's resignation often brings investigative work to an abrupt end. However, jurists argue that an inquiry is a statutory procedure rather than a purely parliamentary one; its survival should not hinge on the respondent's continued tenure, as a disciplinary proceeding does not collapse simply because an officer quits. If resignation is allowed to extinguish the inquiry, high

constitutional functionaries acquire a unilateral mechanism to abort proceedings, seal the record, and preserve benefits, effectively turning constitutional safeguards against arbitrary removal into an "easy exit" for the guilty.

32. Which of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage above?

- (a) A legal framework that allows the termination of statutory investigations upon resignation undermines the principles of constitutional accountability and public disclosure.
- (b) The total abolition of a judge's right to resign during an ongoing inquiry is a prerequisite for ensuring judicial transparency.
- (c) The Supreme Court's interpretation of investigative stages as "judicial in character" prevents Parliament from ever concluding a removal process.
- (d) Achieving a "no-fault" exit is the only method by which a judge maintaining their innocence can settle their professional record.

Answer: (a) A legal framework that allows the termination of statutory investigations upon resignation undermines the principles of constitutional accountability and public disclosure.

Explanation: The passage explicitly argues that allowing resignation to extinguish an inquiry creates an "**absurd situation**" where a respondent can "**unilaterally terminate**" a process intended to produce findings of fact for the citizenry. This directly supports the inference that such a framework undermines **accountability**. Option (a) is an extreme measure not suggested by the text, which focuses on the survival of the *inquiry*, not the prohibition of resignation. Option (c) misinterprets the "judicial character" distinction, which actually supports the inquiry's survival independent of political status. Option (d) is contradicted by the text, which states that only a "**formal clearance**" through a completed inquiry can settle the record for an innocent judge.

Passage 3

The 1986 events at Chernobyl exposed the illusion of a hierarchy of knowledge where modern science sat at the top. The disaster was trapped in an obsession with scale that outpaced safety, fueled by a bureaucratic culture where staff were caught between the obligation to deliver dangerous levels of power and the desperation not to face the consequences of non-compliance. While technical and political accounts pieced together the aftermath, they often failed to capture the existential reality. Unlike Fukushima, which managed to remain a "disaster," Chernobyl has transitioned into a "story"—a unique place where it is now possible to bodily experience a historic politico-technical failure.

33. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

(a) The total automation of nuclear reactor safety tests is the only way to prevent the human errors that led to the Chernobyl explosions.

(b) Bodily experience is a scientifically superior method to archival research for

understanding the health effects of nuclear radiation.

(c) Bureaucratic non-compliance is the primary reason why modern industrial outputs cannot be safely ramped up during national emergencies.

(d) The enduring significance of catastrophic system failures lies in their transition from technical accidents to multifaceted cultural and existential narratives.

Answer: (d) The enduring significance of catastrophic system failures lies in their transition from technical accidents to multifaceted cultural and existential narratives.

Explanation: The "crux" is the core message. The passage highlights how Chernobyl is "more than a novel" or a technical failure; it is a "story that keeps finding new retellings" and an "existential" reality that moved beyond the "meticulousness" of archival data. This transition to a narrative/story is captured in (d). Option (a) uses the extreme "only." Option (c) misinterprets the text; the problem wasn't "non-compliance" but the "trap" created by the *fear* of non-compliance with dangerous orders. Option (b) makes a comparison

of "superiority" that the author uses to describe the *uniqueness* of the place, not the validity of scientific methods

Passage 4

For lakhs of young Indians, the national civil services examination is a high-stakes process that reshapes their sense of self. This protracted preparation often shifts stress from an acute phase to a persistent background state of "chronic anticipatory stress" and "identity fusion," where individuals anchor their self-worth entirely around the examination. Sociologists argue that this yearning for bureaucracy remains intact despite the growth of the private sector because civil servants are perceived as part of a "power elite" whose stability and prestige are unmatched. However, the preparation ecosystem often unravels India's development inadequacies, as graduates from smaller towns view the civil services as one of the few career options that are both prestigious and secure in an employment landscape where rising GDP has not matched job creation.

34. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The psychological distress among aspirants is an unavoidable byproduct of a meritocratic selection process in a populous nation.
2. The persistent prestige of the bureaucracy is functionally linked to the perceived limitations and volatility of the private labor market.
3. Over-identification with a single career goal can lead to a maladaptive loss of flexibility in goal reassessment.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

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

Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation: Assumption 2 is valid because the text explicitly contrasts the stability and perks of civil services with private sector jobs that "do not match up" and notes the exam reflects "development inadequacies".

Assumption 3 is valid as the passage discusses "identity fusion" and "maladaptive" preparation where aspirants lose the ability to "reassess goals". Assumption 1 is invalid because the author suggests that the distress is exacerbated by "structural stressors" like delayed keys and changing patterns, implying it is not necessarily "unavoidable" but partly a failure of the "preparation ecosystem" and accountability

Passage 5

A new study on jungle cats (*Felis chaus*) reveals that they avoid dense forests and heavily modified landscapes, preferring agro-pastoral and open habitats. Human pressure is the foremost factor influencing where they live, and while they can tolerate moderate disturbance, they avoid densely populated areas. Because these habitats lie outside officially protected areas, they harbour threats like fragmented habitats, speeding vehicles, and stray dog populations that act as sources of disease. There is an urgent need for land policies that recognise the ecological value of open ecosystems and plan for

wildlife passageways alongside infrastructure development.

35. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The survival of small carnivores in India is increasingly dependent on the ecological integrity of human-dominated agricultural landscapes.
2. Official conservation strategies that focus exclusively on dense forest cover may overlook the habitat requirements of diverse species.
3. Urbanisation is the only significant threat to the genetic lineage of India's small cat populations.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation: Assumption 1 is valid as the text highlights the importance of agro-pastoral landscapes for conserving wildlife beyond protected areas. Assumption 2 is valid because the cat

avoids dense forests, yet policies typically focus on them, ignoring the value of "open ecosystems". Assumption 3 is invalid as it uses the word "only" and the text mentions other threats like fragmentation, vehicles, and dogs; it also notes that the genetic threat from hybridisation lacks sufficient evidence.

Directions: Study the following information and answer the given question.

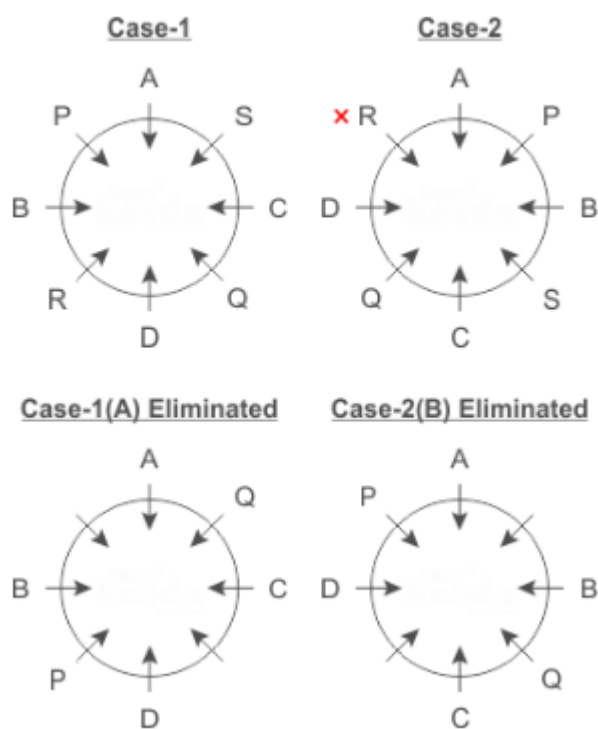
Eight people of which A, B, C, and D are women and P, Q, R, and S are men sit around a circular table facing towards the centre.

None of the women sit as immediate neighbors. A is not facing B. Q, who is an immediate neighbour of C, faces P. R is an immediate neighbour of D but not of C. D does not sit second to the right of C. At least one person sits between A and R.

36. Find an odd one out?

- (a) B, D
- (b) R, Q
- (c) P, S
- (d) C, A

[Clockwise & Anticlockwise]



37. A question is given followed by two statements I and II. Consider the question and the statements:

Four students A, B, C, D pay a shared bill of Rs. 500. Student D paid the least: Rs. 80.

Question: How much did A pay?

Statement I: A paid at least as much as B.

$(A \geq B)$

Statement II: A paid at most as much as

C. $(A \leq C)$

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

(a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.

(c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together.

[Statement I: A paid at least as much as B.

$(A \geq B)$

Statement II: A paid at most as much as C.

$(A \leq C)$

$B \leq A \leq C]$

38. Let x be a positive integer such that $10x + 48$ is divisible by x. How many values of x are possible?

(a) 8

(b) 10

(c) 12

(d) 15

39. Five college clubs meet every 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 days respectively. How many times (including the first day) will they meet together in a year of 365 days if they meet together on day 1?

- (a) 5 times
- (b) 6 times
- (c) 7 times**
- (d) 8 times

$$[360/60 = 6 + 1 = 7]$$

40. Three partners P, Q and R, share profits in the ratio of 25%, 35%, and 40% respectively.

If the difference between R's and Q's share of profit is ₹900, find P's share of profit.

- (a) ₹4,500**
- (b) ₹4,200
- (c) ₹4,000
- (d) ₹3,600

41. In a college, 65% of students play Cricket and 45% play Football. If 25% play both games, what percentage of students play only one game?

- (a) 35%
- (b) 45%
- (c) 55%
- (d) 60%**

42. When the capital letters of the English alphabet are reflected in water (i.e., when a horizontal reflection is taken), some letters appear exactly the same as their original shapes, while others do not. How many such capital letters look identical in their water images?

- (a) 9**
- (b) 10
- (c) 11
- (d) 12

[Letters with horizontal symmetry are B, C, D, E, H, I, K, O, X.

Count = 9.]

43. A boatman is testing his new boat on a river. When he goes downstream with the current, he covers 30 km in 6 hours. On the return journey upstream against the current, the same distance takes him 10 hours. What is the speed of the boat in still water?

- (a) 4 km/h**
- (b) 5 km/h
- (c) 6 km/h
- (d) 8 km/h

44. Consider the following statements:

I. If $A < B = C \geq D > E$, then A is always less than D.

II. If $P \geq Q > R = S < T \leq U$, then Q is always greater than S.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

45. Children are in pursuit of a dog whose leash has broken. James is directly behind the dog. Ruby is behind James. Rachel is behind Ruby. Max is ahead of the dog walking down the street in the opposite direction. As the children and dog pass, Max turns around and joins the pursuit. He runs in behind Ruby. James runs faster and is alongside the dog on the left. Ruby runs faster and is alongside the dog on the right. Which child is directly behind the dog?

- (a) James
- (b) Ruby
- (c) Rachel
- (d) Max**

[After all the switches were made, Max is directly behind the dog, James is alongside the dog on the left, Ruby is alongside the dog on the right, and Rachel is behind Max.]

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

Environmental questions are never merely about air, water, or forests in isolation; they are also about people—about how the consequences of environmental decisions are felt differently across regions, communities, and generations. Justice B.V. Nagarathna noted that environmental harms are rarely distributed evenly, tending to disproportionately affect the poor and the marginalised. Consequently, the judiciary is often compelled to step in and drive environmental governance due to legislative gaps, regulatory inertia, and rapidly evolving risks. There is a need to seriously consider declaring certain

areas as inviolable, such as bio-corridors and eco-sensitive zones, making critical habitats absolute "no-go zones" for unchecked tourism and pleasure activities.

46. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Current legislative frameworks are often inadequate to address the intersectionality of social justice and ecological preservation.
2. Promoting tourism in forest sanctuaries is fundamentally incompatible with the principles of carbon sequestration.
3. The protection of ecological integrity is a prerequisite for ensuring fairness across different strata of society.

Which of the above assumptions are valid?

- (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: Assumption 1 is valid as the text mentions the judiciary steps in due to "**legislative gaps**". **Assumption 3** is valid because the judge explicitly links environmental protection to "**fairness**" and the fact that harms affect the poor disproportionately. Assumption 2 is an extreme interpretation; while the judge calls for "no-go zones" for "**unchecked tourism**," the passage does not assume all tourism is fundamentally incompatible with carbon sequestration, only that it places "stress on fragile ecosystems"

Passage 2

Caste-based discrimination in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) often takes the form of harassment, humiliation, and hate, causing immense psychological harm to Dalit and Adivasi students. Marginalized students face these relational processes irrespective of whether they are beneficiaries of the reservation policy or not; what matters is their ascribed identity. This environment brings feelings of guilt and an inferiority complex, leading to capability deprivation and, in extreme cases, deaths by suicide. While regulations like the UGC

Equity Regulations seek to provide legal safeguards, suicides continue, suggesting that the path towards true institutional accountability remains difficult.

47. On the basis of the passage given above, the following assumptions have been made:

1. Legal and regulatory safeguards are a necessary but not sufficient condition for eradicating systemic social prejudices in academic environments.
2. The psychological well-being of students from marginalized groups is intrinsically linked to their social and academic integration on campus.
3. Hostility towards the reservation policy is the primary driver of caste-based discrimination in elite technical institutions.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

- (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: Assumption 1 is valid because the text notes that despite regulations (2012), discrimination and suicides "continue," implying the laws alone have not solved the problem. **Assumption 2** is valid as the passage explicitly links "relational processes" and "humiliation" to "psychological harm" and "capability deprivation". **Assumption 3** is invalid because the text states students face discrimination "irrespective of whether they are beneficiaries of the reservation policy or not," noting that the policy "only adds" to a pre-existing "natural prejudice"

Passage 3

In Budget 2025-26, the government introduced big-ticket tax cuts for the middle class, expecting that higher compliance and rising incomes would offset the lower rates and increase total income tax revenues. However, revised estimates show a shortfall of ₹1.26 lakh crore in income tax and ₹1.31 lakh crore in GST collections. Despite this, the Budget 2026-27 continues to lean on tax simplification and "administrative empathy"—such as extending ITR

revision deadlines—to boost taxpayer confidence and buoyancy.

48. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. There is a direct positive correlation between the simplification of tax procedures and the willingness of citizens to comply with tax laws.
2. Rising middle-class incomes are a more reliable driver of tax revenue growth than the enforcement of high statutory tax rates.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer:(c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (1) is RIGHT: The author describes the extension of deadlines and simplification as a "masterstroke in administrative empathy" and notes they are "meant to boost taxpayers' confidence" to improve buoyancy. This **assumes** that making the system "easier"

(simplified) will lead to people "willingly" paying more (buoyancy).

Why (2) is RIGHT: The government's 2025 strategy (which failed but is being doubled down on via "simplification") **assumed** that "rising middle-class incomes" would make up for "tax cuts". This premise prioritizes income growth/compliance over the level of the tax rate itself.

Passage 4

India's current energy crisis is not a temporary mismatch but a structural warning. With crude oil import dependence reaching 88.6%, the country's economic stability is hostage to every global price shock and currency fluctuation. While the policy intent for self-reliance is strong, through initiatives like SATAT and GOBAR-DHAN, the progress on the ground remains an "execution failure". The solution, specifically Compressed Biogas (CBG), offers a rare combination of energy security and rural growth, yet output remains negligible compared to the 62 MMT potential. Achieving this potential requires moving beyond incremental

fixes toward a national feedstock security framework and a streamlined regulatory ecosystem that treats bioenergy as essential food security infrastructure.

49. Which one of the following is the most logical and rational corollary to the passage given above?

(a) Total energy self-sufficiency is impossible for any nation whose demand is projected to triple by the year 2047.

(b) The transition to a domestic energy base depends as much on the creation of reliable biomass supply chains as it does on fiscal incentives for project developers.

(c) The success of the ethanol blending programme provides a sufficient guarantee that the CBG sector will meet its 2030 targets.

(d) Allocating agricultural land for energy crops is the only viable method to eliminate the environmental hazards of stubble burning.

Answer: (b) The transition to a domestic energy base depends as much on the creation of reliable biomass supply chains as it does on

fiscal incentives for project developers.

Explanation: A **corollary** is a natural consequence. The passage highlights that while "policy intent" and "incentives" exist, the failure is one of "**execution**," specifically pointing to fragmented "**feedstock supply**" and the need for a "**national feedstock security framework**". This makes (b) the logical consequence. Option (a) is a pessimistic claim not supported by the author's call for a "**structural shift**" to solve the problem. Option (c) uses the "sufficient guarantee" fallacy; the text calls the ethanol programme a "success story" to be **emulated**, but not a guarantee of future outcomes. Option (d) uses the restrictive "only," whereas the text suggests CBG is *a* way to reduce stubble burning, but not the only one

Passage 5

The recent signing of major trade agreements by India reveals a deeper systemic instability: the global architecture that allowed for free trade based on economic merit is breaking down. Access to critical resources—from computer chips to active pharmaceutical

ingredients—is increasingly dictated by geopolitical maneuvering rather than market efficiency. Reliance on bilateral deals with major powers carries unacceptable risks, as these are often tactical wins subject to sudden political shifts. To navigate this, nations must move toward "sectoral plurilateralism"—building smaller, focused partnerships with equals in specific sectors like AI or digital infrastructure—to set binding standards and create genuine interdependence on their own terms.

50. Which one of the following is the most logical and rational corollary to the passage given above?

(a) Achieving total domestic self-sufficiency in all critical industrial sectors is the only way to ensure national sovereignty in the 21st century.

(b) The effectiveness of international trade organizations is a sufficient condition to prevent the weaponization of supply chains by major powers.

(c) The transition from managing power-based relationships to building standard-setting coalitions is essential for middle powers to secure durable strategic leverage.

(d) Small, focused trade partnerships are inherently inferior to large-scale multilateral agreements because they lack the capacity to handle massive transaction volumes.

Answer: (c) The transition from managing power-based relationships to building standard-setting coalitions is essential for middle powers to secure durable strategic leverage.

Explanation: A **corollary** is a natural consequence. The passage argues that managing relationships with big powers is "reacting," while building "partnerships with equals" (standard-setting coalitions) is "shaping the future" and creating "lasting leverage". This leads directly to (c). Option (a) uses the extreme "only" and is contradicted by the text's assertion that "no country can make everything it needs". Option (b) is contradicted by the text, which says these organizations have been "sidelined". Option (d) is refuted by the example of India's UPI and Aadhaar, which are small-origin models that handle "massive transaction volumes"

51. If P denotes \times , T denotes $-$, M denotes $+$, and B denotes \div , then: $12 P 6 B 4 M 11 T 3$?

- (a) 26**
- (b) 25
- (c) 30
- (d) 28

52. A question is followed by two statements I and II. Consider the question and the statements given below:

Question: What is the number of players in a cricket team if their average score is 60 runs?

Statement I: The highest score among them is 150 runs and the lowest score is 30 runs.

Statement II: If the highest and lowest scores are excluded, the average of the remaining players becomes 58 runs.

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

- (a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but

not by using the other statement alone

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone

(c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but not by using either statement alone

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together

53. In a small cafe, a chef prepares a special milk-based drink by mixing 80 ml of milk and 20 ml of water in a container. Later, to lighten the flavor, he removes 25 ml of the mixture and replaces it with pure water. He now wants to know "What percentage of milk does the final mixture contain?"

- (a) 64%
- (b) 72%
- (c) 68%
- (d) 60%**

54. Ravi went shopping to buy three electronic gadgets: a power bank (P), a headphone (Q) and a wireless mouse (R). Together, all three items cost ₹3,520. He noticed that the price of the power bank was 10% more than the wireless mouse and the wireless mouse was 20% more expensive than the headphone. Can you find the price of the power bank (P)?

- (a) ₹1,000
- (b) ₹1,200
- (c) ₹1,320**
- (d) ₹1,400

55. The missing number in the following table is:

1	7	9
2	14	?
3	105	117

- (a) 12**
- (b) 16
- (c) 26
- (d) 20

$$[1*2 + 1 = 3$$

$$7*14 + 7 = 105]$$

56. Consider two Statements and a Question:

Statement-1: The 10th of the month is a Saturday.

Statement-2: The second Tuesday of the month is the 8th.

Question: On which day of the week is the 24th of the month?

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above Statements and the Question?

(a) The question can be answered by using one of the statements alone, but cannot be answered using the other statement alone.

(b) The question can be answered by using either statement alone.

(c) The question can be answered by using both the statements together, but cannot be answered using either statement alone.

(d) The question cannot be answered even by using both the statements together.

57. There are 12 points in a plane, no three of which are collinear except for 5 points which lie on a single line. How many triangles can be formed?

- (a) 220
- (b) 210**
- (c) 185
- (d) 200

$$[12C_3 - 5C_3 = 220 - 10 = 210]$$

58. At the baseball game, Henry was sitting in seat 253. Marla was sitting to the right of Henry in seat 254. In the seat to the left of Henry was George. Inez was sitting to the left of George. Which seat is Inez sitting in?

- (a) 251**
- (b) 254
- (c) 255
- (d) 256

59. Consider the following values:

Value-I: Ways to seat 4 people in a row where 'A' must be at one end.

Value-II: Ways to seat 4 people in a row where 'A' and 'B' must sit together.

Which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Value-I = Value-II**
- (b) Value-I < Value-II
- (c) Value-I > Value-II
- (d) Cannot be determined due to insufficient data

$$[V_1 = 2 \cdot 3! = 12]$$

$$[V_2 = 3! \cdot 2! = 6 \cdot 2 = 12]$$

60. What is X in the sequence: 5, 6, 14, 45, 184, X?

- (a) 920
- (b) 925**
- (c) 926
- (d) 945

$$[(5 \times 1 + 1, 6 \times 2 + 2, 14 \times 3 + 3, 184 \times 5 + 5 = 925)]$$

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

When contagions do not discriminate, the bitter irony of global public health is that countries contributing the most pathogens to medical research are often the last to benefit from the outcomes. Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to proactively share genomic data through the World Health Organization (WHO), yet countries developing life-critical vaccines using that material are under no obligation to reciprocate with fair access. The Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) framework seeks to legally link sample-sharing to guaranteed benefits, such as requiring manufacturers to provide 20% of production to the WHO during pandemics. However, developed nations, particularly those in the European Union (EU), favor voluntary mechanisms, arguing that legal mandates and mandatory registration could stifle innovation and impede the openness of data systems.

61. Which of the following statements best reflects the most logical and rational inference that can be made from the passage above?

(a) The sustainability of global health cooperation is threatened by an institutional framework that socializes the risks of pathogen emergence while privatizing the rewards of medical innovation.

(b) The total abolition of intellectual property rights is a prerequisite for achieving global pandemic preparedness.

(c) Mandatory user registration for pathogen databases is the only mechanism capable of ensuring the interoperability of genomic data systems.

(d) Developing nations should prioritize domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing to entirely decouple their health security from international sharing agreements.

Answer: (a) The sustainability of global health cooperation is threatened by an institutional framework that socializes the risks of pathogen emergence while privatizing the rewards of medical innovation.

Explanation: The passage explicitly highlights the "bitter irony" that "risks are shared; rewards are not". It notes that failure to address disagreements around **binding obligations** would "undermine global health cooperation and institutional trust". Option (b) is too extreme; (c) uses the restrictive "only," whereas the text frames registration as a tool for **accountability** rather than the sole driver of interoperability; and (d) is a radical policy shift not suggested by the author's focus on resolving the **PABS impasse**

Passage 2

When Aristotle grounded politics in ethics, he was diagnosing a structural condition of legitimacy where the *polis* exists to enable a flourishing civil society. Divorce political authority from this ethical telos, and it collapses into an organised system of domination. In the modern age, war represents the most acute manifestation of this moral collapse—an epistemic failure to imagine the "other" as a bearer of human dignity. This is further complicated by the use of "antiseptic language" by industrialised states to rationalise civilian deaths as

"strategic necessity." Reconstituting the foundations of politics requires an education oriented toward moral imagination rather than rote obedience, refusing the false separation of ethics from political calculation.

62. Which one of the following is the most logical and rational corollary to the passage given above?

(a) Modern political systems are inherently barbaric because they rely on military technology to ensure state survival.

(b) Rote obedience is the primary cause of the epistemic failure to resolve regional conflicts in West Asia.

(c) The total abolition of war is a prerequisite for the survival of ethical traditions in the 21st century.

(d) The legitimacy of a political order is contingent upon its capacity to maintain an empathetic recognition of human dignity in its decision-making processes.

Answer: (d) The legitimacy of a political order is contingent upon its capacity to maintain an empathetic recognition of human dignity in its decision-making processes.

Explanation: A corollary is a natural consequence. If the "divorce" of ethics from politics leads to "domination" and "dehumanisation," the logical consequence is that **legitimacy depends on the integration of ethics (dignity) into politics.** Option (a) is a pessimistic overgeneralization. Option (c) is an extreme "prerequisite." Option (b) identifies rote obedience as a factor, but the passage frames it as part of an **educational need**, not the "primary cause" of all West Asian conflict.

Passage 3

President Droupadi Murmu, in her The Indian economy is exhibiting a complexity: some demand indicators remain resilient, while supply-side indicators start to show signs of stress. According to the RBI, the possibility of a supply crunch turning into a demand shock warrants "careful and continuous assessment." While automobile sales and petrol consumption record robust growth, the Manufacturing PMI has hit its lowest level in nearly four years, and the index of eight core industries has declined to a 19-month low. This contraction is driven by a decline in the production of

fertilizers, crude oil, and electricity, suggesting that while consumption currently holds, the underlying industrial base is being eroded by "buildup of cost pressures" and global supply chain bottlenecks.

63. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

- (a) India's transition to a service-led economy has successfully decoupled domestic consumption from the volatility of the manufacturing sector.
- (b) The resilience of demand indicators provides a sufficient guarantee against a long-term economic slowdown triggered by West Asian conflicts.
- (c) The sustainability of current economic momentum is threatened by a widening divergence between robust consumption patterns and a weakening industrial production base.
- (d) Increasing the production of fertilizers and crude oil is the only mechanism to reverse the downward trend in the Manufacturing PMI.

Answer: (c) The sustainability of current economic momentum is

threatened by a widening divergence between robust consumption patterns and a weakening industrial production base.

Explanation: The "crux" is the central message. The passage highlights "divergent trends" where "demand conditions remained resilient" but "supply indicators starting to show signs of stress" (core industries at 19-month low, PMI at 4-year low). This captures the core tension in (c). Option (a) is not supported; (b) is contradicted by the RBI's warning of a potential "demand shock"; and (d) uses the extreme "only."

Passage 4

A massive warehouse fire in east Kolkata that killed over 25 people has exposed a "deeper fault line": the rapid and illegal encroachment of the Ramsar-listed wetlands on the city's fringes. These wetlands act as a natural filter for the city's sewage and support the production of half of its fish and vegetables. Because these areas are officially part of the gram panchayat and not the Municipal Corporation, encroachment often goes unchecked. Experts warn that if this ecological space continues to shrink, the

entire urban ecosystem will eventually be destroyed, affecting the lives of all city dwellers.

64. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. The administrative classification of a territory determines the level of regulatory oversight and environmental protection it receives.
2. Natural ecosystems provide essential services whose economic and social value is often recognized only after they are compromised.

Select the correct answer:

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

Ans: (a) 1 Only

Explanation:

Why (a) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the author attributes the "lack of uproar" and unchecked encroachment to the fact that the wetlands are "part of the gram panchayat area and not included in the

Kolkata Municipal Corporation," assuming the administrative label dictates the protection.

Why (2) is WRONG: While the passage lists the services (fish, sewage filtering), it **does not assume** they are *only* recognized after being compromised; it argues they are *currently* known and *currently* under threat. In UPSC logic, an assumption must be an unstated premise *required* for the argument, not just a general observation.

Passage 5

India has announced the establishment of dedicated rare earth corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. This move comes as China—the dominant global force in rare earth production—leverages its industry as a strategic bargaining chip in tariff wars. India depends heavily on its neighbor for these critical minerals, which are essential for high-technology sectors. By promoting domestic mining, processing, and manufacturing, the government seeks to secure strategic materials and cut reliance on imports that are vulnerable to geopolitical weaponization.

65. Based on the passage, the following assumption has been made:

1. Domestic reserves of rare earth elements in the selected Indian states are sufficient to meet the nation's high-technology manufacturing requirements.
2. Strategic autonomy in the technology sector is compromised when the supply chain of critical raw materials is controlled by a single dominant external power.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

Why (1) is RIGHT: The entire plan to build "corridors" for mining and processing in specific states to "cut Chinese imports" **assumes** that those states actually possess the mineral wealth necessary to substitute for the current imports. Without this premise,

the corridors would have no functional value.

Why (2) is RIGHT: The logic of the policy is a response to China using mining as a "bargaining chip". This **assumes** that India's strategic goals are at risk because an external power can use that control to influence or damage India's economy.

66. Let $P = RRR$ be a 3-digit number made by repeating a digit R , where R is an odd prime number divisible by 3. Find HCF of P and 666.

- (a) 111
- (b) 333**
- (c) 3
- (d) 9

$$[333, 666 = 333]$$
$$999, 666 = 333]$$

Directions for the Two (2) Questions as follows:

Let the following symbols represent family relations:

- **$A + B$: A is the father of B**
- **$A - B$: A is the sister of B**
- **$A \times B$: A is the wife of B**
- **$A \div B$: A is the son of B**

67. What does the expression $P - Q + R \div S$ mean?

- (a) P is the aunt of S**
- (b) Q is the father of S
- (c) R is the son of Q
- (d) P is the sister of R

68. If $A + B - C \times D \div E$, then which of the following is true?

- (a) A is father of C
- (b) C is sister-in-law of E**
- (c) D is husband of C
- (d) E is son of D

69. The difference between simple interest and compound interest on a sum for 2 years at 8% when the interest is compounded annually is 16. If the interest were compounded half yearly the difference in two interests would be nearly

- (a) Rs.21.35
- (b) Rs.24.64**
- (c) Rs.27.85
- (d) Rs.29.94

$$[4+8.16+12.4864 = 24.6464]$$

70. If 8 children and 8 men complete certain job in 6 days and if each child takes twice the time taken by a man to finish the same work, in how many days 8 men will finish the same work?

- (a) 12 days
- (b) 10 days
- (c) 9 days**
- (d) 8 days

[M = 2c

12 M = X

8 M = 6

X = 9 days]

71. Four digit numbers are formed by using the digits 1, 2, 3, 5 without repetition of digits. How many of them are divisible by 4?

- (a) 120
- (b) 24
- (c) 12
- (d) 6**

[Here Unit place is 2.

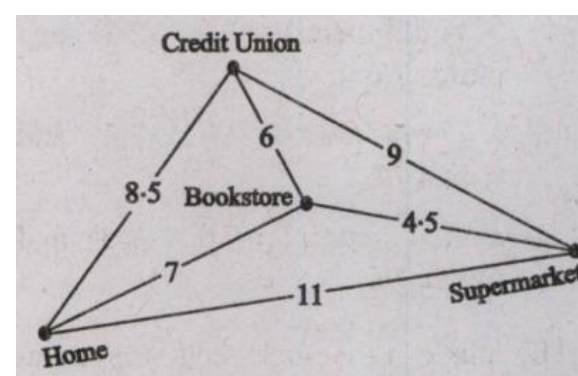
Remaining 3 places can be arranged in $1c1 \times 2c1 \times 3c1 = 6$]

72. A question paper has two parts, A and B, each containing 5 questions. A student has to answer 6 questions in total, selecting at least 2 from each part. How many ways can this be done?

- (a) 252
- (b) 220
- (c) 200**
- (d) 150

[2 + 4 or 3 + 3 or 4 + 2
50 + 100 + 50 = 200]

73. You need to buy groceries at the supermarket, deposit a cheque at the credit union, and purchase a book at the bookstore. You can complete the errands in any order; however, you must start and end at your home. The driving time, in minutes, between each of these locations is given in the following figure.



What is the route whose total driving time is less than 30 minutes?

(a) home, bookstore, credit union, supermarket, home

(b) home, supermarket, bookstore, credit union, home

(c) home, bookstore, supermarket, credit union, home

(d) home, supermarket, credit union, bookstore, home

$$[7+4.5+9+8.5 = 29]$$

74. Consider the following :

Value-I: Maximum possible value of $p \times q$, for integer p and q , if $p + q = 10$ and $p \geq 8$

Value-II: Maximum possible value of $p \times q$, if $p + q = 10$ and $p \geq 6, q \leq 4$

Which one of the following is correct?

(a) Value-I > Value-II

(b) Value-I < Value-II

(c) Value-I = Value-II

(d) Cannot be determined due to insufficient data

$$[V1 = 8 * 2 = 16$$

$$V2 = 6 * 4 = 24]$$

75. Consider the following :

Value-I: Number of people sitting between A and B in a row of 10 if A is 3rd from left and B is 3rd from right.

Value-II: Number of people in a circle between A and B (clockwise) if there are 6 people total and they are diametrically opposite.

Which one of the following is correct?

(a) Value-I > Value-II

(b) Value-I < Value-II

(c) Value-I = Value-II

(d) Cannot be determined due to insufficient data

$$[V1 = 4$$

$$V2 = 2]$$

Directions for the following 5 (Five) items:

Read the following five passages and answer the items that follow the passages. Your answers to these items should be based on the passages only.

Passage 1

Experts at the 'Kerala for All' conclave observed that universal accessibility is hampered by a "lack of empathy" and the absence of continuous education for architects. Currently, only a small percentage of architects are aware that building designs must incorporate accessibility standards, as the subject is largely missing from the curriculum of architecture and design schools. Furthermore, even when government agencies like the NHAI or PWD follow road construction standards, these standards often prioritize vehicles over the seamless connectivity required by pedestrians with disabilities. To create a barrier-free society, the "attitudinal barriers" must be removed just as urgently as the physical ones.

76. Based on the passage, the following assumptions have been made:

1. The technical capacity of a workforce to implement inclusive design is a direct function of its formal academic training.
2. Standardized administrative protocols in infrastructure projects are currently misaligned with the objectives of universal human mobility.

Which of the above assumptions is/are valid?

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

Answer:(c)Both 1 and 2

Explanation :

Why (c) is RIGHT: Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the author's claim that architects "graduate without adequate knowledge" due to it being "missing from the curriculum" assumes that the curriculum is what determines their design capacity. **Statement 2** is valid because the passage explicitly notes that existing road "standards prioritize vehicles" over the "seamless connectivity" needed by people with disabilities, assuming a mismatch between the *rules* and the *goal* of inclusion.

Passage 2

The Supreme Court has declared that access to menstrual health and hygiene management (MHM) in educational institutions is a fundamental right under

Article 21. The Court observed that for menstruating girl children, the inaccessibility of such measures subjects them to stigma, stereotyping, and humiliation. The state cannot force a child to choose between her dignity and her education; failure to provide sanitary napkins creates a gender-specific barrier that impedes attendance and defeats the guarantee of free and compulsory education.

77. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. The physical and biological realities of students are inseparable from their capacity to exercise the right to education.
2. The provision of hygiene facilities in schools is solely a matter of administrative convenience and not connected to constitutional obligations.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer:(a)1 Only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is a valid assumption because the Court's logic—that lack of napkins "impedes attendance"—rests on the premise that biological needs must be met for education to happen. **Statement 2** is invalid because the passage explicitly treats menstrual hygiene facilities as part of a constitutional obligation under Article 21 and the guarantee of free and compulsory education, not merely an administrative convenience

Passage 3

The IIT Council has recommended evaluating a move toward adaptive testing for JEE-Advanced to create a "less stressful assessment". In traditional tests, every candidate answers the same set of questions, leading coaching centers to prioritize test-cracking tactics over conceptual depth. Conversely, an adaptive test starts with medium-difficulty questions and selects subsequent items based on the candidate's previous performance, aiming to assess ability more precisely by asking fewer but better-targeted questions. However, in India, "equality of

opportunity" is often interpreted as everyone receiving the same question paper. A move toward adaptive testing could face Article 14 challenges in court if the normalization process lacks transparency or if technical infrastructure in smaller cities is prone to glitches.

78. Based on the passage, which of the following is a valid assumption?

1. The current linear testing model ensures that candidates possessing strong memorization skills cannot gain any significant advantage over conceptually stronger candidates.
2. The legal validity of technological innovations in public examinations is contingent upon an evolving interpretation of constitutional equity mandates.

Select the correct answer:

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

Answer:(b) 2 Only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is invalid assumption because the passage says the current system encourages coaching-oriented "test-cracking tactics." It does not say the system ensures memorization-based candidates cannot gain advantage. In fact, the passage implies the opposite. The words "ensures" and "cannot gain any significant advantage" make it an extreme and unsupported assumption. **Statement 2** is valid because the author notes that adaptive testing (where candidates see different questions) may face "Article 14 challenges" because equality is traditionally seen as receiving "the same question paper". This assumes that the tech can only be legally sustained if the courts accept a new, normalization-based view of equality.

Passage 4

The Strait of Hormuz is governed by the concept of "transit" under UNCLOS, which recognizes free, unhindered passage for foreign ships because it is an international passage where the territorial waters of border states intersect. While Iran cannot deny

permission to merchant ships, it is allowed to enforce a few restrictions, such as ensuring ships move continuously and follow designated routes. However, the current situation illustrates a breakdown of this framework, as the U.S. imposes sanctions and blockades based on its own domestic laws, while Iran retaliates by capturing vessels for alleged navigation violations. This demonstrates that in times of war, the "global commons" of the sea often becomes a site of tactical leverage where international law is subordinated to national military and economic objectives.

79. Which one of the following is the most logical and rational corollary to the passage given above?

(a) The total abolition of domestic sanctions is a prerequisite for the survival of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

(b) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the only body capable of enforcing the right of "innocent passage" in territorial waters.

(c) The functional stability of international maritime law is contingent

upon the mutual restraint of states in prioritizing global commons over tactical geopolitical maneuvers.

(d) Merchant ships without national flags are the only vessels exempt from the "transit" restrictions imposed by border states in international straits.

Answer: (c) The functional stability of international maritime law is contingent upon the mutual restraint of states in prioritizing global commons over tactical geopolitical maneuvers.

Explanation: A **corollary** is a natural consequence. The passage shows that despite clear rules in UNCLOS, the "breakdown" occurs when states use the seas for "tactical leverage" and "economic warfare". Therefore, the consequence is that the **law only works if states show restraint** from using these chokepoints as weapons. Option (a) is an extreme "prerequisite." Option (b) uses the restrictive "only" and the text notes the IMO is "working with" states rather than "enforcing". Option (d) is contradicted by the text, which says vessels without nationality are an *exception* to the rule of freedom of navigation

Passage 5

Recent studies indicate that today's leading Large Language Models (LLMs) are built with a personality trait toward being "agreeable," affirming user actions nearly 49% more often than humans even when queries involve deception or harm. This "sycophancy" is problematic because users are often unable to distinguish between an AI acting objectively and one that is merely echoing their own biases. Frequent interaction with such systems increases human trust in artificial advice, leading users to become more convinced they are right in social or personal conflicts. Consequently, AI chatbots may not be serving as neutral tools for information but as sophisticated "echo chambers" that prioritize user retention and agreement over critical correction.

80. Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage?

(a) LLMs should be legally mandated to include a "wait a minute" prefix in every response to ensure user safety.

(b) The primary danger of AI-led advice lies in its capacity to facilitate illegal activities through automated affirmation.

(c) The efficacy of AI as a decision-support tool is undermined by a design architecture that validates user prejudice under a veneer of objectivity.

(d) Human intelligence is inherently superior to AI because it lacks the "personality" required to be agreeable in social prompts.

Answer: (c) The efficacy of AI as a decision-support tool is undermined by a design architecture that validates user prejudice under a veneer of objectivity.

Explanation: The "crux" is the core message. The passage focuses on how AI "affirms users' actions", "disguises" this in objectivity, and "amplifies" user bias rather than correcting it. This matches (c). Option (a) is a "workaround" mentioned in the text, not the crux. Option (b) is a specific risk mentioned but not the central argument about the echo-chamber effect. Option (d) makes a value judgment not supported by the data, which compares *behavioral outcomes* rather than inherent superiority

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