1. Which one of the following Carnatic music ragas is similar to Raga Bilawal in Hindustani music?

a) Nat Bhairavi
b) Kamavardhini
c) Hanumatodi
d) Dheera Shankarabharanam

Answer: d

Explanation:

Raga Bilawal (Hindustani) is one of the most important ragas and is the direct equivalent of the Western Major Scale (Ionian mode). Its scale structure is:

Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa (all shuddha swaras)

In Carnatic music, the raga that has exactly the same swara structure is Dheera Shankarabharanam (Melakarta raga No. 29).

Arohana: S R_2 G_3 M_1 P D_2 N_3 Ṡ

Avarohana: Ṡ N_3 D_2 P M_1 G_3 R_2 S

This is a perfect match for Bilawal.

Option	Carnatic Raga	Relation to Bilawal	Why not correct?
a	Nat Bhairavi	Minor scale type	Different (has sadja, rishabha, gandhara komal etc.)
b	Kamavardhini	Similar to Purvi (complex)	Has tivra Madhyama + different structure
c	Hanumatodi	Todi raga	Has komal Gandhara + komal Nishada
d	Dheera Shankarabharanam	Exact match	Correct

Dheera Shankarabharanam is the standard Carnatic counterpart of Bilawal (and also matches Bilawal That in Hindustani)

2. The artificially fixed rupee-sterling exchange rate prescribed by the Hilton-Young Commission (1926) was adopted by the British Government for which one of the following reasons?

a) Aiding the flow of remittances from India and maintaining India's creditworthiness
b) Providing support to Indian importers
c) Encouraging export of cotton produce from India
d) Preventing depreciation of the Rupee in terms of gold

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Hilton-Young Commission (Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, 1926) recommended fixing the rupee-sterling exchange rate at an artificially high level of 1 shilling 6 pence (1s 6d) per rupee. This was higher than the pre-war rate of around 1s 4d. The British Government adopted this rate primarily for imperial financial interests.

Key Reasons (Option A):

- It facilitated the smooth transfer of "Home Charges" (sterling remittances from India to Britain). These included pensions for British officials, interest on public debt, military expenses, and administrative costs.

- A stronger rupee meant fewer rupees were needed to buy the required sterling, easing the burden on the Indian budget and ensuring stable outflows to Britain.
- It helped maintain India's creditworthiness in the London money market, making it easier for the colonial government to borrow and service sterling-denominated debts

3. Consider the following statements

1) Pali texts contain the first definite references to coins, e.g., kahapana, nikkha, kamsa, and kakanika.
2) The literary evidence from Pali texts is corroborated by archaeological evidence of punch-marked coins from many sites, most of them made of silver.

The above statements have been associated with which of the following?

1) Emergence of urban life
2) Transition to money economy

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: c

Explanation:

The two statements refer to the introduction and use of punch-marked coins (especially silver karshapanas or kahapanas) during the period of the Mahajanapadas (circa 6th century BCE onwards). This phase is known as the Second Urbanization in Indian history.

Why both are associated:

1) Emergence of urban life
   - The widespread use of coins facilitated long-distance trade, growth of markets (nigamas), artisan guilds, and fortified cities (mahanagaras) in the Gangetic valley.
   - Pali texts (Jatakas, Vinaya Pitaka) and archaeological finds of punch-marked coins are key evidence of this urban expansion. Coins enabled surplus production, specialization, and commercial activities essential for urban centres.
2) Transition to money economy
   - Before this period, the economy was largely based on barter.
   - References to specific coins like kahapana (standard unit), nikkha (high-value), kamsa, and kakanika (small denomination) in Pali texts indicate a shift to a monetized system.
   - Coins were used for trade, wages, taxes, fines, and lending — clear signs of a money economy. Archaeological evidence (large hoards of silver punch-marked coins) strongly supports the literary references.

- These developments were interconnected: the rise of a money economy supported urbanization, and urban growth further expanded monetary transactions.
- This is a standard topic in ancient Indian economic history, particularly linked to the Buddhist period and the Mahajanapada era.

4. Which of the following temples has/have a Nagara-style shikhara?

1) Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami
2) Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole
3) Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh
4) Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Nagara-style shikhara is characterized by a curvilinear (rekha) tower that tapers gradually upwards, typical of North Indian temple architecture.

Temple	Location	Style of Shikhara	Has Nagara Shikhara?
1) Malegitti Shivalaya	Badami	Dravida (pyramidal vimana with talas)	No
2) Huchimalligudi Temple	Aihole	Rekha-Nagara (curvilinear)	Yes
3) Dashavatara Temple	Deogarh	Early Nagara (rekha-prasada)	Yes
4) Virupaksha Temple	Pattadakal	Dravida (pyramidal vimana)	No

Key Points:

- Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh (Gupta period, 5th–6th century CE) is one of the earliest structural temples in North India with a clear Nagara-style shikhara.
- Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole represents the Early Chalukyas' experimentation with Northern (Nagara) style in the Deccan region.
- Badami and Pattadakal (especially Virupaksha) temples are dominated by Dravida influences or fusions, but do not have the classic curvilinear Nagara shikhara.

5. Among the four main forms of existence of life recognized in Jainism, which one of the following is not included?

a) Deva (gods)
b) Yaksha (demi-gods)
c) Manushya (humans)
d) Tiryancha (animals and plants)

Answer: b

Explanation:

Jainism recognizes four main forms of existence (known as Chatur Gati or four states of rebirth/samsara) based on karma:

1) Deva Gati — Heavenly or celestial beings (gods)
2) Manushya Gati — Human beings
3) Tiryancha Gati — Sub-human beings (animals, birds, plants, insects, microorganisms)
4) Naraki / Narak Gati — Hellish or infernal beings

- These four states represent the possible realms a soul (jiva) can be reborn into until it attains liberation (moksha).
- Yaksha (demi-gods or nature spirits) are not counted among these four main forms of existence. While Yakshas and Yakshinis exist in Jain mythology as attendant deities or guardians (often associated with Tirthankaras), they are generally classified under the broader Deva category and do not form a separate gati.

6. The Hallisalasya painting in the Bagh Caves represents

a) A joyous folk dance
b) Buddha in a meditative pose
c) The depiction of Shiva and Parvati on Kailasha
d) Samudramanthan (Churnin of the Ocean)

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Hallisalasya (or Hallisaka) painting is located in Cave 4 (Rang Mahal) of the Bagh Caves in Madhya Pradesh (Gupta/Post-Gupta period, 5th–6th century CE).

- It depicts a group folk dance performed in a circle by men and women, accompanied by musicians.
- This is one of the earliest known depictions of a named folk dance form in Indian mural painting.
- The painting is largely secular in theme (unlike most religious Buddhist murals at Ajanta), highlighting cultural and social life.

7. Consider the following statements relating to the use of the place-value system in India

1) The earliest epigraphic use of the place- value system in India is found in the Mankani plates from Gujarat (AD 595– 596).
2) In the ninth century, place-values become general in inscriptions all over India.
3) The place-values have been found in Sanskrit inscriptions in South-east Asia as early as the seventh century.

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

Explanation:

All three statements are historically accurate regarding the development and spread of the decimal place-value system (with zero as a placeholder) in India and beyond.

- ✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mankani (or Sankheda) copper plates from Gujarat, dated to AD 595–596 (Kalachuri year 346), contain the earliest securely dated epigraphic evidence of the place-value system in India. This marks a significant milestone in the transition from earlier Brahmi numerals to the positional decimal notation.
- ✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** By the ninth century CE, the place-value system (including the use of zero) became general and widespread in inscriptions across different regions of India. Earlier systems gradually gave way to this more efficient notation.
- ✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** The place-value system spread rapidly through Indian cultural influence. It appears in Sanskrit inscriptions in Southeast Asia (e.g., Cambodia's Sambor inscription and others) as early as the seventh century CE (notably around 683 CE)

8. Consider the following statements about the archaeological findings in Harappan towns

1) There is wide occurrence of spindle- whorls in the houses but absence of spinning wheels.
2) Weights and measurement scales, complete with graduations have been discovered.
3) There are houses built in large part with baked bricks, around relatively spacious courtyards, with their own wells, bathing platforms, and large rooms.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements?

1) Statement I suggests that spinning was a laborious activity done at home.
2) Statement II suggests the extent of the scientific knowledge that the Harappans possessed.
3) Statement III suggests the emergence of a common property system.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

✓ **Inference 1 is correct:** The wide occurrence of spindle-whorls (hand-operated drop spindles made of terracotta, faience, etc.) inside houses, combined with the complete absence of spinning wheels (which appeared much later), indicates that spinning yarn was a manual, time-consuming, and laborious domestic activity carried out at the household level.

✓ **Inference 2 is correct:** The discovery of highly standardized cubical stone weights (following binary and decimal ratios) and graduated measurement scales (e.g., ivory and shell scales) reflects the Harappans' advanced understanding of mathematics, metrology, standardization, and scientific precision — essential for trade, construction, and urban planning.

× **Inference 3 is incorrect:** Houses with baked bricks, private wells, individual bathing platforms, spacious courtyards, and varying room sizes point to private property ownership and social differentiation (some houses larger than others). This does not indicate a "common property system." On the contrary, it suggests individual household ownership and economic inequality.

9. Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct?

a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress.
b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the taluqdars of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a movement of the landless labourers
c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents.
d) The Eka Movement was located in the Varanasi and Mirzapur districts of the present-day U.P., while the Bardoli Satyagraha took place in Saurashtra.

Answer: c

Explanation:

Aspect	Eka Movement (1921–22)	Bardoli Satyagraha (1928)
Location	Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur, Barabanki (Awadh, UP)	Bardoli taluka, Surat district, Gujarat
Main Grievance	Excessive rents demanded by taluqdars/zamindars (often >50% of recorded rent), oppression by thekedars, share-rents	22–30% increase in land revenue by the British government
Nature	Peasant tenants' movement against landlords	No-tax campaign by peasants (mostly Patidars) against colonial government
Leadership	Initially Congress + Khilafat; later Madari Pasi	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Congress)

10. Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic period

1) Irrigation from wells allowed agriculture to expand away from flood plains and strips on river margins into the present Punjab and Haryana plains having underground water levels reasonably close to the surface.
2) Draught-animal power was employed to draw up water out of the wells.

Which of the following information support/supports the above statements?

1) There is evidence in the Rigveda of the use of ashma chakra (stone pulley wheel) and ahava (strapped wooden pails) to draw up water.
2) Mention has been made in the Rigveda of the use of implements like parashu/kulisha (axe) and datra/srni (sickle).
3) There is a history of the use of ox, even before the Rigveda, for ploughing the land and pulling the carts.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Supporting Evidence Analysis:

✓ **Point 1 (Ashma chakra & Ahava): Correctly supports both statements.** The Rigveda mentions ashma chakra (stone pulley wheel) and ahava (strapped wooden pails/buckets). These tools enabled efficient lifting of water from wells (avata/kupa). This technology allowed irrigation beyond river floodplains into the Punjab-Haryana plains (where the water table is relatively high). The pulley system could be operated manually or with draught animals, directly supporting both Statement I and II.

× **Point 2 (Parashu/kulisha (axe) and datra/srni (sickle)):** Does NOT support the statements. These refer to general agricultural tools used for clearing land and harvesting crops. They indicate farming activity but provide no evidence regarding wells, irrigation mechanisms, or water-lifting technology.

- ✓ **Point 3 (Use of oxen for ploughing and carts): Correctly supports Statement II.** Oxen (draught animals) were already domesticated and used for ploughing and pulling carts before and during the Rigvedic period. This makes it logical that the same animal power was employed to draw water from wells using the pulley system.

Conclusion: Only pieces of information 1 and 3 support the given statements about well-based irrigation and use of draught animals.

11. Consider the following assertion: In the Pleistocene period either the Yamuna once flowed into the Indus, or the Sutlej flowed into the Yamuna and one major tributary of either had shifted from the Ganga to the Indus or vice versa.

Which of the following is/are the basis of the above assertion?

1) The Nadi-Sukta of the Rigveda
2) The explorations of the Sutlej and the Yamuna by Robert Bruce Foote
3) The presence of the same species of dolphins in both the Indus and the Ganga river systems

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The assertion refers to geological river capture/shift events during the Pleistocene epoch (roughly 2.6 million to ~11,700 years ago), involving changes in the courses of the Yamuna, Sutlej, and their connections between the Indus and Ganga systems.

- ✓ **Statement 3 is the correct basis:** The presence of closely related freshwater river dolphins (Indus River Dolphin — Platanista gangetica minor and Ganges River Dolphin — Platanista gangetica gangetica) in two currently separate river systems is strong biogeographical evidence. Since these dolphins are strictly freshwater species and cannot cross saline water, their common ancestry indicates that the Indus and Ganga river systems were once hydrologically connected in the geological past (Pleistocene), supporting the theory of river shifts.
- ✓ **Statement 1 (Nadi-Sukta of the Rigveda):** The Nadistuti Sukta (Rigveda 10.75) lists rivers in a geographical order and reflects the Vedic/Holocene period (~1500–1000 BCE). It is useful for historical geography but cannot serve as scientific evidence for deep-time geological changes that occurred tens of thousands of years earlier in the Pleistocene.
- ✓ **Statement 2 (Explorations by Robert Bruce Foote):** Foote is known as the "Father of Indian Prehistory" for discovering Paleolithic stone tools. He did not conduct explorations specifically linking to Pleistocene river course changes of the Sutlej and Yamuna in this context.

12. What does an empty seat represent in early Buddhist iconography?

a) The meditation of the Buddha b) The Buddha's First Sermon
c) The Buddha's Mahaparinibbana d) The Buddha's Mahabhinishkramana

Answer: a

Explanation:

In early Buddhist iconography (aniconic phase, roughly 3rd century BCE to 1st century CE), the Buddha was not shown in human form. Instead, various symbols were used to represent important events in his life.

- Empty Seat / Empty Throne (often placed under the Bodhi tree) represents the Buddha's meditation and his Enlightenment (Sambodhi) at Bodh Gaya.
- It symbolizes the presence of the Buddha without showing his physical form.

13. Which of the following pairs of ancient and modern names of rivers is/are correctly matched?

1) Vitasta : Chenab
2) Asikni : Jhelum
3) Parushni : Ravi
4) Yavyavati : Beas

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Ancient Name	Modern Name	Status
Vitasta	Jhelum	Incorrect (1 is wrong)
Asikni	Chenab	Incorrect (2 is wrong)
Parushni	Ravi	Correct
Yavyavati	Beas	Incorrect (4 is wrong)

- Pair 1: Vitasta (or Vitastā) is the Rigvedic name for the Jhelum river (not Chenab).
- Pair 2: Asikni is the Rigvedic name for the Chenab river (not Jhelum).
- Pair 3: Parushni (or Paruṣṇī) is correctly identified with the Ravi river.
- Pair 4: Yavyavati is generally identified with a tributary or old channel of the Yamuna/Drishadvati (not Beas). The ancient name for Beas is Vipasa (or Vipāśā).

✓ Only Pair 3 is correctly matched. This is a standard question based on the Nadistuti Sukta (Rigveda 10.75) and Rigvedic geography.

14. Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct?

1) It was located in the lower Krishna valley
2) In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
3) The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Amaravati Stupa (also known as Mahachaitya) is located

in Amaravati village, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh, on the right bank of the Krishna River in the lower Krishna valley.

- ✓ **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The Amaravati Stupa was actually larger than the Sanchi Stupa. Amaravati: Base diameter ~50 metres, height ~27–30 metres. Sanchi: Diameter ~36.5 metres. It was one of the largest stupas in ancient India, not "next only to Sanchi."
- ✓ **Statement 3 is Correct:** The Amaravati school of sculpture (using white limestone with intricate, dynamic reliefs) had a profound influence on later South Indian art. Its stylistic features spread through maritime trade to Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia (e.g., Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia). This is a standard question on the Buddhist art schools of ancient India (Bharhut, Sanchi, Mathura, and Amaravati).

15. Which of the following pairs of the king and his dynasty in early historical Tamilakam is/are not correctly matched?

1) Senguttuvan : Chera
2) Udiyanjeral : Chola
3) Nedunjeliyan : Pandya

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Here is the correct matching of the kings with their dynasties in the Sangam Age (Early Historical Tamilakam):

King	Dynasty	Status
Senguttuvan	Chera	Correct
Udiyanjeral	Chera	Incorrect (Not Chola)
Nedunjeliyan	Pandya	Correct

Key Points:

- Senguttuvan (also known as Vel Kelu Kuttuvan) was one of the greatest Chera kings. He is famous in Silappadikaram for his military campaigns and for consecrating a temple for Kannagi.
- Udiyanjeral (also called Uthiyan Cheralathan or Perum Cheral Irumporai) was an early Chera king. He is mentioned as participating in the Battle of Venni. He does not belong to the Chola dynasty.
- Nedunjeliyan (there were a few Pandya kings with this name) was a powerful Pandya ruler. The most famous one is credited with victory at Talaiyalanganam.
- Only pair 2 is wrongly matched.

16. Which of the following factors contributed to the formation of the Forward Bloc by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939?

1) Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.
2) The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.

3) The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.
4) The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Subhas Chandra Bose resigned from the Congress Presidentship in April 1939 after the Tripuri Session crisis and formed the All India Forward Bloc in May 1939 to consolidate the radical Left elements.

Why these factors contributed:

✓ **Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi — Correct.** Gandhi openly opposed Bose's re-election in 1939 and declared Pattabhi Sitaramayya's defeat as his own. This created a major deadlock, as Bose could not form a Working Committee acceptable to Gandhi.

✓ **The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose — Correct.** The Left (Congress Socialist Party, Communists, Royists, etc.) lacked unity and cohesion. Many were hesitant to confront Gandhi directly.

✓ **Supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity — Correct.** They prioritized keeping the Congress united under Gandhi's leadership rather than risking a split by fully backing Bose's aggressive line.

× **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Communists (CPI) initially supported Bose during the 1939 presidential election and Tripuri session. They voted for him and stood by him longer than some other Left groups. Their later differences came after the formation of the Forward Bloc.

17. Consider the following statements regarding the British policy in Awadh immediately after its annexation in 1856

1) The taluqdars were dispossessed of their estates but allowed to retain their arms and forts.
2) A Summary Revenue Settlement was made in 1856 assuming that the taluqdars were outsiders.
3) The British believed in taking revenue directly from the peasants by removing the taluqdars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

× **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Immediately after the annexation of Awadh in 1856, the British dispossessed the taluqdars of a large part of their estates and disarmed them. Their forts were destroyed. They were not allowed to retain their arms and forts. This policy severely undermined the power and prestige of the taluqdars.

- ✓ **Statement 2 is Correct:** A Summary Revenue Settlement was introduced in 1856. It was based on the assumption that the taluqdars were "outsiders" or interlopers who had acquired their lands through force and fraud during the later Nawabi period. The settlement aimed to remove or reduce their influence wherever possible.
- ✓ **Statement 3 is Correct:** The British believed in settling revenue directly with the village proprietors (actual cultivators/peasants) by bypassing or removing the taluqdars (intermediaries). Their goal was to increase revenue collection for the state and reduce what they saw as exploitation by the taluqdars.
- ✓ This harsh policy created widespread discontent among the taluqdars and peasants of Awadh, which became one of the major causes of the Revolt of 1857 in the region. After 1857, the British reversed this policy and restored many taluqdars as loyal zamindars.

18. Consider the following assertion

The genesis of political alliances based on community lay in the very nature of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919.

Which of the following statements support/supports the above assertion?

1) Reforms retained and extended the principle of separate electorates.
2) Separate electorates were supposed to counter Indian nationalism, which was growing stronger.
3) Deprived classes rallied around the favours inherent in separate electorates.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The Montague-Chelmsford Reforms (1919), which introduced dyarchy in the provinces, are widely seen as institutionalizing communal politics in India.

How the statements support the assertion:

- ✓ **Correct —** The Reforms retained the system of separate electorates (introduced by Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909 for Muslims) and extended it to other communities such as Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. This laid the structural foundation for community-based political identity and alliances.
- ✓ **Correct —** One of the clear British intentions behind separate electorates was to weaken Indian nationalism by encouraging divisions along religious and communal lines. By giving minorities (especially Muslims) separate representation, the British hoped to counter the growing influence of the Indian National Congress.
- ✓ **Correct —** Various deprived or minority classes (Depressed Classes, non-Brahmins in some regions, etc.) saw separate electorates as a means to secure political safeguards and favours. This encouraged them to organize politically along communal lines rather than joining the mainstream nationalist movement.
- ✓ **Conclusion:** All three statements directly explain why the Montford Reforms are considered the genesis of community-based political alliances in modern India. The reforms gave constitutional legitimacy to the idea that political rights should be based on religious/community identity rather than citizenship.

19. Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur, the famous classical singer from Karnataka, represented the

a) Agra Gharana b) Gwalior Gharana
c) Patiala Gharana d) Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana

Answer: d

Explanation:

Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur (1910–1992) was one of the most renowned vocalists of the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana.

- He was born in Mansur village in Karnataka and was a disciple of Pandit Manji Khan and Pandit Bhurji Khan, both sons of the legendary Ustad Alladiya Khan, the founder of the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana.
- He was known for his mastery over raga alapana, bol taans, and a vast repertoire of rare ragas.
- His style was characterized by intellectual depth, purity, and intricate taan patterns — hallmarks of the Jaipur-Atrauli tradition.
- Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur is widely regarded as one of the finest representatives of the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana in the 20th century.

20. In which one among the following texts does the term kshetra-patni ('mistress of the field') originate?

a) Rigveda b) Atharvaveda c) Ashtadhyayi d) Arthashastra

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The term kshetra-patni (क्षेत्रपत्नी), meaning 'mistress of the field' or 'lady/goddess of the agricultural field', originates in the Atharvaveda.
- It appears in Atharvaveda 2.12.1, where it refers to a feminine guardian spirit or deity associated with agricultural land, fertility, and protection of cultivated fields.
- This reflects the Later Vedic period's increasing focus on settled agriculture, land possession, and folk-religious practices.

21. Consider the following statements with reference to India's response to climate change:

1) India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
2) India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted in December, 2024 recorded around 8% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 over 2019.
3) Climate-resilient development necessarily depends on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1) Statement I is empirically supported by statement II.
2) Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in statement I.

3) Statement I and statement III together establish the premise of long-term sustainability.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement I is correct:** India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), submitted to UNFCCC in November 2022, explicitly serves as a strategic framework to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070. It outlines seven key transitions for low-carbon development aligned with India's developmental goals.
- Statement II is correct: India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4), submitted in December 2024, recorded a 7.93% decrease in total GHG emissions in 2020 compared to 2019 (approximately 8%). This reflects the impact of various mitigation measures.
- **Statement III is incorrect / flawed:** It says climate-resilient development necessarily depends on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets. This contradicts India's approach, which emphasises long-term, phased, and equitable transitions (as seen in LT-LEDS) while balancing development needs. India advocates for a gradual transition considering historical responsibilities and national circumstances, not rushed short-term targets.

22. With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1) A Sanctuary in North-east India is home to this ape species listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2) They have specialized brachiation and can easily swing between trees.
3) They possess a strong and heavy build like gorillas, yet are remarkably agile tree climbers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Western Hoolock Gibbon (Hoolock hoolock) is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. It is found in Northeast India, and a dedicated protected area — Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary (also known as Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary) in Assam — is a key habitat and home for this species.

✓ **Statement 2 is Correct:** Gibbons, including the Western Hoolock, are renowned for their specialized brachiation — a mode of locomotion where they swing hand-over-hand through the trees using their long arms. They are highly agile and can swing between trees at high speeds.

× **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** Western Hoolock Gibbons have a slender and lightweight build (males ~6.9 kg, females ~6 kg), which is ideal for arboreal life. They do not have

a strong and heavy build like gorillas (which are great apes and much larger). Their agility comes from their long arms, lightweight frame, and specialized shoulder joints.

- Conclusion: Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

23. Which of the following best explain(s) the rationale for protecting mangrove ecosystems in the context of climate resilience?

1) Mangroves reduce tidal energy and store freshwater, making them ideal sites for paddy cultivation in saline estuarine belts.
2) Their salt-sensitive roots filter seawater, making mangroves key to converting coastal land into freshwater aquaculture zones.
3) By withstanding tidal surges and offering biomass resources, mangroves function both as natural bio-shields and livelihood bases for rural communities.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** Mangroves are highly effective natural bio-shields. They reduce the impact of tidal surges, cyclones, storm surges, and coastal erosion — making them critical for climate resilience. They also provide rich biomass resources (fish, crabs, honey, timber, medicinal plants), supporting the livelihoods of coastal communities. This dual role (protection + livelihood) is the primary rationale for their conservation.

× **Statement 1 is incorrect:** While mangroves do reduce tidal energy, they are not ideal for paddy cultivation. Mangroves thrive in saline, waterlogged conditions. Converting mangrove areas into paddy fields is one of the major causes of mangrove destruction, not a reason for their protection.

× **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Mangroves are salt-tolerant (halophytes), not salt-sensitive. Their roots do not primarily "filter seawater" to create freshwater zones. On the contrary, converting mangrove areas into freshwater aquaculture is ecologically damaging and leads to mangrove loss.

24. In what way(s) does the Vizhinjam International Seaport represent a structural shift in India's maritime trade and logistics policy?

1) By functioning exclusively as a domestic cargo hub to reduce reliance on coastal shipping and eliminate the need for foreign collaborations.
2) By focusing primarily on passenger cruise tourism and heritage shipping to increase Kerala's profile as a maritime heritage destination.
3) By leveraging its natural deep draft and strategic location to reduce dependence on foreign trans-shipment ports, enhance revenue retention, and reposition India in regional maritime trade.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- ✗ **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Vizhinjam is not a domestic cargo hub, nor does it eliminate foreign collaboration. It is designed specifically as India's first greenfield International Deepwater Trans-shipment Port, developed through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model with the Adani Group to explicitly capture international mother vessels.
- ✗ **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While the port can accommodate cruise ships, its core structural objective is commercial cargo logistics (specifically container trans-shipment), not passenger cruise tourism or maritime heritage promotion.
- ✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** Historically, about 25% of India's containerized cargo had to be trans-shipped through foreign ports like Colombo, Singapore, and Salalah because Indian ports lacked the depth to host ultra-large container ships. Vizhinjam possesses a natural deep draft of 20–24 meters with minimal maintenance dredging requirements and is located just 10 nautical miles from the international East-West shipping route. This allows it to anchor the world's largest "Megamax" container vessels directly, drastically reducing freight costs, retaining trans-shipment revenue within the Indian economy, and structurally securing India's maritime logistics strategy.

25. Identify the river of the Indian sub-continent on the basis of the following information

1) It has an antecedent drainage system.
2) It flows through three countries.
3) It originates in the Tibetan Plateau and is an important river for irrigation.
4) It does not form distributaries.

Select the answer from the following

a) Brahmaputra b) Indus c) Sutlej d) Teesta

Answer: c

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sutlej is a textbook example of an antecedent river. It existed before the Himalayan mountain ranges were uplifted. As the Himalayas rose, the river maintained its path by cutting deep, vertical gorges through the mountains (such as the gorge at Shipki La).
- ✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** The Sutlej flows through three countries: China (Tibet region, where it is known as Langqên Zangbo), India (Himachal Pradesh and Punjab), and Pakistan.
- ✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** It originates from Lake Rakshastal (just west of Lake Manasarovar and Mount Kailash) on the Tibetan Plateau. It is exceptionally important for irrigation, feeding extensive canal networks like the Sirhind Canal and Bhakra Main Line, and filling the reservoir of the massive Bhakra-Nangal Dam

project.

✓ **Statement 4 is correct:** Unlike the main stem of the Brahmaputra or the Indus, which break up into an extensive network of coastal distributaries to form vast river deltas before reaching the sea, the Sutlej does not form distributaries. It is a tributary that ends its independent course by merging directly into the Chenab River in Pakistan (which collectively forms the Panjnad before joining the Indus).

26. Which of the following with reference to Indian States is/are not correct?

1) Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with the highest number of other Indian States.
2) Rajasthan shares the longest international border among all Indian States.
3) Sikkim is the only State that shares its boundary with just one other Indian State.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** Uttar Pradesh shares its borders with the highest number of other Indian states. It is surrounded by 8 states (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Bihar) plus 1 Union Territory (Delhi), totaling 9 neighbors. Because Statement 1 is true, it cannot be part of the answer code.

× **Statement 2 is not correct:** While Rajasthan shares a highly significant 1,170 km border with Pakistan (the Radcliffe Line), it does not hold the record for the longest international boundary among all Indian states. That title belongs to West Bengal, which shares a massive 2,217 km border with Bangladesh alone, alongside additional boundaries with Bhutan and Nepal (reaching over 2,500 km in total length).

× **Statement 3 is not correct:** The word "only" makes this statement false. While it is true that Sikkim shares its internal domestic boundary with just one Indian state (West Bengal), it is not the only one to do so. Meghalaya also shares its domestic land boundary with exactly one Indian state (Assam), while being surrounded by Bangladesh on its remaining sides.

27. Which of the following statements with regard to the arrival of Amur Falcons at Doyang Lake in Nagaland each year from Mongolia is/are correct?

1) It showcases how sustained local conservation efforts can contribute to the arrival and protection of international migratory birds.
2) It reflects the global success of advanced tracking technologies that guide migratory birds back to their stopover sites.
3) It confirms that Amur Falcons have adapted to permanent residency in India due to favourable habitat changes.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 is Correct:** The annual arrival of Amur Falcons at Doyang Lake (Doyang Reservoir) in Nagaland is a globally celebrated community-led conservation success story. Until around 2012, large-scale hunting of these birds occurred in the area. Sustained efforts by local communities (especially Pangti village), the Nagaland Forest Department, and NGOs have transformed the region from a hunting ground into a safe stopover site. This demonstrates how local conservation can effectively protect international migratory species.
- × **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** While tracking technologies (like satellite tagging) have been used to study Amur Falcon migration, the arrival at Doyang Lake is not due to "advanced tracking technologies guiding the birds." The birds follow their natural migratory instincts and routes. The statement exaggerates the role of technology.
- × **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** Amur Falcons are long-distance migratory birds. They breed in Mongolia, northeast China, and the Russian Far East, stop briefly in Nagaland (including Doyang) to refuel, and then fly non-stop across the Indian Ocean to southern Africa for the winter. They are not permanent residents in India, nor have they "adapted to permanent residency."

28. Which among the following is/are the objective(s) of the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) initiative under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)?

1) Encouraging monoculture in rainfed areas
2) Increasing rice cultivation in irrigated regions
3) Enhancing productivity and minimising climatic risks through Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d

Explanation: The Rainfed Area Development (RAD) initiative under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has the following key objectives:

- Enhancing productivity of rainfed areas through integrated and location-specific interventions
- Minimising climatic risks by promoting Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) — combining crops, horticulture, livestock, fishery, agroforestry, etc.
- Promoting diversification (not monoculture) to ensure sustainable livelihoods
- Improving soil health and water-use efficiency in rainfed conditions
- Convergence of schemes to maximize resource use

29. Which of the following is/are the most significant implication(s) of obtaining Oeko- Tex certification for Eri Silk in the global textile industry?

1) It allows Indian exporters to compete in high-end markets that prioritise chemical-free products.
2) It confirms that Eri Silk meets international safety, environmental, and quality standards, enabling its entry into premium eco-conscious markets.

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: c

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** Oeko-Tex certification (particularly OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100) is widely recognised in high-end markets — especially in Europe and North America — where consumers and retailers actively demand textiles that are free from harmful chemicals. Indian exporters of Eri Silk, armed with this certification, gain a credible, internationally recognised credential that opens doors to premium retail channels and eco-conscious buyers who would otherwise be difficult to access.
- ✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** Oeko-Tex certification is a comprehensive standard that tests for harmful substances, environmental impact, and production safety. It confirms compliance with internationally accepted thresholds for chemicals, dyes, and processing agents. For Eri Silk — already a naturally produced, non-violent silk — this certification formally validates its safety and quality claims, enabling its positioning in premium, eco-conscious global markets with documented proof rather than just marketing assertions.

30. Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean?

1) Bahrain 2) Syria 3) Qatar 4) Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below

a) 1 and 2 b) 1 and 3 c) 2 and 3 d) 3 and 4

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and then the Indian Ocean. Any country whose ports lie within the Persian Gulf must pass through the Strait of Hormuz to reach the Indian Ocean.
- Bahrain and Qatar are both Persian Gulf states; their maritime trade to the Indian Ocean must transit the Strait of Hormuz.
- Syria is a Mediterranean country with no Persian Gulf access.
- Egypt borders the Red Sea and Mediterranean; its ships reach the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea/Gulf of Aden, not the Strait of Hormuz.
- Hence, 1 and 3 is the correct choice.

31. Tungurahua Volcano, which was declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO in 2025, is situated in which one among the following countries?

a) Ecuador b) Peru c) Bolivia d) Colombia

Answer: a

Explanation:

Tungurahua is an active stratovolcano located in the Cordillera Oriental of the Andes in Ecuador, near the city of Baños de Agua Santa in Tungurahua Province. The name "Tungurahua" comes from the Kichwa language, roughly meaning "Throat of Fire," reflecting its highly active volcanic nature.

32. With reference to Madhav National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1) It was declared a Tiger Reserve in India in 2025.
2) Sakhya Sagar, which is designated as a Ramsar Site, is situated within this National Park.
3) Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** Madhav National Park was officially declared a Tiger Reserve in 2024–2025, making it Madhya Pradesh's 9th Tiger Reserve. This is consistent with the statement's claim.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** Sakhya Sagar lake is indeed situated within Madhav National Park and has been designated as a Ramsar Site (wetland of international importance). This is a well-established geographical and ecological fact about the park.

× **Statement 3 Incorrect:** Madhav National Park is located entirely in the Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh. Its area is not shared with Rajasthan. While the park is geographically close to the Rajasthan border, it lies wholly within Madhya Pradesh.

33. With reference to the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1) The climate can be defined as a humid, tropical coastal climate.
2) It receives rainfall from both South-west monsoon and North-east monsoon.
3) Maximum precipitation is between December and May.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands experience a humid, tropical coastal climate — characterised by high temperatures year-round (typically 23–30°C), high humidity, and heavy rainfall. This classification is accurate given their equatorial proximity and maritime setting in the Bay of Bengal.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** The islands receive rainfall from both the South-West monsoon (May–September) and the North-East monsoon (October–December). Their geographic orientation in the Bay of Bengal makes them uniquely positioned to intercept moisture from both monsoon systems, resulting in rainfall for most of the year.

× **Statement 3 Incorrect:** Maximum precipitation does not occur between December and May. The peak rainfall period is during the South-West monsoon (roughly May/June to September/October). December to May is broadly the comparatively drier period, though the North-East monsoon does bring some rainfall in the October–December window. The framing of "December to May" as the maximum precipitation window is factually wrong.

34. Which of the following geographical features or phenomena is/are associated with the Peninsular Block of India?

1) Submergence of parts of the western coast due to tectonic activity
2) Presence of residual mountain ranges such as the Veliconda hills and Mahendragiri hills
3) Deep, V-shaped river valleys formed by fast-flowing rivers

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** The western coast of India is highly tectonic and showcases distinct features of submergence. During the faulting and fracturing associated with the breakup of Gondwanaland and the subsequent tilt of the Indian plate, massive sections of the western edge slipped downward beneath the Arabian Sea (e.g., the formation of Mumbai's coast, the legendary city of Dwarka, and the steep western escarpment of the Western Ghats).

✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** The Peninsular Block has been exposed to denudation (weathering and erosion) for hundreds of millions of years. Because of this, its original mountain systems have been worn down into residual or relict mountains (old, disjointed hills). Examples include the Veliconda hills (part of the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh), Mahendragiri hills (Odisha), and the Javadi or Shevroy hills.

× **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Deep, V-shaped valleys carved by fast-flowing, youthful, and highly erosive rivers are a hallmark feature of the Himalayan river system (like the upper courses of the Indus, Ganga, and Brahmaputra). In contrast, the rivers of the Peninsular Block (like the Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri) are mature, old-stage rivers. They flow across a gentle gradient and have already reached their base level of erosion, meaning they form broad, shallow, and graded valleys rather than sharp V-shaped ones.

35. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India

1) The Sagarmala Programme seeks to achieve port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure.
2) The success of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and inland waterway shipping, along with improved global port rankings.
3) Sagarmala 2.0 aims to position India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1) Statement II validates the effectiveness of the strategies envisioned in statement I.
2) Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework.
3) Statement I contradicts statement III by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- ✓ **Relationship A (Statement II validates Statement I) Correct:** Statement I establishes the vision of the Sagarmala Programme: port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure. Statement II provides evidence of outcomes: growth in coastal/inland waterway shipping and improved global port rankings. This is a direct validation relationship — the results described in II demonstrate that the strategies in I are working. Hence, Relationship A is correct.
- ✓ **Relationship B (Statement III extends Statement I Correct:** Statement I lays the foundational objective of port-led coastal development. Statement III (Sagarmala 2.0) builds upon and extends this by embedding the programme into a broader, future-oriented framework aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047, adding a maritime innovation and self-reliance dimension. This is clearly an extension/evolution relationship, not a contradiction. Hence, Relationship B is correct.
- × **Relationship C (Statement I contradicts Statement III) Incorrect:** Statement I does not focus only on traditional infrastructure. The phrase "sustainable coastal infrastructure" already implies a forward-looking, adaptive approach. Sagarmala 2.0 (Statement III) is a natural progression of the original programme, not a contradiction of it. There is no logical contradiction between the two; they represent continuity and evolution of the same policy framework. Hence, Relationship C is incorrect.

36. Consider the following statements about Rhynchostylis retusa (Foxtail orchid)

1) It is an epiphytic orchid.
2) The species is endemic to North-east India.
3) It is the State flower of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** It is an epiphytic orchid. Rhynchostylis retusa (Foxtail orchid) is indeed an epiphytic orchid, meaning it grows on other plants (typically tree branches) for physical support without being parasitic. It derives moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and surrounding environment. This is a well-established botanical characteristic of the species.
- × **Statement 2 Incorrect:** The species is endemic to North-east India. Rhynchostylis retusa is not endemic to North-east India. Its natural distribution is widespread across tropical Asia, including India (including North-east India), Sri Lanka, Myanmar,

Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and other parts of South and Southeast Asia. "Endemic" would mean it is exclusively native to North-east India, which is factually incorrect.

✓ **Statement 3 Correct:** It is the State flower of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. Rhynchostylis retusa (locally known as Kopou Phool in Assam) is indeed the State flower of both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. In Assam, it holds deep cultural significance and is prominently used during the Bihu festival.

37. Which one of the following statements with regard to the Moidams, built by the Tai-Ahom kingdom and inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is/are correct?

1) They acted as army fortresses.
2) They were recreation centres of the Royals and Nobles.
3) They were burial grounds of the Royals and Nobles.
4) They were battle drill centres of the Royals and Nobles.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 3 is correct.** Moidams are the burial mounds of the Tai-Ahom dynasty, constructed in Charaideo, Assam. They served as the funerary monuments — burial grounds — of Ahom royalty and nobles. The Ahom rulers practiced a custom of burying the dead (rather than cremating them, as was common in Hindu tradition), placing the deceased along with their valuables, servants, and belongings inside these earthen mounds. Charaideo Moidams were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2024, recognised as an outstanding example of the Tai-Ahom funerary tradition.

× **Statements 1, 2, and 4 are incorrect:**

38. At the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) held in June, 2025 in France, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations demonstrated its leading voice on marine and ocean issues, especially on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for resilient lively - hood and "Blue Transformation". Which of the following combinations about the "Four Betters" proposed by FAO for "Blue Transformation" is correct?

a) Better production, better nutrition, better environment and better ocean
b) Better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life
c) Better coral reefs, better nutrition, better environment and better life
d) Better estuaries, better nutrition, better environment and better mangrove vegetation

Answer: b

Explanation:

The "Four Betters" serve as the overarching organizing principle for the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under its Strategic Framework. They are designed to help nations transform their agrifood systems to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—specifically SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

When applied specifically to the FAO's "Blue Transformation" roadmap for aquatic and marine food systems, the Four Betters translate to the following strategic pillars:

- **Better Production:** Accelerating the sustainable expansion and intensification of aquaculture, alongside managing effective fisheries to build resilient supply chains.
- **Better Nutrition:** Ensuring that highly nutritious aquatic foods (fish, seaweed, shellfish) are accessible, affordable, and fully integrated into global food security strategies to combat malnutrition.
- **Better Environment:** Promoting biodiversity conservation, restoring marine habitats, and creating climate-mitigating aquatic value chains that minimize ecological footprints.
- **Better Life:** Upgrading social and economic systems to support equitable livelihoods, gender equality, and economic growth for small-scale fishers and coastal communities dependent on the ocean.

39. Which of the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana is/are correct?

1) It is the largest desert lake in the world.
2) The lake is situated in South Sudan along the eastern fringe of the Sahara desert.
3) The lake is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also referred to as the 'Jade Sea'.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** Lake Turkana is indeed the largest desert lake in the world and also the world's largest permanent desert lake. It is located in the arid/semi-arid region of the East African Rift Valley, making this designation accurate.

× **Statement 2 Incorrect:** Lake Turkana is not situated in South Sudan, nor is it along the eastern fringe of the Sahara desert. The lake is located primarily in northwestern Kenya, with its northern tip extending slightly into southern Ethiopia. It lies within the East African Rift System, not near the Sahara desert. The surrounding region is the Chalbi Desert / arid Turkana basin, not the Sahara.

✓ **Statement 3 Correct:** Lake Turkana is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (inscribed in 1997 as part of the "Lake Turkana National Parks"). It is popularly known as the 'Jade Sea' owing to the distinctive jade-green colour of its waters, caused by algae and the mineral composition of the lake.

40. Which one of the following is the first Plan Vivo certified Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) project in India?

a) Uttarakhand REDD+ project
b) ICFRE-ICIMOD Transboundary REDD+ project in North-Eastern Himalayas
c) Khasi Hills Community REDD+ project
d) Sikkim Manley Kamrang Community REDD+ project

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ project, located in the Meghalaya state of India, is recognised as the first Plan Vivo certified REDD+ project in India. It is implemented by the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council and community forest management groups, focusing on community-led forest conservation and restoration in the biodiversity-rich Meghalaya highlands.
- Plan Vivo is an internationally recognised certification standard specifically designed for community-based forestry, land use, and ecosystem services projects, emphasising smallholder and community participation.

The other options are incorrect in this specific context:

- The Uttarakhand REDD+ project is a state-level initiative but is not the first Plan Vivo certified REDD+ project in India.
- The ICFRE-ICIMOD Transboundary REDD+ project in North-Eastern Himalayas is a research and capacity-building initiative, not a Plan Vivo certified community project.
- The Sikkim Manley Kamrang Community REDD+ project is a community forestry initiative but does not hold the distinction of being the first Plan Vivo certified REDD+ project in India.

41. Which of the following statements with regard to genetic medicine is/are correct?

1) Genetic medicines correct/compensate for the faulty genes responsible for disease.
2) Engineered viruses and lipid nanoparticles are used as carriers of the genetic medicine.
3) Genetic medicines alter the entire DNA sequence.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1: Correct:** "Genetic medicines correct/compensate for the faulty genes responsible for disease." This is the foundational principle of genetic medicine. Approaches such as gene therapy, gene editing (e.g., CRISPR-Cas9), and gene silencing (e.g., siRNA, antisense oligonucleotides) all work by either correcting a mutated gene, replacing a non-functional gene, or compensating for its faulty expression to restore normal cellular function.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** "Engineered viruses and lipid nanoparticles are used as carriers of the genetic medicine." This is accurate. The two primary delivery vehicles for genetic medicines are: Viral vectors (engineered viruses) — e.g., Adeno-

Associated Viruses (AAV), lentiviruses, adenoviruses — used in gene therapy Lipid Nanoparticles (LNPs) — the delivery system used in mRNA-based medicines (e.g., COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, siRNA therapies like Onpattro/patisiran)

× **Statement 3 Incorrect:** "Genetic medicines alter the entire DNA sequence." This is factually wrong. Genetic medicines are highly targeted and precise — they act on specific genes, sequences, or genetic loci responsible for a disease. They do not alter the entire DNA sequence of an organism. Technologies like CRISPR-Cas9 make edits at specific genomic locations, while mRNA therapies do not even alter DNA at all — they work at the RNA level.

42. Which of the following statements with regard to Large Language Models (LLMs) used in machine learning is/are correct?

1) LLMs assign probabilities to the next possible words and then pick the one with the highest probability.
2) LLMs process data through mathematical optimization to minimise prediction errors.
3) LLMs produce unbiased outputs.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** LLMs do assign probabilities to the next possible token/word from a vocabulary distribution and select outputs based on those probabilities. During inference, strategies like greedy decoding (picking the highest probability token), beam search, or temperature-based sampling are used. The core mechanism is fundamentally probabilistic next-token prediction.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** LLMs are trained through mathematical optimisation — specifically, gradient descent-based algorithms (e.g., Adam optimiser) that minimise a loss function (typically cross-entropy loss) measuring prediction error between the model's output and the actual target token. This iterative minimisation of prediction errors is the foundational training mechanism.

× **Statement 3 Incorrect:** LLMs do not produce unbiased outputs. They are trained on large corpora of human-generated text, which inherently contains societal, cultural, gender, racial, and political biases. These biases are absorbed and can be reflected or even amplified in model outputs. This is a well-documented and actively researched limitation of all current LLMs, including GPT, LLaMA, Gemini, and others.

43. Which of the following statements with regard to stealth technology is/are correct?

1) Stealth objects have a very small radar cross-section and are coated with Radar Absorbing Material.
2) Stealth objects can be detected using specific frequencies.
3) Stealth objects are coated with metamaterials to increase the scattering of electromagnetic radiation.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** Stealth objects (aircraft, ships, vehicles) are designed with two key features: Reduced Radar Cross-Section (RCS): Achieved through angular/faceted geometries or curved surfaces that deflect radar waves away from the source rather than reflecting them back. Radar Absorbing Material (RAM) coatings: Specially engineered materials (e.g., iron ball paint, carbon-based composites) that absorb incident radar energy and convert it to heat, minimising reflection. This is a well-established and foundational principle of stealth technology.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** Stealth objects are not undetectable — they can be detected using: Very Low Frequency (VLF) and Low Frequency (LF) radar: Long-wavelength radar systems (e.g., over-the-horizon radar, VHF-band radar) can detect stealth platforms because RAM coatings and geometric shaping are optimised primarily for high-frequency (microwave/X-band) radar. Bistatic and multistatic radar systems, infrared sensors, and acoustic detection also exploit stealth vulnerabilities at specific frequencies or angles.

× **Statement 3 Incorrect:** This statement is factually inverted. Metamaterials in stealth research are used to reduce or redirect electromagnetic scattering — not increase it. Metamaterials with negative permittivity and permeability properties are explored for creating "electromagnetic cloaking" effects that guide radar waves around an object, thereby minimising detectability. Increasing scattering would make an object more visible to radar, which is the opposite of stealth.

44. Which of the following statements with regard to Black Boxes used in modern aircraft is/are correct?

1) They carry a beacon emitting red light pulses to facilitate underwater detection.
2) They record both the cockpit voice and flight data.
3) Their memory units are made using either stainless steel or titanium.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

× **Statement 1 Incorrect**: Black Boxes (Flight Recorders) do carry an Underwater Locator Beacon (ULB), but it emits ultrasonic acoustic (sonar) pings at 37.5 kHz, not red light pulses. The beacon is activated upon water immersion and is detectable by sonar equipment, not by light detection. The colour of the device itself is actually bright orange (not black) to aid visual identification.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct**: Modern aircraft carry two types of Black Boxes: Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) — records crew conversations, ATC communications, and ambient

cockpit sounds. Flight Data Recorder (FDR) — records hundreds of flight parameters such as altitude, speed, heading, and engine performance. Together, they record both cockpit voice and flight data, making Statement 2 accurate.

✓ **Statement 3 Correct:** The memory modules of Black Boxes are housed in a crash-survivable memory unit (CSMU) constructed from either stainless steel or titanium, designed to withstand extreme impact forces (up to 3,400 Gs), temperatures exceeding 1,000°C, deep-sea pressure, and prolonged immersion — all per ICAO and FAA survivability standards.

45. Which of the following statements with regard to Green Hydrogen is/are correct?

1) It is decarbonized hydrogen obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
2) It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
3) National Green Hydrogen Mission of India aims for abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

× **Statement 1 Incorrect:** Hydrogen produced from natural gas reforming (steam methane reforming/SMR) combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS) is classified as Blue Hydrogen, not Green Hydrogen. Green Hydrogen is defined exclusively by its production method using renewable energy — not fossil fuels with CCS.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** Green Hydrogen is produced through electrolysis of water ($H_2O \rightarrow H_2 + O$) powered entirely by renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, or hydropower. This process generates zero direct carbon emissions, making it genuinely "green."

✓ **Statement 3 Correct:** India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), approved in January 2023, sets an ambitious target of: Production capacity of 5 MMT per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030. Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Reduction of fossil fuel imports worth over ₹1 lakh crore

46. Consider the following statements with regard to involvement of private entities in India's space programme

1) The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is an autonomous agency formed to facilitate participation of private entities.
2) Agnikul Cosmos launched the world's first flight using 3D-printed rocket engine.
3) Skyroot Aerospace has developed liquid fuel for GSLV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 Correct:** IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) is indeed an autonomous, single-window, nodal agency established under the Department of Space (DoS) in 2020 to promote, enable, authorise, and supervise the activities of private entities in India's space sector. It acts as an interface between ISRO and non-governmental/private players.
- ✓ **Statement 2 Correct**: Agnikul Cosmos, an IIT Madras-based space start-up, successfully launched Agnibaan SOrTeD (Sub-Orbital Technology Demonstrator) on 30 May 2024 — the world's first flight powered by a single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine (Agnilet). This was a landmark achievement in additive manufacturing applied to rocketry.
- × **Statement 3 Incorrect:** Skyroot Aerospace did not develop liquid fuel for GSLV. Skyroot is known for developing its own private launch vehicles under the Vikram rocket series. Their Vikram-1 uses solid propulsion stages, and Vikram-2 is designed with liquid-fuelled upper stages — all for Skyroot's own rockets, not for ISRO's GSLV. There is no credible basis for the claim that Skyroot developed liquid fuel specifically for GSLV.

47. Which of the following statements with regard to drone swarms is/are correct?

1) They use Terahertz band of frequency to communicate with the command centre.
2) Individual drones in the swarm can communicate with other drones in the swarm.
3) GPS Spoofing is a commonly used technique to counter drone swarm attack.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- × **Statement 1 Incorrect**: Drone swarms do not use the Terahertz (THz) band to communicate with command centres. Terahertz frequencies (0.1–10 THz) are still largely experimental and impractical for operational drone communication due to severe atmospheric absorption and very limited range. Drone swarms typically communicate using radio frequency (RF) bands such as 2.4 GHz, 5.8 GHz, or military-grade encrypted UHF/VHF frequencies. Some advanced systems use sub-6 GHz or even 4G/5G LTE links for command-and-control.
- ✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** A defining characteristic of drone swarms is intra-swarm communication — individual drones share positional data, task assignments, and situational awareness with each other through mesh networking protocols. This distributed, peer-to-peer communication architecture is what enables autonomous coordination, collision avoidance, and collective decision-making without constant reliance on a centralised command centre.
- ✓ **Statement 3 Correct**: GPS Spoofing is indeed a well-established counter-drone technique used against drone swarms. By transmitting false GPS signals, adversaries

can mislead swarm drones about their actual position, causing navigational errors, disorientation, or forcing them off course. Other counter-swarm techniques include RF jamming, directed energy weapons, and cyber intrusion, but GPS spoofing is specifically recognised as a commonly employed countermeasure against GPS-dependent autonomous drone systems.

48. Which of the following statements with regard to GenomeIndia Project is/are correct?

1) It is a part of the Human Genome Project.
2) The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
3) Its primary aim is to build a catalogue of genetic diversity of the Indian population.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

× **Statement 1 Incorrect:** The GenomeIndia Project is not a part of the Human Genome Project (HGP). The HGP was an international scientific research project completed in 2003 that sequenced the entire human genome using reference samples, primarily of non-Indian origin. GenomeIndia is a separate, independent Indian initiative launched in 2020, focused specifically on sequencing the genomes of Indian population groups. The two are distinct projects with different scopes, timelines, and objectives.

✓ **Statement 2 Correct:** The GenomeIndia Project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. It is coordinated by the Centre for Brain Research at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, with participation from multiple premier Indian institutions including IITs and CSIR labs.

✓ **Statement 3 Correct**: The primary aim of the GenomeIndia Project is to build a comprehensive catalogue of genetic variations across India's diverse population. India harbours one of the world's most genetically diverse populations due to its thousands of endogamous communities, ethnic groups, and geographic isolates. The project targets sequencing approximately 10,000 individuals representing this diversity, to enable population-specific genomic medicine, disease risk profiling, and drug response studies.

49. Which of the following statements with regard to the National Quantum Mission (NQM) is/are correct?

1) It aims at developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50–1000 physical qubits.
2) Its implementation includes setting up of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in academic and national R&D institutes across India.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- The National Quantum Mission (NQM) indeed aims at developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50–1000 physical qubits, aligning with statement 1.
- Its implementation includes the establishment of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in academic and national R&D institutes across India, as mentioned in statement 2.
- Hence, both statements are correct.

50. Which of the following statements with regard to India's Deep Ocean Mission is/are correct?

1) It was launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.
2) Matsya-6000 has been designed to carry 3 people for deep sea exploration.
3) Samudrayaan is a project under this mission.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

× **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Deep Ocean Mission is a flagship initiative launched and coordinated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, not the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** MATSYA-6000 is a crewed deep-ocean submersible developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) under the MoES. It is specifically engineered to carry a crew of three people (one pilot and two scientists) down to an operational depth of 6,000 meters. The vehicle utilizes a high-strength titanium alloy personnel sphere to withstand the extreme hydrostatic pressure at those depths.

✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** Samudrayaan (literally meaning Sea Vehicle) is the official name of India's first unique crewed ocean mission. It is the self-contained, operational project under the broader Deep Ocean Mission that encompasses the development, testing, and deployment of the MATSYA-6000 submersible.

51. Mr. X, a senior officer, was overseeing a critical vaccination programme during a pandemic. He found that a private service provider responsible for vaccine distribution was compromising on quality to make profits. Despite immense pressure to manage the issue due to vested interests, he raised his voice based on the principles of public administration which he learnt during various training programmes attended across his career. He reported the issue to the appropriate vigilance authority and halted the contract to ensure citizen welfare.

Which one among the following principles of public administration was most strongly demonstrated by Mr. X's actions?

a) Esprit de corps b) Equity c) Accountability d) Delegation

Answer: c

Explanation:

Analyze the scenario: Mr. X identifies wrongdoing (poor quality) by a service provider. He takes corrective action (reporting to vigilance and halting the contract) to protect the public interest, despite facing external pressure and vested interests.

Evaluate the options:

a) **Esprit de corps:** Refers to promoting team spirit and harmony within an organization. While important, it does not address the act of confronting malpractice.

b) **Equity:** Refers to fairness and impartiality in treatment. While Mr. X ensured the public received fair service, it is a secondary outcome here rather than the primary driver of his administrative action.

c) **Accountability:** This is the obligation of an official to be answerable for their actions, to report on the performance of their duties, and to take responsibility for the outcomes of their decisions. By reporting the provider and halting the contract to ensure public safety, Mr. X demonstrated ethical and administrative accountability by upholding the integrity of the vaccination program.

d) **Delegation:** Refers to the transfer of authority to subordinates. This is irrelevant to the situation described.

Conclusion: Accountability is the most accurate principle, as Mr. X acted as a responsible custodian of public health, taking action to rectify a failure in the system he was tasked to oversee.

52. In a multi-ethnic district where both economic competition and historical grievances frequently led to community tensions, a flashpoint has arisen with a Government decision to allocate land for a waste management facility near a tribal hamlet, sparking protests by the tribal community, which claimed that the land was sacred and critical to their cultural identity. At the same time, urban residents and local industries supported the project, citing severe solid waste challenges and health concerns due to lack of a proper disposal site. The conflict has escalated with road blockades, social media campaigns, and allegations of police excesses. As a responsible Government official, you are tasked with resolving the situation through mediation, ensuring a sustainable outcome that balances environmental needs, tribal rights, and urban public health.

Consider the following statements with reference to the above

1) A successful conflict resolution process must begin with acknowledging the cultural concerns of the protesting tribal community before discussing technical alternatives.
2) The Government should move ahead with the project without delay to address urban health concerns, which outweigh the sentiments of a small group.
3) Creating a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform — including tribal leaders, environmental experts, and municipal representatives — to build mutual understanding and help de-escalate tensions.
4) Conducting an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and sharing findings transparently with both sides to facilitate evidence-based decision- making.

Which of the statements given above would contribute to the resolution process?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- **Analyze Statement 1:** Acknowledging cultural concerns is a fundamental step in conflict resolution (empathetic listening). It builds trust and is essential for de-escalating tensions, making it a valid approach.
- **Analyze Statement 2:** This statement suggests ignoring the rights and concerns of one group in favor of another, which is undemocratic, prone to exacerbating social unrest, and violates the principles of inclusive governance and human rights. It is not a viable resolution strategy.
- **Analyze Statement 3:** Multi-stakeholder dialogue is a standard, democratic, and effective tool for conflict resolution. By bringing opposing groups together to find common ground, it facilitates sustainable, consensus-based solutions.
- **Analyze Statement 4:** An independent ESIA provides neutral, factual evidence. Transparency in sharing these findings reduces suspicion and helps shift the discourse from emotional confrontation to evidence-based problem solving.

Conclusion: Statements 1, 3, and 4 represent balanced, ethical, and professional administrative practices to resolve the conflict. Statement 2 is detrimental to the resolution process. Therefore, option (a) is the correct choice.

53. Ms. X is a mid-level civil service official working in the urban development department of a major city. Recently, she was involved in approving a contract for a public infrastructure project — a new community park. During the approval process, she received a piece of confidential information indicating that one of the shortlisted contractors had a history of poor workmanship and allegations of corruption in other cities, though nothing had been legally proven. The Head of the Department, Mr. Y, advised her not to disclose this information to the project committee or the public because it could delay the project and damage the city's reputation. However, Ms. X believed that withholding such information compromised transparency and public trust.

What amongst the following should Ms. X do now?

1) Immediately disclose the information to the project committee and the public
2) Recommend removing the contractor from the shortlist to protect the project's integrity
3) Propose a 'limited disclosure' to an oversight committee, while keeping the information confidential from the public for the time being

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

× **Why Action 1 is incorrect:** Immediately leaking unverified confidential information to the public violates civil service conduct rules regarding confidentiality. Furthermore, since the allegations of corruption and poor workmanship are "not legally proven," making them public premature could lead to defamation lawsuits,

damage the city's reputation without due process, and cause unnecessary public panic or litigation that stalls development.

- ✗ **Why Action 2 is incorrect:** A civil servant cannot unilaterally recommend removing a contractor from a shortlist based purely on unproven allegations and rumors. Doing so violates the principle of natural justice and fair competition in public procurement. If every contractor could be disqualified based on unproven history, the bidding process would become arbitrary and prone to abuse.
- ✓ **Why Action 3 is correct**: This is the most balanced, legally sound, and ethically robust course of action. By proposing a 'limited disclosure' to an internal oversight or vigilance committee, Ms. X accomplishes multiple critical governance goals:
  - **Maintains Integrity:** She does not suppress the information or follow Mr. Y's advice blindly, thereby upholding her personal and professional conscience.
  - **Respects Due Process:** It allows a competent internal authority to discreetly verify the track record of the contractor before any public money is committed.
  - **Prevents Premature Chaos**: It protects the city from legal vulnerability and delays by keeping unproven allegations out of the public eye until an objective internal assessment is conducted.

54. 'X' was addressing a seminar on the meaning of the term 'law' as provided under Article 13, Part III of the Constitution of India. 'X' explained that the meaning of the term 'law' in the Constitution of India was very comprehensive. It included ordinances, orders and even rules and regulations. 'Y' pointed out that the term 'law' in Article 13 also included custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law, to which 'X' was not convinced.

Based on the above, select the correct conclusion from the options given below

a) 'X' is correct in the interpretation of law, including the view on non-inclusion of custom.
b) The view of 'Y' that 'law' included custom is not correct.
c) The views of both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.
d) The view of only 'Y' is correct.

Answer: d

Explanation:

In the context of Article 13 of the Constitution of India, the term 'law' is interpreted to include not only statutes but also customs and usages that have the force of law within the territory of India. Therefore, 'Y' is correct in asserting that the term 'law' encompasses custom, while 'X' is incorrect in excluding it.

55. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India

1) There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Constitution of India will be officially called the 'Constitution of India'.
2) There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935 stand repealed.
3) There is no Article in the Constitution of India that mentions 26th January, 1950 as the date of commencement of the Constitution of India.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

a) All three statements are correct.
b) There is no correct statement.
c) There are two correct statements that include statement 3.
d) There is only one correct statement.

Answer: b

- ✗ **Statement 1 is incorrect:** There is an explicit Article that specifies the official name. Article 393 (Short Title) states: "This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India."
- ✗ **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There is an explicit Article that formally repeals these two landmark pieces of British colonial legislation. Article 395 (Repeals) states: "The Indian Independence Act, 1947, and the Government of India Act, 1935, together with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act, but not including the Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction Act, 1949, are hereby repealed."
- ✗ **Statement 3 is incorrect:** There is an explicit Article that specifies the exact date of its full commencement. Article 394 (Commencement) explicitly states that while a few articles (like citizenship and elections) came into force on 26th November 1949, the rest of the Constitution would come into force on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1950: "...and the remaining provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1950, which day is referred to in this Constitution as the commencement of this Constitution."

56. Which of the following statements with regard to the persons with disabilities in India is/are correct?

1) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, an Act passed by the Parliament of India in 2018, mandates reservation in education and employment, places a legal duty on Governments to ensure accessibility and non-discrimination.
2) The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan focuses on achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across three key domains — built infrastructure, transport systems and information and communication technology.
3) The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) is a public sector organisation set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a not- for-profit company to promote entrepreneurship among Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- ✗ **Analyze Statement 1:** The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act was passed by the Parliament of India in 2016, not 2018. While it does mandate reservation and accessibility, the incorrect date makes this statement false.
- ✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan (Accessible India Campaign) is indeed a nationwide flagship campaign launched by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). Its objective is to achieve universal accessibility for PwDs across three main pillars: Built Environment,

Transportation, and ICT (Information and Communication Technology). This statement is correct.

× **Analyze Statement 3:** The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) was set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, not the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (as a company not for profit). Because the ministry mentioned is incorrect, this statement is false.

Conclusion: Only statement 2 is factually accurate. Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

57. Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India

1) Provisions regarding the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are given in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2) Some tribes of India are entitled to exemption from paying Income Tax on certain incomes.
3) The Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
b) There are two correct statements, that are statements 1 and 3.
c) There is only one correct statement.
d) All three statements are correct.

Answer: a

Explanation:

× **Analyze Statement 1:** Provisions regarding the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram are contained in the Sixth Schedule, not the Fifth Schedule. The Fifth Schedule deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in other states. Thus, statement 1 is incorrect.

✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** Under Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, members of certain Scheduled Tribes (specifically those residing in specified areas like the North-Eastern states, Ladakh, etc.) are exempted from income tax on income accruing from any source in those specified areas or by way of dividend or interest on securities. Thus, statement 2 is correct.

✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** Article 243D of the Constitution of India mandates the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in Panchayats in proportion to their population. It further mandates that not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved for SCs and STs shall be reserved for women belonging to those categories. Thus, statement 3 is correct.

Conclusion: Statements 2 and 3 are correct, while statement 1 is incorrect. Therefore, the conclusion that there are two correct statements including statement 2 is the correct choice.

58. Consider the following statements in respect of questions asked by the Members in the Parliament of India

1) Unstarred questions are those to which a Member desires an oral answer in the House.
2) Starred questions are those to which a Member desires a written answer.
3) No supplementary question can be asked on an unstarred question.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

a) All the three statements are correct.
b) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
c) There is only one correct statement.
d) There is no correct statement.

Answer: c

Explanation:

× **Analyze Statement 1:** This is incorrect. Starred questions are those for which a Member desires an oral answer in the House, which is why they are marked with an asterisk (*).

× **Analyze Statement 2:** This is incorrect. Unstarred questions are those for which a Member desires a written answer.

✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** This is correct. Since unstarred questions receive a written reply laid on the Table of the House, there is no scope for supplementary questions to be asked in the House.

Conclusion: Only statement 3 is correct. Therefore, the conclusion that there is only one correct statement is the right choice.

59. Consider the following statements about the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the Parliament of India

1) Although members of this Committee are elected from both Houses of Parliament, the Chairperson of this Committee is appointed by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
2) Twenty members are elected by the Rajya Sabha and ten members by the Lok Sabha.
3) No Minister, except for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, is eligible to be a member of this Committee.
4) Members are elected for a fixed term of two years from the date they enter their office.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

a) There are four correct statements.
b) There is only one correct statement, that is statement 2.
c) There are two correct statements, that include statement 1.
d) There is no correct statement.

Answer: d

Explanation:

× **Analyze Statement 1:** The Committee consists of 30 members (20 from Lok Sabha

and 10 from Rajya Sabha). The Chairperson is appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from amongst the members of the Committee, not the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Statement 1 is incorrect.

- × **Analyze Statement 2:** The Committee has 30 members, with 20 elected from the Lok Sabha and 10 elected from the Rajya Sabha. The statement reverses these numbers. Statement 2 is incorrect.
- × **Analyze Statement 3:** No Minister can be elected as a member of this Committee. If a member is appointed as a Minister after their election, they cease to be a member of the Committee. Therefore, the exception mentioned for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment is incorrect. Statement 3 is incorrect.
- × **Analyze Statement 4:** The term of office for members of this Committee is one year, not two years. Statement 4 is incorrect.

Conclusion: Since none of the statements provided are accurate, the correct conclusion is that there is no correct statement.

60. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India

1) It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.
2) This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.
3) One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

All three statements accurately describe aspects of Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India. The mission aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence, and aerial offensive capabilities; it is designed to enable rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, thereby reinforcing strategic autonomy; and it also aims to establish an extensive nationwide security shield covering all public places by 2035.

61. Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries

1) 'Maitri Setu', built over Feni river, connects Ramgarh in India with Sabroom in Bangladesh.
2) Jhulaghat suspension bridge connects India with Myanmar.
3) Mechi bridge and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- ✗ **Analyze Statement 1:** The 'Maitri Setu' is built over the Feni River, but it connects Sabroom in India (Tripura) with Ramgarh in Bangladesh. The statement incorrectly swaps the locations of India and Bangladesh. Thus, it is incorrect.
- ✗ **Analyze Statement 2:** The Jhulaghat suspension bridge is a pedestrian bridge over the Mahakali River that connects India (Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand) with Nepal (Jhulaghat), not Myanmar. Thus, it is incorrect.
- ✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** The Mechi Bridge is indeed a vital connectivity project over the Mechi River that links Panitanki in India (West Bengal) with Kakarvitta in Nepal, facilitating cross-border trade and transit. Thus, it is correct.

Conclusion: Only statement 3 is factually accurate. Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

62. Which of the following statements about a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is/are correct?

1) A Zero FIR can be lodged at a police station, even though the place of commission of a cognizable/non- cognizable offence is outside the territorial jurisdiction of that police station.
2) The Officer-in-Charge of the police station where a Zero FIR has been lodged may, with the permission of the competent authority, initiate a preliminary enquiry.
3) Under Zero FIR, it is obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

The correct statements regarding a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 are as follows:

- ✓ **Statement 1 is correct** because a Zero FIR can be lodged at any police station irrespective of the jurisdiction where the offence was committed.
- ✓ **Statement 2 is also correct** as the Officer-in-Charge of the police station where the Zero FIR is lodged may, with proper authorization, initiate a preliminary enquiry. However,
- ✗ **Statement 3 is incorrect** because there is no obligation under Zero FIR to furnish information electronically; it can be lodged in person or through other means. Therefore, the correct answer is option d) 2 only.

63. With reference to the organisations under the Government of India, consider the following details

	Organisation	Function	Controlling Union Ministry
1)	Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)	To coordinate between various law enforcement agencies	Ministry of Home Affairs
2)	Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	To investigate complex corporate frauds	Ministry of Finance
3)	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension

In how many of the above rows are the given details correctly matched?

a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) None

Answer: a

Explanation:

- ✗ **Analyze Row 1:** The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) is responsible for coordinating economic intelligence between various law enforcement agencies. However, it functions under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Home Affairs. This row is incorrectly matched.
- ✗ **Analyze Row 2:** The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) investigates complex corporate frauds, but it functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, not the Ministry of Finance. This row is incorrectly matched.
- ✓ **Analyze Row 3:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigative agency of India. While its primary role is anti-corruption and investigating high-profile crimes to ensure integrity in public life, it functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension. This row is correctly matched.

Conclusion: Only one row (Row 3) is correctly matched. Therefore, option (a) is the correct choice.

64. Which of the following international conventions have not been ratified by India?

1) Employment Policy Convention
2) Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
3) International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
4) Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
5) Convention onReduction of State -lessness

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- Employment Policy Convention (ILO Convention No. 122): India has not ratified this convention.
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (ILO Convention No. 105): India has not ratified this convention (though it has ratified the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 - No. 29).
- International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: India has not ratified this convention.
- Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention): India is a party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.
- Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness: India has not ratified this convention.

65. Consider the following statements in respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi

1) The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras People, Planning, and Progress.
2) The Preamble of the Summit stresses Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws.
3) The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras (Pillars), which included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

× **Analyze Statement 1:** The intellectual framework of major Indian-led summits often uses "Sutras," but the framework for the "AI Impact Summit, 2026" is typically centered on themes like "AI for All" or "Trustworthy AI." The specific triad of "People, Planning, and Progress" is not the official foundational framework for this summit. Thus, the statement is incorrect.

× **Analyze Statement 2:** While the "Democratization of AI" is a common theme in global declarations, the "Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI" is not a recognized binding framework. Furthermore, such summits usually produce voluntary agreements rather than "binding frameworks" that override national laws. Thus, the statement is incorrect.

✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** The "New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact" emphasizes human-centric AI development. Structuring declarations around "Chakras" or pillars—specifically including "Access for Social Empowerment," "AI for Science," and "Secure and Trusted AI"—aligns with the official thematic approach of recent high-level AI discourse held in India. This statement is correct.

Conclusion: Only statement 3 accurately reflects the structure and thematic pillars of the summit. Therefore, option (d) is the correct choice.

66. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries?

1) Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
2) IMT Trilateral Highway
3) Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- ✓ **Analyze Statement 1:** The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is a key project designed to connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with Sittwe seaport in Myanmar (an ASEAN member country) and further to Mizoram, aimed at boosting regional connectivity. It is a vital component of India's Act East Policy and cooperation with ASEAN. This is correct.
- ✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** The India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway is a flagship connectivity project that physically links India with two ASEAN member countries: Myanmar and Thailand. It is a foundational project for India-ASEAN regional integration. This is correct.
- ✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** The Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line is a project connecting Agartala in India with Akhaura in Bangladesh. While it significantly enhances connectivity in the region, Bangladesh is not an ASEAN member country. This is incorrect.

Conclusion: Statements 1 and 2 are connectivity projects involving ASEAN member countries. Statement 3 involves Bangladesh, which is not an ASEAN member. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

67. Match List - I with List - II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists

List - I (Project Supported by India)	List - II (Country)
A) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project	1) Maldives
B) Restoration of Stor Palace	2) Afghanistan
C) District Hospital at Dickoya	3) Bhutan
D) Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies	4) Sri Lanka

Code

a) A-1, B-4, C-2, D-3 b) A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1

c) A-3, B-4, C-2, D-1 d) A-1, B-2, C-4, D-3

Answer: b

Explanation:

A) Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project: This is a major hydroelectric power project located in Bhutan, developed with India's assistance. (A-3)

B) Restoration of Stor Palace: The historic Stor Palace in Kabul was renovated with the support of the Government of India. (B-2)

C) District Hospital at Dickoya: India funded the construction of this multi-specialty

hospital in Sri Lanka to provide healthcare services to the plantation community. (C-4)

D) Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies: This institute was established in the Maldives with the assistance of India to build capacity in their security sector. (D-1)

Conclusion: Mapping these leads to the sequence A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1, which corresponds to option (b).

68. Which of the following items of defence hardware is/are manufactured in India?

1) Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets
2) T-90 MK-III Tanks
3) Akula Class Submarine

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- **Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets:** These are manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under a license agreement with Russia. This statement is correct.
- T-**90 MK-III Tanks:** These are manufactured in India at the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) in Avadi, Chennai, under a license agreement with Russia. This statement is correct.
- **Akula Class Submarine:** These are nuclear-powered attack submarines designed and built by Russia. India has leased Akula-class submarines from Russia (such as INS Chakra), but they are not manufactured in India. This statement is incorrect.

Conclusion: Both 1 and 2 are manufactured in India under license, making option (a) the correct answer.

69. Consider the following statements about platforms for multilateral co-operation

1) The 'Colombo Process' is a regional consultative process in which member states take binding decisions by consensus.
2) The 'Abu Dhabi Dialogue' is a voluntary non-binding consultative process among Asian countries of labour origin and destination to facilitate regional cooperation on contractual labour mobility.
3) The 'Global Forum for Migration and Development', created upon the proposal of a former UN Secretary General, is a voluntary forum whose decisions are non-binding in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

× **Analyze Statement 1:** The 'Colombo Process' (Regional Consultative Process on Overseas Employment and Contractual Labour for Countries of Origin in Asia) is a

Regional Consultative Process (RCP). These processes are characteristically non-binding and voluntary; they facilitate dialogue rather than enforcing binding decisions. Thus, statement 1 is incorrect.

- ✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** The 'Abu Dhabi Dialogue' (ADD) is indeed a voluntary and non-binding consultative platform that brings together countries of origin and destination in Asia to foster cooperation on the governance of temporary contractual labour mobility. This statement is correct.
- ✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** The 'Global Forum for Migration and Development' (GFMD) was proposed by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. It serves as a voluntary, state-led, non-binding platform to discuss the relationship between migration and development. This statement is correct.

Conclusion: Since statements 2 and 3 are correct and statement 1 is incorrect, option (c) is the right choice.

70. Consider the following UN organisations/agencies

1) World Food Programme
2) United Nations Children's Fund
3) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
4) International Labour Organisation

How many of the above has/have been awarded the Nobel Prize twice?

a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

Answer: a

Analyze the Nobel Prize history for these organizations:

- **World Food Programme (WFP):** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize once (2020).
- **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize once (1965).
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice (1954 and 1981).
- **International Labour Organisation (ILO):** Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize once (1969).

- **Evaluate the criteria:** Only the UNHCR among the listed organizations has received the Nobel Prize twice.
- **Conclusion:** Out of the four organizations listed, only 1 (UNHCR) has been awarded the Nobel Prize twice. Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

71. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists

List - I (UN Peacekeeping Operation)	List - II (Period of Operation)
A) UNMIL	1) 2007–2010
B) MINURCAT	2) 2002–2005
C) MINUSTAH	3) 2003–2018
D) UNMISET	4) 2004–2017

Code:

a) A-3, B-4, C-1, D-2 b) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

c) A-2, B-1, C-4, D-3 d) A-2, B-4, C-1, D-3

Answer: b

Explanation:

A) UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia): Operated from 2003 to 2018 to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process in Liberia. (A-3)

B) MINURCAT (United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad): Operated from 2007 to 2010 to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure, and sustainable return of refugees. (B-1)

C) MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti): Operated from 2004 to 2017 following the political crisis and the departure of the President in Haiti. (C-4)

D) UNMISET (United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor): Operated from 2002 to 2005 to provide assistance to the newly independent nation of Timor-Leste. (D-2)

Conclusion: Mapping these dates leads to the sequence A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2, which matches option (b).

72. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists

List - I (BIMSTEC Centre/ Establishment)	List - II (Location)
A) BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory	1) NOIDA
B) BIMSTEC Energy Centre	2) Bengaluru
C) BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate	3) Colombo
D) BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility	4) Thimphu

Code

a) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4 b) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4

c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3 d) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

Answer: c

Explanation:

A) BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory $\rightarrow$ 4) Thimphu The idea was first conceptualized during the First Ministerial Meeting on Culture held in Paro, Bhutan (2006) under the Paro Initiative. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formally establishing the Observatory in Thimphu, Bhutan, was signed during the Third BIMSTEC Summit in 2014.

B) BIMSTEC Energy Centre $\rightarrow$ 2) Bengaluru Established following a Memorandum of Association signed by member states in 2011, this specialized center coordinates and strengthens institutional cooperation in the energy sector. It is physically hosted at the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) campus in Bengaluru, India.

C) BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate $\rightarrow$ 1) NOIDA This institutional mechanism focuses on sharing state-of-the-art regional weather forecasts, disaster

early warning systems, and climate modeling. It functions out of the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) in NOIDA, India.

D) BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility $\rightarrow$ 3) Colombo The Memorandum of Association for establishing this critical facility was signed by the foreign ministers of member countries during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit. It is headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and aims to facilitate technology transfer and micro-enterprise scale-ups among member nations.

BIMSTEC Centers Location

This short breakdown clarifies the exact geographic distribution of various specialized institutional centers operated across member nations by the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

73. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched?

Indian Army Corps	Headquarters
a) 3 Corps	Dimapur
b) 4 Corps	Tezpur
c) 14 Corps	Leh
d) 33 Corps	Srinagar

Answer: d

Explanation:

✓ **Analyze 3 Corps:** The III Corps (Spear Corps) of the Indian Army is headquartered in Dimapur, Nagaland. This is correctly matched.

✓ **Analyze 4 Corps:** The IV Corps (Gajraj Corps) is headquartered in Tezpur, Assam. This is correctly matched.

✓ **Analyze 14 Corps:** The XIV Corps (Fire and Fury Corps) is headquartered in Leh, Ladakh. This is correctly matched.

× **Analyze 33 Corps**: The XXXIII Corps (Trishakti Corps) is headquartered in Sukna, West Bengal, not Srinagar. Srinagar is the headquarters for the 15 Corps (Chinar Corps). Therefore, this pair is incorrectly matched.

Conclusion: Option (d) is the incorrectly matched pair.

74. Which of the following statements with respect to the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is/are correct?

1) The period of its implementation is 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2026.
2) The key objective of the Revamped RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
3) The share of the Central funding for the Revamped RGSA is 100% for all States and Union Territories.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- ✗ **Analyze Statement 1:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the implementation of the revamped RGSA for the period from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026. Therefore, the start date of 2021 makes this statement incorrect.
- ✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** The core objective of the scheme is to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system and enhance the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to achieve the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is correct.
- ✗ **Analyze Statement 3:** The funding for RGSA is not 100% central for all entities. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a funding pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and States (90:10 for North-Eastern/Himalayan states and 100% for UTs without legislature). Thus, the statement is incorrect.

Conclusion: Only statement 2 is correct. Therefore, option (b) is the correct choice.

75. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union?

1) Belarus 2) Poland 3) Germany 4) Switzerland

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Analyze the countries:

- **Belarus**: Not a member of the European Union.
- **Poland**: Became a member of the European Union on May 1, 2004.
- **Germany**: A founding member of the European Union (formerly the European Economic Community).
- **Switzerland**: Not a member of the European Union (though it participates in the single market through various bilateral treaties).

- **Evaluate the code:** Statements 2 (Poland) and 3 (Germany) are correct.
- **Conclusion:** Option (c) is the correct answer.

76. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists

List I (INTERPOL Notice)	List II (Description)
A) Silver Notice	1) To seek information on unidentified bodies
B) Blue Notice	2) To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a criminal investigation
C) Black Notice	3) To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety
D) Green Notice	4) To identify and trace criminal assets

Code:

a) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4 b) A-3, B-2, C-1, D-4

c) A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3 d) A-4, B-1, C-2, D-3

Answer: c

Explanation:

A) **Silver Notice:** Used by INTERPOL to help identify or locate an individual, or identify items related to a crime, often involving the tracing of criminal assets. (A-4)

B) **Blue Notice:** Used to collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to a crime. (B-2)

C) **Black Notice:** Used to seek information on unidentified bodies. (C-1)

D) **Green Notice:** Used to provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries. (D-3)

Conclusion: Mapping these definitions leads to the sequence A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3, which corresponds to option (c).

77. Which of the following statements in relation to NIRANTAR (National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience), a platform of institutions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is/are correct?

1) Ecosystem Survey and Analysis is a vertical under this platform, the lead institute of which is Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.
2) Research and Management of Ecosystem Service is a vertical under this platform, the lead institute of which is Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi.
3) Capacity Development Support is a vertical under this platform, the lead institute of which is Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

✓ **Analyze Statement 1:** The "Ecosystem Survey and Analysis" vertical is indeed designed to map and assess biodiversity, with the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), headquartered in Kolkata, serving as the lead agency for floral studies. This statement is correct.

× **Analyze Statement 2:** While "Research and Management of Ecosystem Service" is a core focus, the lead institute for this vertical under NIRANTAR is the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, not the Central Zoo Authority. The Central Zoo Authority primarily oversees the functioning of zoos. This statement is incorrect.

✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** "Capacity Development Support" aims to enhance institutional and individual skills within the forestry and environment sector, and the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, is designated as the lead institute for

this objective. This statement is correct.

Conclusion: Since statements 1 and 3 are correct and statement 2 is incorrect, option (b) is the correct choice.

78. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany visited India in January, 2026. Which of the following is/are not correct in terms of outcomes of this visit?

1) Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and the University of Hamburg
2) Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Hockey Development between Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation
3) Establishment of a bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific
4) Opening of an Honorary Consul of Germany in Lucknow

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

× **Analyze Statement 1:** There was no MoU signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and the University of Hamburg during this visit. Ayurveda-related institutional collaborations typically involve different academic partners. Thus, this is not correct.

✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** Promoting cooperation in sports, including a youth exchange program for hockey, was a highlight of the visit between the two nations, given their mutual interest in the sport. This outcome is correct.

✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** India and Germany established a formal bilateral dialogue mechanism to coordinate positions and strategic approaches regarding the Indo-Pacific region. This outcome is correct.

× **Analyze Statement 4:** While Germany has expanded its consular footprint in India, no new Honorary Consulate was opened in Lucknow during the 2026 visit. Thus, this is not correct.

Conclusion: Statements 1 and 4 are not correct outcomes of the visit, making option (b) the correct answer.

79. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct?

1) It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India.
2) It is India's first homegrown 1·0 GHz, 64- bit dual-core microprocessor.

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: c

Explanation:

✓ **Analyze Statement 1**: Under the DIR-V (Digital India RISC-V) Programme, the first

two significant indigenous processors developed were SHAKTI and VEGA. DHRUV64 represents the next major milestone in this sequence, serving as the third major chip architecture fabricated to advance India's self-reliance in semiconductor technology. This statement is correct.

✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** DHRUV64 is officially recognized as India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor. This signifies a major step up in performance and capability for the domestic DIR-V ecosystem compared to the initial prototypes and lower-spec variants. This statement is correct.

Conclusion: Both statements are factually correct within the context of the DIR-V mission. Therefore, option (c) is the correct choice.

80. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) recently introduced a national standard to test and assess bomb disposal system. Which of the following statements with regard to this system is/are correct?

1) The new standard is known as IS 19445 2025.
2) It will improve interoperability of equipment across agencies.
3) It was developed by TBRL, DRDO in collaboration with the 30th Central Scientific Research Institute, Russia.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Analyze Statement 1:** The BIS has indeed formulated and released the new national standard for testing and assessing bomb disposal equipment, designated as IS 19445:2025. This is correct.

✓ **Analyze Statement 2:** The primary objective of establishing such a national standard is to ensure uniform testing protocols, which subsequently improves the interoperability and reliability of equipment used by various security and bomb disposal agencies across the country. This is correct.

✓ **Analyze Statement 3:** While the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) of DRDO was the primary technical agency involved in the development, it was developed under the indigenous "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiative and internal expertise. The collaboration with the "30th Central Scientific Research Institute, Russia" is not a part of this specific BIS standard development process. This is incorrect.

Conclusion: Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct choice.

81. 'X', born in the UK, was conferred the Nobel Prize in 2025. He was a professor in an American university when this prize was announced. Identify 'X'

a) Michel H. Devoret b) Richard Robson
c) John Clarke d) Joel Mokyr

Answer: c

Explanation:

John Clarke, a distinguished physicist born in the United Kingdom, was honored with the Nobel Prize in 2025. Renowned for his pioneering contributions in quantum technologies and superconducting devices, Clarke has been instrumental in advancing critical areas of scientific research. At the time of receiving this prestigious recognition, he was serving as a professor at a prominent American university, further cementing his reputation as a globally influential academic in his field.

82. Which of the following statements with regard to the Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments is/are correct?

1) The tournaments have ashared governance structure establishing the partnership among the four Grand Slam tournaments.
2) They are open for entry to all internationally ranked tennis players above the age of 14.
3) There is a limitation on the number of 'Wild Cards' a player may receive to compete in a Grand Slam Tournament.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- The Grand Slam tournaments consist of the Australian Open, Roland Garros, Wimbledon, and the US Open.
- These events are the most prestigious competitions in professional tennis, offering the highest ranking points and prize money.
- The rules governing these tournaments, including player eligibility and wild card entries, are outlined in the official Grand Slam Rulebook published annually.

Statement Analysis

✓ Statement 1. The tournaments have a shared governance structure establishing the partnership among the four Grand Slam tournaments: Correct. The Grand Slam Board serves as a shared governance structure that establishes a partnership among the four major tournaments and the International Tennis Federation.

✓ Statement 2. They are open for entry to all internationally ranked tennis players above the age of 14: Correct. According to the Grand Slam rulebook, the tournaments are open for entry to any internationally ranked player who is 14 years of age or older.

× Statement 3. There is a limitation on the number of Wild Cards a player may receive to compete in a Grand Slam Tournament: Incorrect. The official rulebook explicitly states that there is no limitation on the number of Wild Cards a player may receive to compete in a Grand Slam event.

83. Which one of the following pairs of semiconductor plants in India and their locations is not correctly matched?

a) CG Power and Industrial Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics	Gujarat
b) Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd	Assam
c) HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture India Chip Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
d) SicSem Pvt. Ltd	Odisha

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Analyze Option (a):** The CG Power semiconductor unit, in partnership with Renesas and STARS, is being set up in Sanand, Gujarat. This is correctly matched.

✓ **Analyze Option (b):** The Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility is being established in Jagiroad, Assam. This is correctly matched.

× **Analyze Option (c):** The HCL-Foxconn joint venture for an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility is being established in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, not Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, this is not correctly matched.

✓ **Analyze Option (d):** The SicSem (Silicon Semiconductors) plant is proposed to be established in Odisha. This is correctly matched.

84. Which of the following statements with regard to India's indigenous new high-resolution weather model, the 'Bharat Forecast System,' is/are correct?

1) Its objective is to generate forecasts at the Panchayats cluster level.
2) It was developed by IIT Delhi.

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: a

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** The Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) operates on an ultra-fine, world-leading grid resolution of 6 km × 6 km (down from the earlier 12 km grid). This allows it to capture highly localized geographical and atmospheric features, specifically aimed at generating detailed, tailored weather forecasts at the cluster of panchayats/villages level to aid disaster management and micro-level agricultural planning.

× **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was not developed by IIT Delhi. It was indigenously developed by scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, along with support from the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida, and the India Meteorological Department (IMD)—all functioning under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The system is powered by the high-performance supercomputers Arka (at IITM Pune) and Arunika (at NCMRWF Noida).

85. Consider the following statements with regard to the film 'Boong'

1) The film has recently won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award in the Children's and Family Film category.
2) The film is directed by Lakshmipriya Devi.
3) This is the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** Boong made history by winning the prestigious BAFTA Children & Young People Award in the 'Feature Film' category.

✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** The film is the directorial debut of Lakshmipriya Devi, who crafted the narrative set against the backdrop of Manipur.

✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** Boong holds the distinction of being the first Indian film to ever win a BAFTA award in this specific category, marking a significant milestone for Indian independent cinema on the international stage.

86. Which of the following statements regarding the features of blockchain technology are correct?

1) Records stored in the database may be made visible to relevant stakeholders without risk of alteration.
2) Copies of the entire database are stored on multiple computers on a network, syncing within seconds.
3) Consortium blockchain is a blend of public and private blockchains allowing selective data access.
4) Mathematical algorithms make it impossible to change or delete any data once recorded and accepted.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** Blockchain provides transparency and security by allowing relevant stakeholders to view records. Because the data is cryptographically secured, it can be shared openly among authorized users without the risk of unauthorized alteration or tampering.

✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** Blockchain is a decentralized, distributed ledger. Every participating computer (node) on the network maintains a copy of the entire database. When a new transaction is validated, these copies sync globally across the network within seconds or minutes.

× **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A Consortium Blockchain (also known as a federated

blockchain) is managed by a group of pre-selected organizations or entities rather than a single organization (private) or anyone in the world (public). While it does allow selective data access, the standard industry definition of a direct blend between public and private blockchains with selective privacy controls is a Hybrid Blockchain. In a hybrid blockchain, anyone can join but the ledger is controlled, whereas, in a consortium blockchain, access is completely restricted to the pre-approved members of the group.

✓ **Statement 4 is correct:** Blockchain utilizes advanced cryptographic hashing algorithms and consensus mechanisms (like Proof of Work or Proof of Stake). Once a block of data is verified and added to the chain, changing it requires altering every subsequent block across a majority of the network, which is mathematically and computationally infeasible. This creates an immutable record.

87. An e-commerce revenue model where the seller has control over pricing but doesn't keep products in stock and instead transfers customer orders and shipment details to a third-party supplier, who then ships the goods directly to the customer, is called

a) Dropshipping Model
b) Affiliate Revenue Model
c) Transaction Fee Revenue Model
d) Agency Revenue Model

Answer: a

Explanation:

- **Dropshipping Model:** In this model, the retailer acts as a storefront. They list products and set the retail price, but do not hold inventory. When a customer makes a purchase, the retailer forwards the order to a wholesaler or manufacturer (third-party supplier), who handles the fulfillment and shipping directly to the end customer.
- **Affiliate Revenue Model:** This involves earning a commission by referring customers to another company's website. The affiliate does not have control over pricing or fulfillment.
- **Transaction Fee Revenue Model:** This model generates revenue by charging a fee for every transaction processed through a platform (e.g., a payment gateway or marketplace).
- **Agency Revenue Model:** In this model, the entity acts as an agent on behalf of the principal to provide services or products, often earning a commission or fee, but the core characteristic of transferring orders directly to a third-party supplier for fulfillment without holding inventory is the definition of Dropshipping.

88. Which one of the following correctly represents the three key sub-indices of the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

a) Credit access, Insurance depth, and Pension coverage
b) Banking access, GDP contribution, and Financial literacy
c) Access, Usage, and Quality
d) Access, Affordability, and Transparency

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **RBI's FI-Index:** The Reserve Bank of India developed the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to measure the extent of financial inclusion in India.
- **Framework:** The index is built upon three foundational parameters (sub-indices):
  - **Access**: Measures the availability of banking services, including the presence of bank branches and ATMs.
  - **Usage**: Measures the actual use of financial services, including savings, credit, and digital transactions.
  - **Quality**: Measures the effectiveness of financial inclusion, incorporating factors like financial literacy, consumer protection, and the grievance redressal mechanism.
- **Evaluation:** Comparing these with the given options, option (c) correctly identifies these three pillars.

89. Which one of the following best describes the key objective of India's 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC) initiative?

a) To allow government control over all digital commerce transactions
b) To replace private e-commerce players
c) To break the dominance of large e- commerce platforms by enabling interoperability across networks
d) To mandate UPI-based payments for all online transactions

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **Concept of ONDC:** The Open Network for Digital Commerce is a government-backed initiative designed to democratize digital commerce in India. It is not an e-commerce platform itself but an open protocol network.
- **Interoperability:** The primary goal is to create an open network where buyers and sellers can interact regardless of which specific platform or application they are using. By enabling interoperability, it allows small merchants and local businesses to list their products on an open network accessible to all buyer-side apps.
- **Addressing Market Dominance:** Currently, large proprietary e-commerce platforms operate as "closed-loop" systems. ONDC aims to dismantle these silos, preventing the monopoly of big players and ensuring a level playing field for all market participants, which aligns with the description in option (c).

90. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is not correct?

a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets

immediately debited or credited but in case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.

c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.

d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

Answer: d

Explanation:

× **Why statement d) is incorrect (and thus the correct choice):** In the case of UPI, the money transacted is commercial bank money, meaning the liability rests with the respective commercial banks holding those accounts. However, the Digital Rupee ($e\text{₹}$) is a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), which is a digital form of sovereign legal tender issued directly by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Therefore, the underlying liability for the Digital Rupee lies directly with the Central Bank (RBI), not the commercial banks.

✓ **Statement a) is correct:** UPI is an overlay payment interface that routes and moves money between commercial bank accounts in real time. The Digital Rupee is a digital token representation of physical cash (sovereign currency) and is legal tender in its own right.

✓ **Statement b) is correct:** UPI transactions require an interbank settlement process behind the scenes, routing funds between the sender's bank account and the receiver's bank account via a central clearinghouse (NPCI). Digital Rupee transactions represent a direct, peer-to-peer transfer of tokens from one cryptographic wallet to another. Because the digital asset itself changes hands directly, it features immediate finality of settlement without requiring interbank clearing.

✓ **Statement c) is correct:** Because UPI routes funds directly through individual savings or current bank accounts, every transaction is officially logged by the bank and appears on your standard bank statement. Digital Rupee transactions happen directly between digital wallets, meaning these individual transactions do not populate or clutter your standard commercial bank statements.

91. Which of the following statements about Real-World Assets (RWA) Tokenization are correct?

1) Tokenization is the process of turning real world assets into digital tokens using blockchain technology.
2) Tokenization of real-world assets offers 24 × 7 access, promoting financial inclusion.
3) Tokenization of real-world assets will allow access to high growth investment opportunities for individuals in India.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

All three statements accurately describe aspects of Real-World Assets (RWA) Tokenization.

- Statement 1 correctly defines the process of converting physical assets into digital tokens via blockchain technology.
- Statement 2 highlights the benefit of increased accessibility and financial inclusion through continuous access to tokenized assets.
- Statement 3 emphasizes that tokenization can provide individuals in India with opportunities to invest in high-growth assets, which might otherwise be difficult to access. Therefore, all three statements are correct.

92. A bond whose proceeds are used only to finance or refinance a combination of both environmental and social projects is called

a) Green Bond b) Social Bond

c) Sustainability Bond d) Sovereign Bond

Answer: c

Explanation:

A sustainability bond is a type of bond whose proceeds are used exclusively to finance or refinance a combination of environmental and social projects. This distinguishes it from other bonds such as green bonds, which focus solely on environmental projects, and social bonds, which target social initiatives.

93. Which of the following statements about M1xchange's role in Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) financing is/are correct?

1) M1xchange provides collateral based loans to MSMEs.
2) M1xchange facilitates discounting of invoices and Bills of Exchange for MSMEs.
3) M1xchange functions as a credit rating agency for MSMEs.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Answer: b

Explanation

- ✗ **Statement 1 is incorrect:** M1xchange does not provide collateral-based loans. Instead, it is an online platform for invoice discounting, meaning MSMEs raise funds against their unpaid invoices (receivables) without putting up any collateral like property or equipment.
- ✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** M1xchange is one of the major platforms licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) initiative. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the discounting of invoices and Bills of

Exchange for MSMEs drawn against large corporate buyers, government departments, and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). This converts their trade receivables into instant cash flow.

× **Statement 3 is incorrect:** M1xchange is a digital marketplace / financial exchange, not a credit rating agency. It does not issue official credit ratings or grades for MSMEs (agencies like CRISIL, ICRA, or CARE handle credit ratings). Instead, financiers on the platform bid to discount the invoices based primarily on the credit risk of the buyer (the large corporate or government body) rather than the MSME vendor.

94. Which one of the following best describes the 'Crowding Out Effect' in the context of fiscal policy?

a) A situation where private investment increases due to increased Government spending
b) A situation where Government borrowing leads to higher interest rates, which reduces private investment
c) A situation where increase in taxes leads to increased private sector investment
d) A situation where Government spending has no impact on aggregate demand

Answer: b

Explanation:

- The correct description of the 'Crowding Out Effect' in the context of fiscal policy is option b) A situation where Government borrowing leads to higher interest rates, which reduces private investment.
- This phenomenon occurs because when the government borrows heavily to finance its spending, it can drive up interest rates. Higher interest rates make borrowing more expensive for private individuals and businesses, thereby discouraging private investment.
- Understanding this effect is crucial for policymakers because it highlights the potential trade-offs involved in government spending and borrowing strategies, emphasizing the importance of balancing fiscal initiatives with their broader economic impacts.

95. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct?

1) Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
2) China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
3) The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
4) Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** Rare Earth Elements (REEs) are indispensable for modern high-tech innovations. Their unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties make them foundational for making powerful permanent magnets, sensors, and semiconductors used extensively in Artificial Intelligence hardware, robotics, advanced telecommunications, and space exploration equipment.
- × **Statement 2 is incorrect:** While China overwhelmingly dominates the global mining and processing of REEs (holding over 60–70% of global production), India does not occupy the second position. Top mining countries following China typically include the United States, Myanmar, and Australia. Despite having sizable beach sand monazite deposits, India's actual market share in mining and processing REEs remains relatively low.
- ✓ **Statement 3 is correct:** Following an announcement in the 2024–25 Union Budget, the Union Cabinet officially approved and the Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025. The mission is a massive, multi-year blueprint backed by an overlay funding strategy to ensure domestic exploration (targeting 1,200 exploration projects by 2030), secure overseas assets, bolster recycling infrastructure, and achieve strategic self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
- × Statement 4 is incorrect: Rare Earth Elements are a set of 17 metallic elements, not 13. They include the 15 lanthanides on the periodic table (atomic numbers 57 through 71, from Lanthanum to Lutetium), plus Scandium (atomic number 21) and Yttrium (atomic number 39), which share similar physical and chemical traits and tend to occur in the same ore deposits.

96. Which of the following statements about insurance in aviation sector is/are correct?

1) 'Aviation Hull Insurance' covers the physical aircraft, including the body, engine, and on-board equipment.
2) Under the Montreal Convention, adopted in 1999 by over 130 countries, including India, airlines are strictly liable to pay compensation to the family/nominee of every deceased passenger without requiring the family to prove fault.

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: c

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** In aviation insurance, Aviation Hull Insurance is a specialized policy that covers physical loss or damage to the structure of the aircraft itself. This includes the fuselage (body), wings, engines, avionics, and any permanently attached on-board equipment, whether the damage occurs while the aircraft is in flight, taxiing, or parked on the ground.

- ✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** The Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99) established a two-tier liability system for international airline passenger injury or death. Under the first tier, the airline is subject to strict liability (up to a specific limit measured in Special Drawing Rights or SDRs, which are adjusted for inflation periodically) regardless of fault. The family or nominee of a deceased passenger does not need to prove negligence or misconduct by the airline to claim this baseline compensation; they only need to establish that the accident took place on board the aircraft or during embarking/disembarking.

97. Which of the following statements about Crowdfunding is/are correct?

1) Crowdfunding is solicitation of funds (small amount) from multiple investors through a web-based platform or social networking site for a specific project.
2) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are able to raise funds at lower cost of capital without undergoing rigorous procedures.

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: c

Explanation:

- ✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** In aviation insurance, Aviation Hull Insurance is a specialized policy that covers physical damage to the structure of the aircraft itself. This includes the fuselage (body), wings, engines, avionics, and any permanently attached on-board equipment, whether the damage occurs while the aircraft is in flight, taxiing, or parked on the ground.
- ✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** The Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99) established a two-tier strict liability system for international airline passenger injury or death. Under the first tier, the airline is strictly liable for damages up to a specific limit (measured in Special Drawing Rights or SDRs, which are adjusted for inflation periodically) regardless of fault. The family or nominee of a deceased passenger does not need to prove negligence or misconduct by the airline to claim this baseline compensation; they only need to prove that the accident took place on board the aircraft or during embarking/disembarking.

98. With reference to different Committees in India, consider the following details

Committee	Objective	Organization under which it was formed
1) R.N. Malhotra Committee	Comprehensive reforms of Insurance sector in India	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
2) L.C. Gupta Committee	Preparing a roadmap for the introduction of derivatives trading in	Securities and Exchange Board of India

	India	
3) Urjit R. Patel Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforming bank lending to the Housing sector	Reserve Bank of India
4) Y.H. Malegam Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforms in Microfinance sector in India	Reserve Bank of India

In which of the above rows are all the details correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

Explanation

- ✗ **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** The R.N. Malhotra Committee (1993) was set up by the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) to recommend comprehensive reforms for the insurance sector. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) did not exist at the time; it was established later in 1999 as a direct result of this committee's recommendations.
- ✓ **Row 2 is correctly matched:** The L.C. Gupta Committee was appointed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in 1996 to draft the regulatory framework and operational roadmap for introducing financial derivatives trading in India.
- ✗ **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The Urjit R. Patel Committee (2014) was formed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), but its objective was to revise and strengthen the Monetary Policy Framework (which led to the adoption of flexible inflation targeting using CPI and the creation of the Monetary Policy Committee). It was not related to housing sector lending.
- ✓ **Row 4 is correctly matched:** The Y.H. Malegam Committee was set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2010 to look into the issues, regulatory gaps, and malpractices in the Microfinance sector following the Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis.

99. Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India

1) NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2) All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3) NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4) Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of deposit taking NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** NBFCs are explicitly prohibited from accepting demand deposits (such as regular savings or current accounts where funds can be withdrawn at any time without notice). They can only accept term or time deposits if they have specific authorization from the RBI as a deposit-taking NBFC (NBFC-D).

× **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Not all NBFCs operating in India are required to register with the RBI. To avoid dual regulation, certain categories of NBFCs are regulated by other dedicated statutory authorities. For example:

- Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) are regulated by the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- Merchant Banking, Venture Capital, and Mutual Fund Companies are regulated by SEBI.
- Nidhi Companies and Chit Fund Companies are regulated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and respective State Governments.
- Insurance Companies are regulated by the IRDAI.

× **Statement 3 is incorrect:** NBFCs do not form part of the primary payment and settlement system in India. As a result, they cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves.

✓ **Statement 4 is correct:** The deposit insurance safety net provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) applies strictly to depositors of commercial, local area, regional rural, and cooperative banks. It does not extend to the depositors of deposit-taking NBFCs, making investments in NBFC deposits relatively higher risk than traditional bank deposits.

100. Consider the following statements about Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

1) MPI is calculated using Alkire-Foster methodology.
2) MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.
3) Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

✓ **Statement 1 is correct:** The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) uses the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, a counting approach developed by Sabina Alkire and James Foster. This method identifies deprivation using a dual-cutoff system: first, deciding who is deprived in each indicator, and second, determining whether a person's total deprivations cross the poverty threshold.

- ✓ **Statement 2 is correct:** India's National MPI, published by NITI Aayog, includes a total of 12 indicators across three dimensions (Health, Education, and Standard of Living).
- × **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While Maternal Health and Bank Account are indeed indicators in NITI Aayog's National MPI, they are not both present in the Global MPI published by the UNDP and OPHI. The Global MPI has only 10 indicators. NITI Aayog explicitly added Maternal Health (under Health) and Bank Account (under Standard of Living) to customize the index to Indian policy priorities.

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