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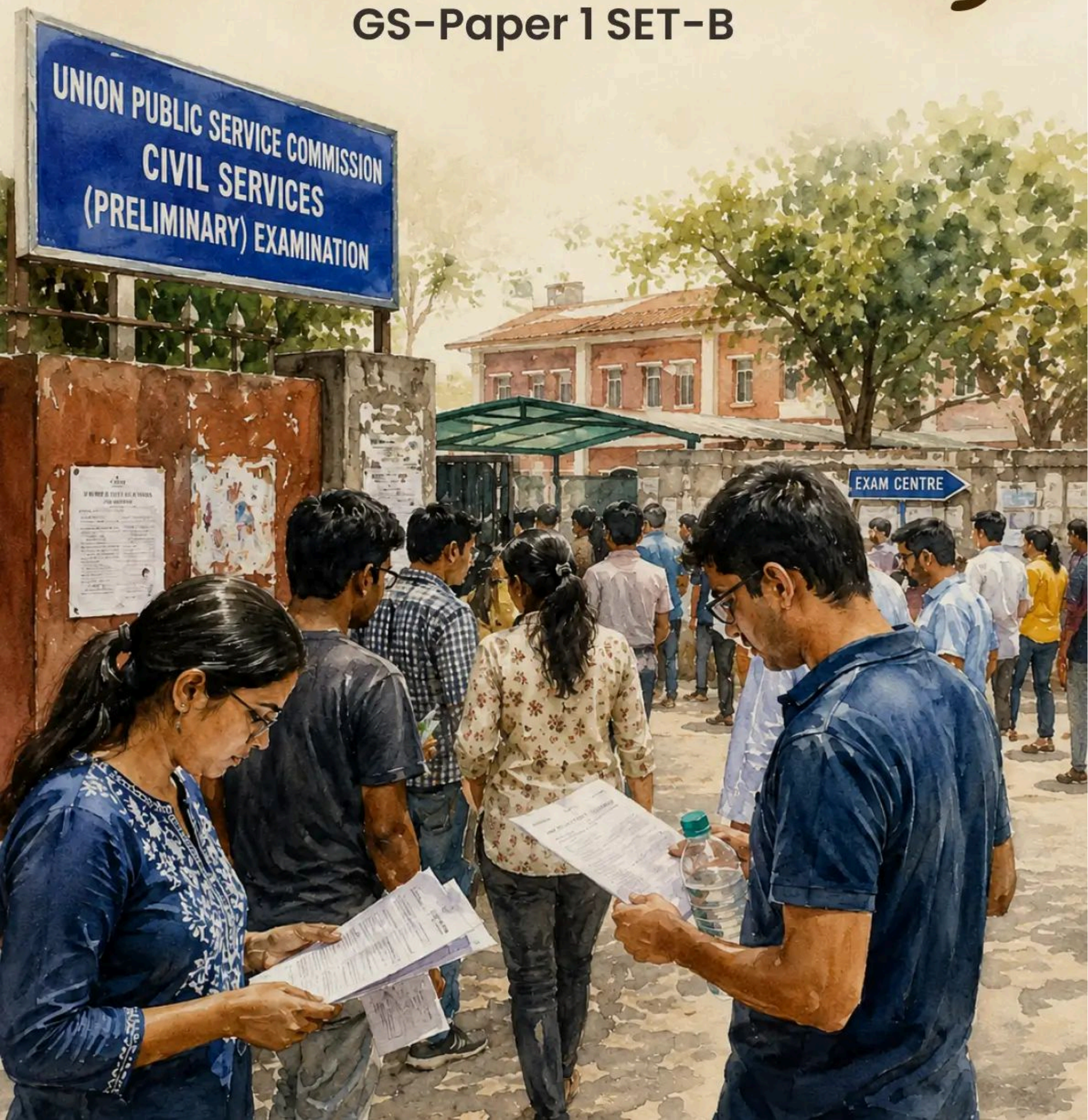
UPSC 2026

Prelims Answer Key

GS-Paper 1 SET-B



UPSC Prelims 2026 Answer Key

GS-Paper 1 Set – B

1	B
2	B
3	D
4	D
5	C
6	C
7	A
8	D
9	C
10	B
11	A
12	B
13	B
14	B
15	B
16	B
17	C
18	B
19	B
20	C
21	D
22	A
23	C
24	B
25	B

26	A
27	D
28	A
29	C
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32	A
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34	B
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37	A
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42	A
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86	C
87	C
88	D
89	A
90	A
91	C
92	B
93	C
94	B
95	B
96	C
97	B
98	B
99	C
100	B

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Question 1

Environment & Ecology | Current Affairs

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

I. India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
II. India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted in December, 2024 recorded around 8% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 over 2019.
III. 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) is indeed a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070. It outlines the strategic framework necessary for sectoral transitions in energy, transport, industry, and forestry to meet this long-term goal.

Statement II is Incorrect: While India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) does record an approximately 8% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 compared to 2019, this decrease is attributed to the economic slowdown and lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, not to structural or strategic efforts towards long-term emission reductions. Therefore, it does not empirically support the strategic framework of LT-LEDS.

Statement III is Correct: The IPCC emphasizes that climate-resilient development depends on rapid, deep, and immediate emission reductions in the short term. This approach can be seen as contradicting the long-term focus of strategies like LT-LEDS if they do not also incorporate aggressive short-term actions.

Therefore, the correct relationship is that Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in Statement I, making option B correct.

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Question 2

Environment & Ecology

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 is native to North-east India, and the **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary** in Assam is a prominent protected area specifically dedicated to this species. Furthermore, the Western Hoolock Gibbon is classified as **Endangered** on the IUCN Red List.

Statement 2 is Correct: They are highly arboreal canopy-dwellers. They move primarily through **brachiation**—a specialized mode of locomotion where they use their exceptionally long arms to swing swiftly and effortlessly from tree branch to tree branch.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Gibbons are classified as "lesser apes" (family *Hylobatidae*). Unlike "great apes" such as gorillas which possess massive, heavy builds, Hoolock gibbons are small, slender, and lightweight. Adults typically weigh only 6 to 9 kg, a physical adaptation that is essential for their remarkable aerial agility in the forest canopy.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 3

Environment & Ecology

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 1 is Incorrect: Mangroves do not store freshwater, nor are they naturally suited for paddy cultivation. In fact, the clearing of mangrove forests to create agricultural land (like paddy fields) has historically been a primary driver of their destruction, rather than a reason for their protection.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Mangroves are **halophytes**, meaning they are highly salt-tolerant, not salt-sensitive. While their specialized root systems have ultrafiltration mechanisms to exclude salt, they do not convert coastal lands into freshwater zones. Furthermore, clearing mangroves for shrimp and aquaculture farms is a major threat to these ecosystems, not a conservation rationale.

Statement 3 is Correct: In the context of climate resilience, mangroves act as natural **bio-shields**. Their dense root networks (such as stilt roots and pneumatophores) stabilize coastal soils and dissipate tidal energy, protecting coasts from storm surges and cyclones. Additionally, they are highly productive ecosystems that provide sustainable biomass resources (like timber, honey, and fish breeding grounds), forming a crucial livelihood base for rural coastal communities.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

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Question 4

Economy Current Affairs

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: The Vizhinjam International Seaport is designed as an international container transshipment hub, not an exclusively domestic cargo hub. Rather than reducing reliance on coastal shipping, a transshipment hub relies heavily on a "hub-and-spoke" model, where large mother ships offload cargo that is then distributed to other Indian ports via smaller coastal feeder vessels. Furthermore, it actively seeks to attract foreign shipping lines and global integration, rather than eliminating foreign collaborations.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: While the port has provisions for a cruise terminal, its primary focus is handling international container transshipment and multi-purpose cargo. It is not primarily focused on passenger cruise tourism or heritage shipping.

Statement 3 is Correct: Vizhinjam leverages its natural deep draft of 18 to 24 meters, allowing it to berth **Ultra Large Container Ships (ULCS)** that previously bypassed Indian ports. Situated just 10 nautical miles from the busy East-West international shipping corridor, it aims to reclaim transshipment cargo historically handled by foreign hubs like Colombo, Singapore, and Jebel Ali. This structural shift reduces dependence on foreign ports, retains an estimated $200 to $400 million annually in transshipment revenues, and repositions India in regional maritime trade.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

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Question 5

Indian Geography

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

The **Sutlej** perfectly matches all the given criteria.

- **Antecedent drainage system:** Rivers like the **Indus**, **Brahmaputra**, and **Sutlej** are classic examples of antecedent drainage, as they existed before the Himalayan upliftment and maintained their courses by cutting deep gorges.
- **Flows through three countries:** The **Sutlej** flows through China (Tibet), India, and Pakistan. The **Indus** (China, India, Pakistan) and **Brahmaputra** (China, India, Bangladesh) also flow through three countries. The **Teesta** flows through only two (India and Bangladesh), making it incorrect.
- **Originates in the Tibetan Plateau:** The **Sutlej** originates from Rakshastal near Mansarovar in the Tibetan Plateau. It is a crucial source of irrigation, feeding major projects like the Bhakra-Nangal Dam and the Indira Gandhi Canal.
- **Does not form distributaries:** This is the defining characteristic that eliminates the other options. Both the **Brahmaputra** and the **Indus** form large deltas with multiple distributaries before emptying into the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea, respectively. The **Sutlej**, on the other hand, is a tributary that merges with the Chenab River to form the Panjnad, which subsequently flows into the Indus River. It does not form distributaries.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 6

Indian Geography

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 boundary with the highest number of Indian jurisdictions. It borders **8 states** (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar) and **1 Union Territory** (Delhi).

Statement 2 is Incorrect: West Bengal has the longest international border among all Indian states, totaling approximately 2,509 km. It borders Bangladesh (over 2,216 km alone), Bhutan, and Nepal. Rajasthan's international border with Pakistan is much shorter at 1,070 km.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Sikkim is **not** the only Indian state sharing its boundary with just one other state. There are exactly two such states in India: **Sikkim** (borders only West Bengal) and **Meghalaya** (borders only Assam).

Therefore, statements 2 and 3 are not correct, making the correct option C.

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Question 7

Environment & Ecology | Current Affairs

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: Doyang Lake in Nagaland represents a major community-led conservation victory. Previously, hundreds of thousands of Amur Falcons were trapped and hunted annually. Following sustained interventions by conservationists, NGOs, and the Nagaland Forest Department, local communities completely stopped the hunting, turning into protectors. This safe passage earned Nagaland the title "Falcon Capital of the World."

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Scientists use advanced tracking technologies (like lightweight solar-powered satellite transmitters) to monitor and study the falcons' migration routes, stopover durations, and flight speeds. These devices collect data for researchers; they do **not** guide the birds. The falcons rely entirely on natural navigation and environmental cues to find their way back to stopover sites.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Amur Falcons are long-distance migratory raptors, not permanent residents of India. They breed in Siberia and Northern China and migrate annually to their wintering grounds in Southern Africa. During their approximately 22,000 km journey, they use Northeast India—specifically Doyang Lake in Nagaland—as a temporary stopover for a few weeks (October–November) to build fat reserves before undertaking a massive non-stop flight across the Arabian Sea.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 8

Social Issues & Schemes

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Rainfed Area Development (RAD) scheme explicitly promotes **Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)** rather than monoculture. It integrates multi-cropping and rotational cropping with allied activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, and agro-forestry to diversify income and build resilience. Official guidelines actively discourage single-cropping (monoculture) systems.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: As the name implies, RAD targets **rainfed areas** (regions lacking assured irrigation) to build resilience against climate variability. It does not focus on expanding water-intensive crops like rice in already irrigated regions.

Statement 3 is Correct: The core objective of RAD is to make rainfed agriculture more productive, sustainable, remunerative, and climate-resilient. By diversifying income sources through **Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)**, RAD aims to minimize the risks associated with climatic variability (such as droughts, heat stress, or floods) and crop failure, ensuring stable livelihoods for farmers.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

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Question 9

Economy Current Affairs

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 is Correct: The **OEKO-TEX certification** ensures that textiles are rigorously tested and proven free from harmful substances, heavy metals, and toxic chemicals. This certification acts as a major endorsement, directly enhancing the global marketability of **Eri Silk** and allowing Indian exporters to confidently compete in high-end international markets that prioritize sustainable, chemical-free, and ethically produced textiles.

Statement 2 is Correct: The certification confirms that a textile meets strict international safety, environmental, and human health standards. This is highly valued by buyers in premium, eco-conscious global markets, particularly in Europe and North America. Combined with its Geographical Indication (GI) status and reputation as a cruelty-free "peace silk," the certification cements **Eri Silk's** position as a premium eco-friendly fabric, enabling its entry into these premium markets.

Therefore, both statements are correct, making the correct option C.

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Question 10

World Geography

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

Statement 1 is Correct: Bahrain is an island nation situated entirely within the **Persian Gulf**. The **Strait of Hormuz** is the only sea passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the open ocean. Therefore, for a ship departing from Bahrain to reach the Indian Ocean, it must exit the Persian Gulf by passing through this strait.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Syria is located on the eastern coast of the **Mediterranean Sea** and has no coastline on the Persian Gulf. Ships departing from Syria would reach the Indian Ocean by traveling through the Suez Canal, down the Red Sea, and out through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, completely bypassing the Strait of Hormuz.

Statement 3 is Correct: Qatar is a peninsular country located on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, surrounded by the waters of the **Persian Gulf**. Like Bahrain, its ships must cross the Strait of Hormuz to access the Indian Ocean.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: Egypt borders the **Mediterranean Sea** to the north and the **Red Sea** to the east. Ships from Egypt can access the Indian Ocean directly by sailing south through the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, without entering the Persian Gulf or crossing the Strait of Hormuz.

Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 11

Physical Geography | Current Affairs

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

Ecuador is the correct answer. The **Tungurahua Volcano**, whose name translates to "Throat of Fire" in the indigenous Quichua language, is a highly active stratovolcano located in the Cordillera Oriental of the central Andes in **Ecuador**. In April 2025, the volcano and its surrounding territory were officially designated as a **UNESCO Global Geopark**. The newly designated geopark spans over 2,300 square kilometers across the Tungurahua and Chimborazo provinces, preserving over 417 million years of geological history, including volcanic formations and glacial activity. It sits within Sangay National Park and towers over the town of Baños de Agua Santa.

Peru, **Bolivia**, and **Colombia** are incorrect. While these are all South American nations that share the Andes mountain range and possess their own significant volcanic peaks (such as Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia or Ubinas in Peru), the Tungurahua Volcano is located exclusively within the borders of Ecuador.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 12

Environment & Ecology | Current Affairs

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 is Correct: Madhav National Park was officially declared as India's **58th Tiger Reserve** (and the 9th in Madhya Pradesh) by the Union Environment Ministry in March 2025, following a successful tiger reintroduction program that began in 2023.

Statement 2 is Correct: Sakhya Sagar, a human-made reservoir created in 1918, is situated inside Madhav National Park. It was officially designated as a **Ramsar Wetland of International Importance** in 2022 and is known for its abundant marsh crocodile population and migratory waterfowl.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Madhav National Park is located entirely within the Shivpuri district of **Madhya Pradesh**, situated on the northern fringe of the Central Highlands. It does not share its area with Rajasthan.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 13

Indian Geography

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 is Correct: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands feature a **humid, tropical coastal climate**. Due to their equatorial proximity and oceanic surroundings, they experience uniform warm temperatures (averaging 23°C to 31°C) and high relative humidity (approximately 80%) year-round.

Statement 2 is Correct: The archipelago is unique in its rainfall pattern, as it receives substantial precipitation from **both the South-West Monsoon and the North-East Monsoon**.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The **maximum precipitation** occurs during the South-West monsoon season, specifically between **May and September** (peaking heavily in July and August). The period between **December and May is actually the driest part of the year**, making it the peak tourist season. It does not receive the maximum precipitation during this time.

Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 14

Indian Geography

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: During the Early Tertiary period, the western flank of the Peninsular block underwent tectonic subsidence (sinking). This led to its partial submergence beneath the sea, which formed the current submerged western coastline and disturbed the original symmetrical river pattern.

Statement 2 is Correct: The Peninsular Block is an ancient, rigid, and stable landmass. It primarily consists of highly denuded relict and residual mountains (remnants of older mountains). Standard geographical texts explicitly list the Aravali, Nallamala, Javadi, **Veliconda**, Palkonda, and **Mahendragiri** hills as key examples of these residual ranges.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Because the Peninsular drainage system is much older than the Himalayan one, its rivers have reached maturity. They are characterized by broad, shallow, graded valleys with low gradients, rather than deep cuts. Deep gorges, **V-shaped valleys**, rapids, and waterfalls are indicative of youthful topography and active vertical erosion. These features are characteristic of the fast-flowing **Himalayan river system**, which cuts through young, weak, and flexible geological structures, unlike the stable Peninsular Block.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 15

Economy | Current Affairs

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

I. The Sagarmala Programme seeks to achieve port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure.
II. The success of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and inland waterway shipping, along with improved global port rankings.
III. 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 1 is Correct: Statement I outlines the core objective of the Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, which is **port-led economic development** through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure. Statement II provides empirical evidence of its success, such as the 118% growth in coastal shipping, a 700% surge in inland waterway cargo movement, and improved global port rankings (with nine Indian ports now in the global top 100). Thus, the tangible achievements in Statement II directly validate the effectiveness of the foundational strategies mentioned in Statement I.

Relationship 2 is Correct: Statement III highlights the goals of **Sagarmala 2.0**, which focuses on smart ports, green shipping, and positioning India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with the **Viksit Bharat 2047** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** visions. This acts as an evolutionary extension of the foundational infrastructure goals in Statement I, embedding them into a broader, future-oriented innovation framework rather than replacing them.

Relationship 3 is Incorrect: Statement I does not contradict Statement III. The initial focus on traditional and

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sustainable coastal infrastructure in the original Sagarmala Programme serves as the necessary physical base upon which the modern innovation and technology-driven goals of Sagarmala 2.0 are built. The two phases are complementary and represent a progressive policy evolution, not a contradiction.

Therefore, relationships 1 and 2 are correct, making Option B the correct choice.

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Question 16

Environment & Ecology

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 is Correct: *Rhynchostylis retusa* (commonly known as the Foxtail orchid) is an **epiphytic orchid**. It grows on the trunks and branches of trees in open forests, using the host tree for physical support and absorbing moisture from the air, rather than acting as a parasite.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The species is **not endemic** to North-east India. It has a vast native range across Tropical Asia, including China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Within India, while it is highly prominent in the North-east, it is also naturally distributed in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and several other states.

Statement 3 is Correct: It is officially recognized as the **State flower of both Assam and Arunachal Pradesh**. In Assam, it is culturally significant, known locally as *Kopou Phool*, and is an essential part of traditional Bihu dance attire and local wedding ceremonies.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 17

Art & Culture | Current Affairs

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 1 is Incorrect: Moidams (or Maidams) were not used as army fortresses. They are traditional mound-burial systems (tumuli) of the Tai-Ahom religion.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: They did not serve as recreation centres for the Royals and Nobles.

Statement 3 is Correct: Moidams served exclusively as the royal necropolis (burial grounds) for Ahom kings, queens, and nobles. The vaults enshrine the mortal remains of the deceased along with cherished objects, food, horses, elephants, and historically even attendants, reflecting Tai-Ahom cosmological beliefs about the afterlife. The most prominent concentration of these is located in **Charaideo, Assam**, which was the first capital of the Ahom kingdom. In July 2024, they were officially inscribed as India's 43rd **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: They were not battle drill centres.

Therefore, only statement 3 is correct.

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Question 18

Environment & Ecology | Current Affairs

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 livelihood 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 **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations guides its global work through a strategic framework aimed at supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The core organizing principle of this framework is the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems to achieve the **"Four Betters"**.

The **"Four Betters"** are officially defined as:

1. **Better Production:** Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.
2. **Better Nutrition:** Ending hunger, achieving food security, and improving access to healthy diets.
3. **Better Environment:** Protecting, restoring, and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial and marine ecosystems.
4. **Better Life:** Promoting inclusive economic growth and reducing inequalities, leaving no one behind.

The **Blue Transformation** is a specific FAO vision and programmatic priority area that aims to secure and maximize the contribution of aquatic food systems (fisheries and aquaculture) to achieve these overarching **"Four Betters"**.

Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they include fabricated pillars such as "better ocean", "better coral reefs", "better estuaries", or "better mangrove vegetation", which are not part of the FAO's official strategic framework.

Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

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Question 19

World Geography

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 is correct: Lake Turkana is the world's largest permanent desert lake and the world's largest alkaline lake. By volume, it is also the fourth-largest salt lake globally.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The lake is situated in the Great Rift Valley of East Africa. It lies predominantly in **northern Kenya**, with its northernmost tip crossing into **Ethiopia**. It is not located in South Sudan, nor is it associated with the Sahara Desert.

Statement 3 is correct: The Lake Turkana National Parks (comprising Sibiloi, South Island, and Central Island National Parks) are collectively designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. The lake is famously nicknamed the **'Jade Sea'** due to its striking turquoise/greenish-blue waters, a color produced by the abundant presence of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 20

Environment & Ecology

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 Mamley Kamrang Community REDD+ project

Answer – C

Explanation

The **Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project** holds the distinction of being India's very first REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) project.

It is certified under the **Plan Vivo Standard**, a globally recognized, fair-trade-styled framework specifically designed for community-based forest carbon projects. The project is located in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya, situated along the Umiam River watershed. It is managed by a federation of 10 indigenous Khasi tribal kingdoms (comprising over 60 local communities), locally known as a Synjuk. The project utilizes REDD+ to protect existing dense forests and ancient indigenous sacred groves, and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) to restore degraded open forests.

Uttarakhand REDD+ project is incorrect as, while Uttarakhand has engaged in REDD+ readiness and pilot initiatives, it does not hold the title of the first Plan Vivo certified project in India.

ICFRE-ICIMOD Transboundary REDD+ project in North-Eastern Himalayas is incorrect. This is a broader transboundary initiative focused on capacity building and REDD+ readiness across Himalayan countries, rather than a specific, first-of-its-kind Plan Vivo certified community project in India.

Sikkim Mamley Kamrang Community REDD+ project is incorrect. Although Sikkim has undertaken significant forest conservation and climate mitigation efforts, the Khasi Hills project is officially recognized as India's first Plan Vivo certified REDD+ project.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 21

Art & Culture

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

The Indian classical music system is broadly divided into the Hindustani (North Indian) and Carnatic (South Indian) traditions. While their styles and ornamentation differ, many foundational scales share exact equivalents between the Hindustani **Thaat** system (codified by V.N. Bhatkhande) and the Carnatic **Melakarta** system.

Dheera Shankarabharanam is the correct equivalent. In Carnatic music, it is a fundamental Melakarta raga that uses all natural (**shuddha**) notes. Its exact equivalent in Hindustani classical music is the **Bilawal Thaat** (and Raga Bilawal). Both of these correspond to the Western Major scale (Ionian mode).

Nat Bhairavi is incorrect. This Carnatic raga corresponds to the **Asavari Thaat** in Hindustani music.

Kamavardhini is incorrect. Also known as Pantuvarali, its Hindustani equivalent is the **Poorvi Thaat** (specifically similar to Raga Puriya Dhanashree).

Hanumatodi is incorrect. Often simply called Todi in the South, its notes correspond to the **Bhairavi Thaat** in Hindustani music. (Note that Carnatic Todi is completely different from Hindustani Todi, which corresponds to Shubhapantuvarali).

Therefore, the correct option is D.

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Question 22

Modern History

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 (1926)**, officially known as the Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, recommended fixing the rupee-sterling exchange rate at an artificially high ratio of **1s 6d** (1 shilling 6 pence) per rupee, instead of the pre-war rate of 1s 4d.

Option A is correct: The colonial administration adopted this artificially high rate primarily to ease the burden of **"Home Charges."** These were massive, mandatory sterling-denominated remittances sent from India to Britain to cover administrative costs, pensions, military expenses, and interest on public debt. By keeping the rupee artificially strong against the sterling, the Government of India had to extract fewer rupees from the domestic economy to purchase the sterling required for these remittances. This facilitated the steady flow of funds to Britain and ensured India could easily service its sterling debt, thereby maintaining its financial creditworthiness in London.

Option B is incorrect: While an overvalued rupee did make imports cheaper (benefiting British manufacturers like Lancashire textiles), the primary motive of the British Government was to manage its own fiscal burden regarding remittances, not to provide support to Indian importers.

Option C is incorrect: The artificially high exchange rate actually harmed Indian exports. It made Indian goods, such as cotton produce, more expensive and uncompetitive in the international market, which sparked intense opposition from Indian nationalists and businessmen during the "Ratio Controversy."

Option D is incorrect: The primary objective of fixing the exchange rate at 1s 6d was to facilitate the transfer of sterling remittances (Home Charges) to Britain and manage the colonial government's budget, rather than merely preventing the depreciation of the Rupee in terms of gold.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 23

Ancient History

Consider the following statements :

I. Pali texts contain the first definite references to coins, e.g., **kahapana**, **nikkha**, **kamsa**, and **kakanika**.
II. 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 introduction of coinage in ancient India, as evidenced by Pali texts and archaeological finds of punch-marked coins, is a hallmark of the 6th century BCE. This period is associated with two major socio-economic developments:

1. Emergence of urban life: The widespread use of metallic money is a defining feature of the **Second Urbanization** in the Gangetic valley. The rise of the Mahajanapadas was accompanied by the growth of fortified cities (*nagaras*), organized artisan guilds, and long-distance trade along routes like the *Uttarapatha*, all of which were facilitated by the use of coins.

2. Transition to money economy: The introduction of specific coin denominations like **kahapana**, **nikkha**, **kamsa**, and **kakanika** marked a definitive shift from a purely barter-based system to a **money economy**. This transition allowed for standardized pricing, wage payments, and the emergence of complex economic practices such as money-lending (usury), which are extensively documented in early Buddhist literature.

Therefore, the given statements are associated with both the emergence of urban life and the transition to a money economy.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 24

Art & Culture

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Malegitti Shivalaya in Badami, built by the Early Chalukyas in the late 7th century CE, is a classic **Dravida-style** temple. Its shikhara is octagonal and features typical southern architectural elements (such as kutas and shalas), rather than a Nagara spire.

Statement 2 is Correct: The Huchimalligudi Temple in Aihole is an Early Chalukyan structure that demonstrates early architectural experimentation. It features a distinct curvilinear **Nagara-style** shikhara (Rekha-prasada type) over its square sanctum.

Statement 3 is Correct: The Dashavatara Temple in Deogarh is a Gupta-period monument (approx. 6th century CE) built in the Panchayatana layout. It is widely recognized as one of the earliest surviving structural temples in North India to feature a **Nagara-style** pyramidal shikhara.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: The Virupaksha Temple in Pattadakal was built around 740 CE by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate a victory over the Pallavas. It is the grandest temple at the Pattadakal UNESCO site and is built strictly in the **Dravida** style. It features a tiered, pyramidal southern vimana (shikhara), heavily influenced by the Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 25

Art & Culture

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

In Jainism, the soul transmigrates through the cycle of birth and death (**Samsara**) based on its karmas. Upon death, a soul is reborn into one of four main destinies or states of existence, known as the **Four Gatis**. These four forms of existence are:

1. **Manushya Gati (Humans):** The most desirable state, as it is the only form of existence from which a soul can practice the necessary spiritual discipline to attain ultimate liberation (**Moksha**).
2. **Deva Gati (Heavenly beings / Gods):** A state of immense pleasure and bliss resulting from good karmas, though it is not permanent.
3. **Tiryancha Gati (Animals, plants, and micro-organisms):** A lower form of life resulting from moderate negative karmas, characterized by limited ability to practice spirituality.
4. **Naraki Gati (Infernal / Hell beings):** A state of immense suffering in hellish realms due to heavy negative karmas.

Yaksha (male demi-gods) and **Yakshinis** (female demi-gods) are prominent in Jain cosmology, typically serving as attendant guardian deities (**Shasan Devatas**) to the Tirthankaras. However, they do not constitute one of the four primary **Gatis**. Instead, they are classified as **Vyantar Devas** (intermediary or wandering celestial beings), which makes them a sub-category within the broader **Deva Gati**.

Therefore, **Yaksha** is not included among the four main forms of existence of life recognized in Jainism.

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Question 26

Art & Culture

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 (Churning of the Ocean)

Answer – A

Explanation

Option A is correct: The **Hallisalasya** painting, found on the outer wall of the continuous verandah connecting Caves 4 (known as the **Rang Mahal**) and 5 of the **Bagh Caves** in Madhya Pradesh, depicts a **joyous folk dance**. The mural vividly portrays a ring of female dancers keeping time by striking small wooden sticks together, highly reminiscent of the modern *Dandiya* or *Garba*. They are accompanied by female musicians playing instruments such as the hand-drum (*hudukka*) and small cymbals (*kamsyatalas*). It is highly valued by historians for its detailed depiction of ancient central Indian social life.

Option B is incorrect: Although the Bagh Caves are ancient rock-cut Buddhist viharas dating back to the 5th–6th century CE (Gupta period), the Hallisalasya painting is a secular scene depicting social life, not a depiction of the Buddha in a meditative pose.

Option C is incorrect: The depiction of Shiva and Parvati on Mount Kailasha is a famous theme in Hindu cave architecture (such as at Ellora or Elephanta), but it is not the subject of the Hallisalasya mural in the Buddhist Bagh Caves.

Option D is incorrect: Samudramanthan (Churning of the Ocean) is a prominent Hindu mythological event depicted in various temples and sculptures, but it is not represented in the Hallisalasya painting.

Therefore, Option A is the correct answer.

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Question 27

Ancient History

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

Statement 1 is Correct: The earliest known epigraphic evidence of the decimal place-value system in India is found in the **Mankani copper-plate charter** of Taralasvamin from Gujarat, which is dated to the Kalachuri year 346 (approximately 594–596 CE).

Statement 2 is Correct: Although the conceptual origins of the place-value system and zero date back much earlier in literary and mathematical texts (such as those by Aryabhata), their use in everyday epigraphy was not immediate. The decimal place-value notation became a general, widespread feature in inscriptions all over India only by the **ninth century CE** (e.g., the 876 CE Chaturbhuj Temple inscription in Gwalior).

Statement 3 is Correct: The Indian decimal place-value system spread rapidly to Southeast Asia. Epigraphists have found clear evidence of place-value numerals and the zero placeholder in Sanskrit and Sanskrit-influenced inscriptions in regions like Cambodia, Sumatra (Srivijaya), and Java dating as early as the **seventh century CE** (e.g., inscriptions dated to Saka years 605 and 606, corresponding to 683 and 684 CE).

Therefore, all three statements are correct.

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Question 28

Ancient History

Consider the following statements about the archaeological findings in Harappan towns :

I. There is wide occurrence of spindle-whorls in the houses but absence of spinning wheels.
II. Weights and measurement scales, complete with graduations have been discovered.
III. 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 in Harappan households indicates that spinning was a common domestic activity. The absence of the spinning wheel (which was introduced to India much later during the medieval period) meant that Harappans relied on hand-spinning using drop spindles, which is a highly manual and laborious process.

Inference 2 is Correct: The discovery of highly standardized cubical chert weights and graduated measurement scales (such as the ivory scale at Lothal and shell scale at Mohenjo-Daro) reflects the advanced mathematical, metrological, and scientific knowledge possessed by the Harappans for trade, architecture, and construction.

Inference 3 is Incorrect: The presence of distinct, self-contained houses built with baked bricks, featuring their **own private wells**, bathing platforms, and large rooms, points toward a **private property system** and social stratification. A common property system would instead be characterized by shared, communal living spaces and collective ownership of resources.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 29

Modern History

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

Option A is Incorrect: The **Eka Movement** was initially supported by Congress and Khilafat leaders, but the Congress withdrew its support when the movement adopted militant tactics under the leadership of Madari Pasi. Conversely, the **Bardoli Satyagraha** was deeply integrated with Congress leadership from its inception and was spearheaded by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Option B is Incorrect: The **Eka Movement** was a grassroots peasant movement directed *against* oppressive taluqdars and zamindars, led by Madari Pasi, a low-caste peasant leader. The **Bardoli Satyagraha** was primarily a movement of landowning peasants (such as the Patidars) facing economic hardship, rather than a movement of landless labourers.

Option C is Correct: The **Bardoli Satyagraha** (1928) was a direct campaign against an arbitrary 22% enhancement of land revenue by the British Bombay Presidency government. The **Eka Movement** (1921–1922) was primarily a protest against the excessive and illegal extraction of rents (often exceeding 50% of the recorded rent) and the oppression by *thekedars* (contractors) and landlords.

Option D is Incorrect: The **Eka Movement** took place in the Awadh region of the United Provinces, specifically in districts like Hardoi, Bahraich, Barabanki, Sitapur, and Lucknow, not Varanasi or Mirzapur. The **Bardoli Satyagraha** occurred in the Bardoli taluka of the Surat district in Gujarat, not Saurashtra.

Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

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Question 30

Ancient History DEBATABLE

Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic period :

I. 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.
II. 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 / sreni (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

Statement 1 is Correct: The Rigveda contains references to the use of an **ashma chakra** (stone pulley wheel) and **ahava** (strapped wooden pails) to draw water from wells. This supports the idea that irrigation from wells allowed agriculture to expand away from flood plains into areas like Punjab and Haryana, where groundwater was accessible.

Statement 2 is Correct: The use of draught-animal power, specifically oxen, to draw water from wells is supported by historical evidence. Oxen were domesticated and used for ploughing and pulling carts even before the Rigvedic period, as evidenced by archaeological finds from the Indus Valley Civilization. This supports the statement that draught-animal power was employed to draw water from wells.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: While the Rigveda mentions agricultural implements like **parashu** (axe) and **datra** (sickle), these references do not directly support the statements about irrigation and draught-animal power. They are more related to the tools used for clearing land and harvesting crops.

Therefore, the correct option is C, as statements 1 and 3 support the given statements about the Rigvedic period.

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Question 31

Physical Geography

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

Answer – D

Explanation

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The **Nadi-Sukta** of the Rigveda (Rigveda 10.75) lists rivers like the Ganga, Yamuna, Sarasvati, and Sutlej from east to west. It reflects Holocene (historical/human) geography, not Pleistocene geological shifts, which occurred long before the Vedic period.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Robert Bruce Foote is known as the "Father of Indian Prehistory" for discovering India's first Paleolithic handaxe at Pallavaram (Tamil Nadu) in 1863. His explorations focused on stone-age archaeology in South India and Gujarat, not the geological mapping of the Sutlej and Yamuna river shifts.

Statement 3 is Correct: The presence of closely related blind river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica minor* in the Indus and *Platanista gangetica gangetica* in the Ganga) in two completely separated basins is a primary biological basis for asserting that these river systems were once physically connected. Geologists propose that during the Pleistocene epoch, a single massive river (the **Indo-Brahma** or **Shiwalik river**) connected the modern Indus and Ganga basins. Tectonic uplift (such as the Delhi Ridge) later separated them into distinct drainage systems, causing river avulsion (shifting) where the Yamuna shifted east to join the Ganga and the Sutlej shifted west to join the Indus.

Therefore, the correct option is D.

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Question 32

Art & Culture

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 art (such as at Sanchi, Bharhut, and Amaravati), the Buddha was not depicted in human form. Instead, sculptors used specific physical symbols to represent his presence and the major events of his life. This is known as the aniconic phase of Buddhist iconography.

- **The meditation of the Buddha** is represented by the **Empty Seat** (Vajrasana or Bodhimanda). It is often depicted under a parasol or the Bodhi tree, signifying the exact spot at Bodh Gaya where he sat in deep meditation to attain awakening.
- **The Buddha's First Sermon** (*Dharmachakrapravartana*) is symbolized by the **Wheel** (Dharmachakra), representing the "turning of the wheel of law" at Sarnath.
- **The Buddha's Mahaparinibbana** (his physical death and final liberation) is represented by the **Stupa**.
- **The Buddha's Mahabhinishkramana** (the Great Departure or Renunciation) is represented by a **Riderless Horse** (Kanthaka), symbolizing Prince Siddhartha leaving his royal palace to seek truth.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 33

Ancient History

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

Pair 1 is incorrectly matched: The ancient Rigvedic name for the modern **Jhelum** river is **Vitasta**, not Chenab.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: The ancient Rigvedic name for the modern **Chenab** river is **Asikni**, which translates to "dark-colored waters."

Pair 3 is correctly matched: The ancient Rigvedic name for the modern **Ravi** river is **Parushni**. It is historically significant as the site of the "Battle of the Ten Kings" (Dasarajna) fought by King Sudas, as mentioned in the Rigveda.

Pair 4 is incorrectly matched: The ancient Rigvedic name for the modern **Beas** river is **Vipasha**. **Yavyavati** is another ancient river mentioned in the Rigveda, often associated by historians with the Zhob river in Balochistan or the ancient Drishadvati river, but it is definitively not the Beas.

Therefore, only pair 3 is correctly matched, making the correct option C.

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Question 34

Art & Culture

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, historically known as the *Maha Chaitya*, is located in the **lower Krishna River valley** in the Guntur district of modern-day Andhra Pradesh.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The Amaravati Stupa was actually **larger** than the Great Stupa at Sanchi. At its peak, the Amaravati Stupa had a diameter of approximately 50 meters and a height of about 27 meters, making it the largest stupa in India. In contrast, the Sanchi Stupa has a diameter of roughly 36.5 meters. Therefore, it was not "next only to Sanchi" in size.

Statement 3 is Correct: The Amaravati school of art (also known as the Vengi or Andhra school) had a profound and lasting impact on later South Indian sculpture, including Pallava and Chola art. Facilitated by robust maritime trade networks along the eastern coast of India, the Amaravati style and its sculpted products were widely exported. Its influence is prominently visible in **Sri Lanka** (especially the Buddha images at Anuradhapura) and across various parts of **Southeast Asia** (such as Thailand and Java).

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 35

Ancient History

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

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Senguttuvan (also known as Cheran Senguttuvan or the Red Chera) was a prominent ruler of the **Chera dynasty**. He is celebrated in the Tamil epic *Silappadikaram* and is credited with establishing the Pattini (Kannagi) cult.

Pair 2 is incorrectly matched: Udiyanjeral (Uthiyan Cheralathan) belonged to the **Chera dynasty**, not the Chola dynasty. He is considered the first historically recorded Chera ruler of the Sangam period and is famous in Sangam literature for the legend of feeding the rival armies during the Mahabharata war.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Nedunjeliyan was a famous king of the **Pandya dynasty**. Sangam literature mentions prominent Pandyan kings by this name, such as Nedunjeliyan II, who is renowned for his decisive victory at the Battle of Talaiyalanganam against a combined Chera and Chola force.

Since the question asks for the pair(s) that are **not** correctly matched, only Pair 2 fits this criterion. Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 36

Modern History

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

Statement 1 is Correct: Subhas Chandra Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi. After Bose's re-election as INC President in 1939, Gandhi declared the defeat of his candidate, Pattabhi Sitaramayya, as his own defeat, indicating a lack of confidence in Bose.

Statement 2 is Correct: The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose. The Congress Socialist Party, Communists, and Royists were fragmented and did not present a united front behind Bose during the Tripuri Crisis.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: While the Communists did not support Bose's radical approach, this was not a direct factor in the formation of the Forward Bloc. Their stance was more about maintaining unity under Gandhi rather than directly opposing Bose's endeavors.

Statement 4 is Correct: Supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity over supporting Bose. They abstained from voting on the Govind Ballabh Pant resolution, which effectively withdrew their support from Bose to prevent a split in the Congress.

Therefore, the correct option is B, which includes statements 1, 2, and 4.

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Question 37

Modern History

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: Prior to the annexation, Awadh's landed aristocracy (**taluqdars**) maintained private armies and forts. Immediately after the British took over in 1856, they were systematically dispossessed of their estates, **disarmed, and their forts were completely destroyed**.

Statement 2 is Correct: The first British land revenue settlement in Awadh was the **Summary Settlement of 1856**. It was explicitly based on the assumption that the **taluqdars** were **"interlopers" (outsiders)** who had no permanent or hereditary stakes in the land, having allegedly seized control through force and fraud.

Statement 3 is Correct: The primary objective of the **Summary Settlement** was to bypass the **taluqdars** and settle land revenue **directly with the actual cultivators (peasants/ryots)**. British land revenue officers believed that removing the **taluqdars** would reduce peasant exploitation and increase the state's revenue streams.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 38

Modern History

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

Statement 1 is Correct: The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (Government of India Act, 1919) not only retained the separate electorates for Muslims (first introduced by the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909) but explicitly extended them to Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. This institutionalized community-based representation, directly fostering political alliances based on community.

Statement 2 is Correct: The British utilized separate electorates as a strategic tool of "Divide and Rule." By institutionalizing communal and class divisions, the colonial government aimed to fragment and weaken the increasingly unified Indian nationalist movement, which was growing stronger at the time.

Statement 3 is Correct: The 1919 constitutional framework tied political representation, legislative power, and administrative favors directly to communal and class identities. Consequently, various minority groups and deprived classes began organizing politically around these specific identities to secure concessions and representation, which laid the genesis for community-based political alliances in India.

Therefore, all three statements support the assertion, making the correct option D.

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Question 39

Art & Culture

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 a legendary Hindustani classical vocalist born in the Dharwad district of Karnataka. He is universally recognized as one of the foremost stalwarts of the **Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana**.

- **Agra Gharana** is incorrect. This gharana was founded by Haji Sujan Khan and Ustad Ghagghe Khudabaksh, and is known for its rhythmic play and robust voice culture (e.g., Faiyaz Khan), but it was not Mansur's gharana.
- **Gwalior Gharana** is incorrect. Although Mansur initially received some training in the Gwalior style under Nilkanth Bua Alurmath, he is not considered a representative of this gharana. He later transitioned completely to the Jaipur-Atrauli style.
- **Patiala Gharana** is incorrect. Founded by Ustad Fateh Ali Khan and Ustad Ali Baksh, and popularized by Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, this gharana is known for its emotional appeal and complex *taans*, but it is unrelated to Mansur.
- **Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana** is correct. Mansur received his most significant training from Ustad Manji Khan and Ustad Bhurji Khan, who were the sons of the gharana's founder, Ustad Alladiya Khan. His singing style reflected the core principles of the Jaipur-Atrauli tradition, characterized by a robust, open-throated voice, intricate *taans*, and complex rhythmic structures. He was highly celebrated for his mastery over rare and complex ragas.

Therefore, the correct option is D.

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Question 40

Ancient History

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** translates to "mistress of the field" (**kshetra** meaning field or land, and **patni** meaning mistress or wife). It is an agricultural deity associated with fertility and the evolving concept of land possession in ancient India.

Atharvaveda is the correct answer. The term explicitly originates in the **Atharvaveda**, where hymns (such as AV 2.12.1) invoke the "mistress of the field" to bless agricultural endeavors.

Rigveda is incorrect. While the **Rigveda** frequently invokes the masculine counterpart, **Kshetrapati** ("Lord of the Field," an agricultural deity found in hymns like RV 4.57), the feminine term **Kshetra-patni** is a later development that is absent from the Rigvedic text.

Ashtadhyayi is incorrect. Authored by Panini (approx. 4th century BCE), it is a foundational treatise on Sanskrit grammar and linguistic rules, not the origin source for Vedic agricultural deities.

Arthashastra is incorrect. Authored by Kautilya (approx. 3rd century BCE), this text deals with statecraft, economy, and land administration. While it extensively discusses agriculture (using terms like **sitadhyaksha** for the superintendent of agriculture), it post-dates the Vedas by centuries and is not the origin of the term.

Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

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Question 41

Indian Polity

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

Accountability is the obligation of public officials to take responsibility for their actions, ensure transparency, and answer to oversight bodies (such as vigilance authorities). It involves actively protecting the public interest, reporting misconduct, and ensuring that private contractors utilizing public funds adhere to strict quality and ethical standards. By reporting the compromised vaccine distribution to the vigilance authority and halting the contract despite immense pressure, Mr. X demonstrated a high degree of accountability towards citizen welfare.

Esprit de corps is a classical management principle that emphasizes building team spirit, unity, harmony, and mutual trust among personnel within an organization. It is not the primary principle demonstrated in this scenario.

Equity refers to the principle of fairness, justice, and impartiality in administration, ensuring that public services and resources are distributed without bias. While his actions were just, the specific act of reporting to vigilance and taking responsibility highlights accountability rather than equity.

Delegation is the administrative process of transferring authority and responsibility for specific tasks from a superior to a subordinate or a third-party service provider. Mr. X's actions were about holding the delegated party accountable, not the act of delegation itself.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 42

Indian Polity

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

Statement 1 is Correct: In standard mediation and conflict resolution practices, acknowledging the emotional, historical, and cultural grievances of marginalized groups is a necessary first step. Validating the tribal community's cultural concerns helps build trust and creates a conducive environment before negotiating technical solutions.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: While addressing urban health concerns represents the utilitarian principle of the "greatest good for the greatest number," democratic governance and rights-based ethics dictate that this cannot

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come at the cost of steamrolling the fundamental rights and cultural dignity of a vulnerable minority. In India, tribal land and cultural identities are protected under the Constitution (Fifth and Sixth Schedules) and laws like the **Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006**, and **PESA, 1996**, which mandate respecting tribal rights and often require community consent.

Statement 3 is Correct: Resolving complex public disputes requires inclusive, participatory governance. Creating a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform that brings together opposing parties (tribal leaders, urban representatives) and neutral experts fosters consensus-building, builds mutual understanding, and effectively de-escalates tensions.

Statement 4 is Correct: Conducting an independent **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** is a standard governance tool used to objectively evaluate the ecological and human costs of a project. Transparently sharing these findings ensures evidence-based decision-making, counters misinformation, and helps all stakeholders understand the objective realities of the proposed site.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 43

Social Issues & Schemes

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

Explanation

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The information received by Ms. X is confidential and the allegations are legally unproven. Immediately disclosing unverified information to the public violates the **Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules** regarding confidentiality. It could lead to defamation, unwarranted public panic, and legal repercussions for the department.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Recommending the removal of the contractor based solely on unproven allegations and hearsay violates the principles of **due process** and **natural justice**. Decisions in public administration must be objective and evidence-based. Arbitrarily removing a contractor without a formal investigation undermines fair competition norms and the legal rights of the contractor.

Statement 3 is Correct: Proposing a **limited disclosure** to an oversight committee or internal vigilance mechanism is the most ethical and administratively sound course of action. It balances the need for **transparency** and **integrity** with the requirement of **confidentiality**. This allows the proper institutional channels to verify the facts and conduct an investigation before any executive action is taken, without causing unnecessary project delays or public

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controversy.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 44

Indian Polity

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

Article 13 of the Indian Constitution provides for the protection of Fundamental Rights and declares that any law inconsistent with or in derogation of Part III of the Constitution shall be void to the extent of the inconsistency.

To prevent the State from bypassing Fundamental Rights through executive or traditional means, **Article 13(3)(a)** provides a highly expansive definition of the term "law". It explicitly states that "law" includes any Ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, **custom or usage** having in the territory of India the force of law.

Therefore, the view of 'Y' that the term 'law' includes custom or usage is absolutely correct. Because "custom or usage" is expressly listed in the constitutional text, uncodified traditional practices that hold the force of law are subject to the exact same constitutional scrutiny as formal legislative statutes.

'X' is incorrect in doubting or rejecting the inclusion of custom or usage within the definition of law under Article 13. Thus, regarding the point of contention, only the view of 'Y' is correct.

Therefore, the correct option is D.

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Question 45

Indian Polity

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 the 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

Explanation

Statement 1 is Incorrect: Article 393 of the Constitution explicitly specifies its short title. It states verbatim, "This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India."

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Article 395 of the Constitution contains a specific provision repealing foundational colonial-era laws. It explicitly states that the **Indian Independence Act, 1947**, and the **Government of India Act, 1935**, together with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act (excluding the Abolition of Privy Council Jurisdiction Act, 1949), are repealed.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Article 394 of the Constitution explicitly mentions its commencement date. It lists specific articles (such as those related to citizenship and elections) that came into force immediately upon adoption, and then states that the remaining provisions "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."

Since all three statements are incorrect, there is no correct statement. Therefore, the correct conclusion is that there is no correct statement.

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Question 46

Social Issues & Schemes

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act** was passed by the Parliament of India in **2016**, not 2018. It aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and places a legal obligation on governments to ensure non-discrimination and accessibility. It also mandates reservations for PwDs, such as increasing the quota to 4% in government employment and 5% in higher education.

Statement 2 is Correct: The **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** (Accessible India Campaign) was launched in 2015 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). It focuses on achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across three key domains: built infrastructure (barrier-free public buildings), transport systems (accessible railways, airports, and roads), and information and communication technology (accessible government websites and digital ecosystems).

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The **National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)** is a Central Public Sector Undertaking registered as a not-for-profit company to provide concessional financial assistance to promote entrepreneurship, self-employment, and higher education among PwDs. However, it was set up under the aegis of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, not the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 47

Indian Polity

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The **Sixth Schedule** (Article 244(2)) of the Indian Constitution specifically governs the administration of Tribal Areas in the four northeastern states of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram**. The **Fifth Schedule** (Article 244(1)) applies to the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than these four.

Statement 2 is Correct: Under **Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**, members of Scheduled Tribes residing in specified regions (including Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, and Ladakh) are exempt from paying income tax on income generated from sources within those areas, as well as on dividends or interest on securities.

Statement 3 is Correct: Article 243D of the Constitution mandates the reservation of seats in Panchayats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). Furthermore, Article 243D(2) explicitly requires that **not less than one-third** of the seats reserved for SCs and STs must be reserved for **women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes**.

Since Statements 2 and 3 are correct, there are exactly two correct statements, which include Statement 2. Therefore, the correct conclusion is that there are two correct statements, that include statement 2.

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Question 48

Indian Polity

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: Unstarred questions are those to which a Member desires a **written answer**, not an oral answer. The written reply is deemed to be laid on the Table of the House by the concerned Minister.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: Starred questions (distinguished by an asterisk mark) are those to which a Member desires an **oral answer** on the floor of the House, not a written answer.

Statement 3 is Correct: Because the answer to an unstarred question is provided in writing rather than debated orally, **no supplementary (follow-up) questions can be asked** on it. Supplementary questions can only be asked following the oral reply to a starred question or a short notice question.

Therefore, there is only one correct statement.

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Question 49

Indian Polity

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 the 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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is appointed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** from amongst its members, not by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The Committee consists of **30 members**, out of which **20 are elected by the Lok Sabha** and **10 are elected by the Rajya Sabha**, not the other way around.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: A Minister is **strictly ineligible** to be elected as a member of this Committee. If a member is appointed as a Minister after their election, they immediately cease to be a member of the Committee. There is **no exception** for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment or any other minister.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: The term of office of the members of the Committee does not exceed **one year**, not two years. It is reconstituted annually like other major standing parliamentary committees (e.g., Public Accounts Committee, Estimates Committee).

Since all the statements are incorrect, there is no correct statement. Therefore, the correct option is D.

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Question 50

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Correct: Mission Sudarshan Chakra is designed as a multi-domain security umbrella. It explicitly aims to enhance India's **air defence, ballistic missile defence, and aerial offensive capabilities**, acting as both a defensive shield and an offensive sword.

Statement 2 is Correct: The mission integrates advanced technologies like AI, space-based sensors, and directed energy weapons to ensure **rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses**. This indigenous development (incorporating projects like Project Kusha) is specifically aimed at reinforcing India's **strategic autonomy** and self-reliance in the defence sector.

Statement 3 is Correct: A major distinguishing feature of this initiative is its expanded scope. Announced as a 10-year national security initiative, a stated goal of the mission is to bring **all public places** (including hospitals, railways, and religious/cultural sites) under an **expanded nationwide security shield by 2035**, moving beyond the conventional protection of just military and strategic installations.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 51

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: 'Maitri Setu' (Friendship Bridge) is built over the **Feni River**, which forms a natural boundary between India and Bangladesh. However, it connects **Sabroom in Tripura, India**, with **Ramgarh in Bangladesh**, not the other way around.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The **Jhulaghat suspension bridge** connects **India and Nepal**, not Myanmar. It spans the **Mahakali River** (known as the Sharda River in India) and links the Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand, India, with the Baitadi district in Nepal.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **Mechi Bridge** connects **India and Nepal** over the **Mechi River**. It specifically links the **Panitanki Bypass in West Bengal, India**, with **Kakarvitta in Nepal**. It serves as a crucial link for cross-border trade and is the endpoint of Asian Highway 02 (AH02) in India.

Therefore, only statement 3 is correct.

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Question 52

Indian Polity | Current Affairs

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 – C

Explanation

Statement 1 is Correct: A Zero FIR can indeed be lodged at any police station, regardless of the territorial jurisdiction, for cognizable offences. This is in line with Section 173(1) of the BNSS, 2023, which allows for the registration of a Zero FIR for cognizable offences irrespective of jurisdiction.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: While Section 173(3) of the BNSS allows for a preliminary enquiry, it is not specifically tied to the lodging of a Zero FIR. The preliminary enquiry is applicable to cognizable offences punishable by 3 to 7 years of imprisonment and requires prior permission from a competent authority. However, the statement does not accurately reflect the conditions under which a preliminary enquiry can be initiated in relation to a Zero FIR.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: It is not obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically for a Zero FIR. Section 173(1) allows for information to be given either orally or by electronic communication, and electronic submission is not mandatory.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 53

Indian Polity

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

Sl. No.	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

Row 1 is Incorrect: The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) acts as the nodal agency for gathering and coordinating economic intelligence among various law enforcement agencies to combat economic offenses. However, it functions under the **Ministry of Finance** (Department of Revenue), not the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Row 2 is Incorrect: The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is a multi-disciplinary statutory organization tasked with detecting, investigating, and prosecuting serious and complex corporate frauds (white-collar crimes). It functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, not the Ministry of Finance.

Row 3 is Correct: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is India's premier investigative agency handling corruption, economic offenses, and special crimes. Its overarching mandate is to preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy. It functions under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions** (specifically, the Department of Personnel and Training).

Therefore, only one row is correctly matched.

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Question 54

International Relations DEBATABLE

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 on Reduction of Statelessness

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 – D

Explanation

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The **Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (ILO No. 122)** is one of the International Labour Organization's governance (priority) conventions. India ratified it on November 17, 1998.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The **Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (ILO No. 105)** is a fundamental ILO convention. India ratified it on May 18, 2000.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)** is a UN multilateral treaty. India has neither signed nor ratified this convention.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: The **Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949)** (also known as the Fourth Geneva Convention) was ratified by India on November 9, 1950, and implemented domestically via the Geneva Conventions Act, 1960. *(Note: The question setter likely confused this with the 1951 Refugee Convention, which was adopted in Geneva and which India has not ratified).*

Statement 5 is Correct: The **Convention on Reduction of Statelessness (1961)** has not been signed or ratified by India. India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1954 Convention on Statelessness, or this 1961 Convention.

Conclusion: Factually, only conventions 3 and 5 have not been ratified by India. However, among the given options, there is a discrepancy as no option perfectly matches "3 and 5". Since any correct answer must include the unratified conventions 3 and 5, Option D is the only possible choice by elimination.

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Question 55

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

Consider the following statements with 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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Summit's intellectual framework and core philosophy were anchored in three foundational principles (Sutras): **People, Planet, and Progress**, not People, Planning, and Progress.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The New Delhi Declaration introduced the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI to promote affordable access to foundational AI resources, support local innovation, and build resilient AI ecosystems. However, it was established as a **voluntary and non-binding** framework, respecting national laws, rather than a binding treaty.

Statement 3 is Correct: The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven thematic pillars of action, officially referred to as **Chakras**. These foundational areas included **Access for Social Empowerment**, **AI for Science**, and **Secure and Trusted AI**, alongside Democratizing AI Resources, Economic Growth & Social Good, Human Capital Development, and Resilient, Efficient & Innovative AI Systems.

Therefore, option D is the correct answer.

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Question 56

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Correct: The **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** connects the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with the Sittwe seaport in **Myanmar** by sea, and then links Sittwe to Mizoram in India via river and road. Since Myanmar is an **ASEAN** member, this project is a key component of India's connectivity with the ASEAN region under its Act East Policy.

Statement 2 is Correct: The **India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway** connects Moreh in India with Mae Sot in **Thailand** via **Myanmar**. Both Myanmar and Thailand are **ASEAN** members, making this highway a flagship project for India-ASEAN physical connectivity.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The **Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line** is an international railway project connecting Agartala in Tripura, India, with Akhaura in **Bangladesh**. Since Bangladesh is not a member of **ASEAN** (it is a member of SAARC and BIMSTEC), this project falls under India-Bangladesh bilateral cooperation, not India-ASEAN cooperation.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 57

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

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

Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project is a 720 MW run-of-river power plant located on the Mangdechhu River in central **Bhutan**. It was developed with Indian financial and technical assistance and jointly inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan in 2019. Therefore, A matches with 3.

Restoration of Stor Palace refers to a historic 19th-century palace located in Kabul, **Afghanistan** (also known as Qasr-e-Storay). India funded its complete restoration in collaboration with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and it was jointly inaugurated by the leaders of India and Afghanistan in 2016. Therefore, B matches with 2.

District Hospital at Dickoya is a 150-bed multi-specialty hospital located in Hatton, **Sri Lanka**. It was built using Indian grant assistance primarily to serve the healthcare needs of the Indian-origin Tamil estate workers in the Central Province. Therefore, C matches with 4.

Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies is located in Addu City, **Maldives** (now officially inaugurated as the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement or NCPLE). It was constructed entirely with Indian grant assistance under a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore, D matches with 1.

Therefore, the correct matching is A-3, B-2, C-4, D-1, which corresponds to Option B.

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Question 58

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Correct: The **Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets** are manufactured in India. They are produced by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** at its Nashik facility under a licensing and technology-transfer agreement with Russia's Sukhoi. Recent contracts for the jets feature over 60% indigenous content.

Statement 2 is Correct: The **T-90 MK-III Tanks (Bhishma)** are manufactured in India. These main battle tanks are produced by the state-owned **Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL)** at the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) in Avadi, Tamil Nadu, under a Russian license. The Indian Army recently began receiving the latest Mk-III variants from HVF.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The **Akula Class Submarine** is not manufactured in India. The Akula-class is a series of nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) designed and built entirely in Russia. India does not manufacture them; rather, the Indian Navy has historically leased them from Russia (e.g., INS Chakra, leased in 2012 and returned in 2021) to train its crew and bolster its underwater capabilities.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 59

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The **Colombo Process** is a Regional Consultative Process comprising 12 Asian member states that are primarily countries of origin for migrant workers. It operates as a voluntary forum where decisions are made by consensus, but they are strictly **non-binding** in nature, not binding.

Statement 2 is Correct: The **Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD)** is a **voluntary and non-binding** inter-governmental consultative process established in 2008. It brings together Asian countries of labour origin and destination to facilitate regional cooperation on temporary **contractual labour mobility**, aiming to ensure safe and orderly labour migration.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD)** was established following a proposal by former **UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan** at the 2006 UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. It is a state-led, **voluntary, informal, and non-binding** process operating outside the formal UN system to discuss the linkages between migration and development.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

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Question 60

International Relations

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

Explanation

World Food Programme (WFP) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize **once** in 2020 for its efforts to combat hunger and prevent its use as a weapon of war and conflict.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize **once** in 1965 for its humanitarian work and efforts to enhance solidarity between nations.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize **twice** (1954 and 1981). The 1954 prize recognized its post-WWII refugee relief efforts, and the 1981 prize honored its ongoing work promoting the fundamental rights of refugees globally.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize **once** in 1969 for its role in improving working conditions, promoting social justice, and contributing to global peace.

Since only one organisation (UNHCR) out of the four listed has been awarded the Nobel Prize twice, the correct option is A.

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Question 61

International Relations

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

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

The correct matching of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations with their respective periods of operation is as follows:

* **UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia):** Established in September 2003 following the end of the Second Liberian Civil War, this mission aimed to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process. It officially closed on March 30, 2018. Thus, **A matches 3**.
* **MINURCAT (United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad):** Established in September 2007 to protect civilians, promote human rights, and support regional peace in the face of spillover violence from the Darfur conflict. Its mandate officially ended on December 31, 2010. Thus, **B matches 1**.
* **MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti):** Established in April 2004 after the 2004 Haitian coup d'état to restore a secure and stable environment. The mission officially ended on October 15, 2017, transitioning to a smaller justice support mission (MINUJUSTH). Thus, **C matches 4**.
* **UNMISET (United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor):** Established on May 20, 2002, to provide assistance to the newly independent nation of East Timor (Timor-Leste) in developing core administrative structures and maintaining security. It successfully completed its mandate on May 20, 2005. Thus, **D matches 2**.

Therefore, the correct matching is A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2.

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Question 62

International Relations

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

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

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) has established several specialized centres to foster regional cooperation. The correct matching of these centres with their locations is as follows:

* **BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory (BCIO):** Located in **Thimphu, Bhutan**. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for its establishment was signed during the Third BIMSTEC Summit in 2014 to promote cultural cooperation and preserve heritage.
* **BIMSTEC Energy Centre (BEC):** Located in **Bengaluru, India**. Housed at the Central Power Research Institute, it coordinates regional energy cooperation, capacity building, and acts as the Secretariat for the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee.
* **BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate (BCWC):** Located in **NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, India**. It is hosted at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) to enhance regional cooperation in weather prediction, climate modeling, and disaster preparedness.
* **BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility (TTF):** Located in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**. The Memorandum of Association (MoA) for its establishment was signed during the Fifth BIMSTEC Summit in 2022 to facilitate technology sharing, innovation, and capacity building among member states.

Therefore, the correct matching is A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3, which corresponds to the correct option.

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Question 63

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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

Option A is correctly matched: The **3 Corps (Spear Corps)** is headquartered at Rangapahar Military Station in **Dimapur**, Nagaland. It operates under the Eastern Command and handles counter-insurgency and border defense in the Northeast.

Option B is correctly matched: The **4 Corps (Gajraj Corps)** is headquartered in **Tezpur**, Assam. It operates under the Eastern Command and is primarily responsible for defending the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal Pradesh.

Option C is correctly matched: The **14 Corps (Fire and Fury Corps)** is headquartered in **Leh**, Ladakh. It operates under the Northern Command and guards the Kargil-Leh frontiers with China and Pakistan, as well as the Siachen Glacier.

Option D is incorrectly matched: The **33 Corps (Trishakti Corps)** is headquartered in **Sukna** (near Siliguri), West Bengal, and not in **Srinagar**. It operates under the Eastern Command and is responsible for the Sikkim sector and the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor. The Indian Army corps headquartered in **Srinagar**, Jammu & Kashmir, is the **15 Corps (Chinar Corps)**.

Therefore, the correct option is D.

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Question 64

Social Issues & Schemes | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for implementation from **1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026** (co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission period), not from 1st April 2021.

Statement 2 is Correct: The primary objective of the revamped scheme is to develop and enhance the governance capabilities of **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** so they can effectively deliver on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It focuses on the localization of SDGs at the grassroots level through inclusive local governance.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The Revamped RGSA is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**, meaning the funding is shared between the Centre and the States. It is not 100% centrally funded for all States and UTs. The sharing pattern is **60:40** (Centre:State) for general category States, and **90:10** for North-Eastern States, Hilly States, and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. **100%** Central funding applies only to other Union Territories and specific Central components of the scheme.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 65

International Relations

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: Belarus is an Eastern European country that is **not** a member of the European Union. It maintains close political and economic ties with Russia and has never formally applied for EU membership.

Statement 2 is Correct: Poland is a full member state of the European Union. It joined the bloc during the major eastward expansion in May 2004.

Statement 3 is Correct: Germany is a full member state of the European Union. It is one of the original six founding members of the EU's predecessor, the European Economic Community, established in 1957.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: Switzerland is **not** an EU member state. Although it is geographically surrounded by the EU and participates in the EU's single market and the Schengen Area through a series of bilateral treaties, it maintains its historic neutrality. It is a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) instead.

Therefore, the correct answer is 2 and 3.

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Question 66

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

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

The INTERPOL uses a colour-coded system of notices to enable countries to share alerts and requests for information worldwide. The correct matching of the notices with their descriptions is as follows:

Silver Notice: It is a recently introduced intelligence tool designed specifically to identify, monitor, and trace illicit criminal assets across international borders. (A matches 4)

Blue Notice: It is issued to collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in relation to an ongoing criminal investigation. Unlike a Red Notice, it does not request the provisional arrest of the individual. (B matches 2)

Black Notice: It is used to seek information on unidentified bodies. It functions primarily as a humanitarian and forensic tool to help establish the identity of deceased persons found across international borders. (C matches 1)

Green Notice: It is issued to provide warnings and share intelligence about individuals who have committed criminal offences and are considered a possible threat to public safety in other countries. (D matches 3)

Therefore, the correct matching is A-4, B-2, C-1, D-3, which corresponds to Option C.

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Question 67

Environment & Ecology | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Correct: The National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience (**NIRANTAR**) is a collaborative platform under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **Ecosystem Survey & Analysis** is one of its four thematic verticals, and its lead institute is the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata**.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The **Research and Management of Ecosystem Service** vertical is led by the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun**, not the Central Zoo Authority (CZA). The CZA is merely a participating institute under this vertical.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **Capacity Development Support** vertical focuses on research, education, and capacity building. The lead institute for this vertical is the **Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal**.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 68

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: During the visit, an MoU was signed to strengthen cooperation in traditional medicine between **Gujarat Ayurveda University** and German institutions. (An earlier MoU in late 2025 was agreed upon between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and Charité Universitätsmedizin in Berlin, not the University of Hamburg).

Statement 2 is Correct: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Youth Hockey Development was officially signed between **Hockey India** and the **German Hockey Federation**.

Statement 3 is Correct: The two nations announced the establishment of a new **bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific**, alongside a Track 1.5 Foreign Policy and Security Dialogue.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: Following the Chancellor's focus on Gujarat, Germany announced the appointment of an Honorary Consul in **Ahmedabad** to foster closer cooperation in the western region, rather than in Lucknow.

Since the question asks for the statements that are not correct, statements 1 and 4 fit the criteria. Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 69

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Correct: DHRUV64 is the third chip to be fabricated under the **Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Programme**. The first chip was THEJAS32 and the second was THEJAS64. The DIR-V programme aims to create a complete portfolio of future-ready, indigenous RISC-V-based microprocessors to reduce India's dependence on imported chips and foreign intellectual property.

Statement 2 is Correct: Developed by the **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), DHRUV64 is officially recognized as India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor. It is built on the open-source RISC-V instruction set architecture, which eliminates proprietary licensing fees and ensures technological sovereignty.

Therefore, both statements are correct.

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Question 70

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Standard (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

Statement 1 is Correct: In December 2025, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) notified India's first dedicated national standard for bomb disposal systems, officially designated as **IS 19445:2025**.

Statement 2 is Correct: The standard establishes comprehensive guidelines for evaluating bomb disposal equipment (such as bomb blankets, baskets, and inhibitors) against blast loads and splinter effects. A primary objective is to bring uniformity to testing and procurement, thereby improving the safety, reliability, and **interoperability** of equipment across various deploying agencies (e.g., Armed Forces, CAPFs, NSG, and State Police).

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The standard was developed indigenously by BIS at the request of the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the DRDO's **Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory (TBRL)**. There is **no record of collaboration with Russian entities** (such as the 30th Central Scientific Research Institute). In fact, the standard was specifically created to reduce reliance on foreign norms, as existing international standards were either restricted in access or misaligned with the specific threat profiles and operational realities faced by Indian forces.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 71

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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 is the correct answer. He was born in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and was jointly awarded the **2025 Nobel Prize in Physics** for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunneling in an electric circuit. At the time of the announcement, he was a Professor Emeritus at the **University of California, Berkeley**, which is an American university.

Michel H. Devoret is incorrect. Although he shared the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physics and was affiliated with American universities (Yale University and UC Santa Barbara), he was born in **France**, not the UK.

Richard Robson is incorrect. While he was born in Yorkshire, England (UK) and won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, his academic affiliation at the time of the award was the **University of Melbourne**, which is an Australian university, not an American one.

Joel Mokyr is incorrect. He won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences and was a professor at Northwestern University (an American university), but he was born in Leiden, **Netherlands**, not the UK.

Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

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Question 72

International Relations | Current Affairs

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

1. The tournaments have a shared 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 – C

Explanation

Statement 1 is Correct: The four Grand Slam tournaments (Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon, and US Open) collaborate through a shared governance structure called the **Grand Slam Board (GSB)**. The GSB is responsible for coordinating activities of mutual interest, including maintaining the unified Grand Slam Rule Book, officiating, and managing relationships with governing bodies like the ATP, WTA, and ITF.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: According to the Grand Slam Rule Book's "Open Competition" section, entry is not open to *all* internationally ranked players. A player must have a **ranking of 500 or better**. While it is true that minors under the age of 14 are not eligible for entry, the ranking restriction means that simply being internationally ranked and above 14 is not sufficient for entry.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: While each tournament draw has a fixed maximum number of wild card slots (e.g., 8 wild cards in a standard 128-player singles main draw), there is no restriction on how many wild cards a specific individual can be granted over time. The official rulebook explicitly features a "No Limitation" clause, stating that there shall be no limitation as to the number of **Wild Cards** a player may receive to compete in the Grand Slam Tournaments.

Therefore, option C is the correct answer.

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Question 73

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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

Semiconductor Plant	Location
(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

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

Option A is correctly matched: The Union Cabinet approved the Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility by CG Power and Industrial Solutions (in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics) to be set up in **Sanand, Gujarat**.

Option B is correctly matched: Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd. (TSAT) is establishing a greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in **Jagiroad, Assam**. It marks a major industrial investment in Northeast India.

Option C is incorrectly matched: The OSAT facility by the HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture (India Chip Pvt. Ltd.) is being established in **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh** (in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority region), not Madhya Pradesh. It will manufacture display driver chips.

Option D is correctly matched: SicSem Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a Silicon Carbide (SiC) semiconductor manufacturing plant in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. It is designed to be India's first commercial compound semiconductor fab.

Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

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Question 74

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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: A primary objective of the Bharat Forecast System (BFS) is to generate hyper-local, highly accurate weather forecasts down to the **Panchayat cluster level** (village and block level) to aid rural communities, agriculture, and disaster management. It operates on an ultra-fine **6 km x 6 km grid** (upgraded from India's previous 12 km resolution models), making it the highest-resolution operational global weather model currently used by any national meteorological agency in the world.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The Bharat Forecast System was indigenously developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, which is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). It was not developed by IIT Delhi. The model is powered by advanced High-Performance Computing (HPC) systems, specifically the new **'Arka'** supercomputer at IITM Pune and **'Arunika'** at NCMRWF Noida.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 75

Art & Culture | Current Affairs

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: The Manipuri-language coming-of-age drama film *Boong* recently won the **British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award** in the **Best Children's and Family Film** category, competing against major international studio productions like *Zootopia 2* and *Lilo & Stitch*.

Statement 2 is Correct: The film is written and directed by debutant filmmaker **Lakshmipriya Devi** and co-produced by Farhan Akhtar and Ritesh Sidhwani's Excel Entertainment.

Statement 3 is Correct: *Boong* made history by becoming the **first Indian film** to ever win a BAFTA award in the Best Children's and Family Film category.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 76

Science & Technology

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's architecture allows data to be shared transparently with relevant stakeholders. Because the ledger is append-only and secured by network consensus, users can view records without the risk of unauthorized alteration.

Statement 2 is Correct: Blockchain operates as a decentralized database (Distributed Ledger Technology). Identical copies of the entire ledger are stored across multiple computers (nodes) on a network. These nodes continuously communicate and sync rapidly (often within seconds, depending on the specific blockchain protocol) to maintain a single source of truth.

Statement 3 is Correct: A consortium blockchain is a hybrid model that blends features of both public (open) and private (closed) blockchains. It is governed by a pre-approved group of organizations rather than a single entity or the open public, allowing for semi-decentralized control and selective data access.

Statement 4 is Correct: Blockchain uses complex mathematical algorithms (cryptographic hashing) to link blocks. Once data is recorded and validated by the network, changing or deleting it requires altering all subsequent blocks and gaining majority network control, making tampering practically impossible.

Note: While all four statements are factually correct based on the principles of blockchain technology, there is no option provided that includes all of them (1, 2, 3, and 4). Option C is the most comprehensive and appropriate choice as it correctly identifies statements 1, 2, and 4 as a valid set.

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Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 77

Economy

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 is an e-commerce fulfillment method where a retail store does not keep the products it sells in stock. Instead, when a store sells a product, it purchases the item from a third-party supplier or wholesaler and has it shipped directly to the customer. The seller does not handle the physical product or manage inventory but retains control over the retail pricing, earning a profit on the margin between the wholesale cost and the retail price.

Affiliate Revenue Model is incorrect because it is a performance-based marketing model where an individual or business earns a commission by promoting another company's products. The affiliate does not control the product's pricing or handle fulfillment; they merely drive traffic and sales to the actual merchant.

Transaction Fee Revenue Model is incorrect because it involves a digital platform acting as an intermediary. The platform earns revenue by charging a fee or commission for enabling, processing, or executing a transaction between a buyer and a seller (e.g., payment gateways or marketplace fees).

Agency Revenue Model is incorrect because it is a service-based model where an agency charges businesses for providing specialized professional services, such as digital marketing, website design, or content creation, rather than selling physical goods.

Therefore, Option A is the correct answer.

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Question 78

Economy | Current Affairs

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced the composite **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** in August 2021 to comprehensively measure the extent of financial inclusion across the country. The index incorporates data from the banking, investments, insurance, postal, and pension sectors.

The FI-Index is constructed using three broad parameters (sub-indices) with distinct weightages:
1. **Access (35% weightage):** Measures the supply-side availability of financial services, including physical and digital infrastructure like bank branches, ATMs, and PoS terminals.
2. **Usage (45% weightage):** Reflects the demand side and actual utilization of financial services, such as savings, investments, digital transactions (e.g., UPI), insurance, and credit.
3. **Quality (20% weightage):** Captures the qualitative aspects of financial inclusion, including financial literacy, consumer protection, and inequalities or deficiencies in services.

Option A is Incorrect: While credit, insurance, and pension are sectors covered under the index, they are not the broad sub-indices used to structure the FI-Index.

Option B is Incorrect: GDP contribution is not a parameter for measuring financial inclusion. Financial literacy is a component under the **Quality** sub-index, not a standalone sub-index.

Option C is Correct: Access, Usage, and Quality are the exact three sub-indices of the FI-Index.

Option D is Incorrect: Affordability and Transparency are not the designated sub-indices, though they may conceptually relate to the **Quality** parameter.

Therefore, Option C is the correct answer.

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Question 79

Economy Current Affairs

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

Option A is Incorrect: ONDC does not mandate government control over transactions; rather, it promotes a decentralized, open market framework.

Option B is Incorrect: It does not seek to replace private e-commerce players. Instead, private applications and platforms integrate into the ONDC network to facilitate transactions.

Option C is Correct: The primary goal of the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** is to democratize digital commerce by shifting the industry from a closed, platform-centric model (dominated by a few large e-commerce giants) to an open, interoperable network. By enabling interoperability, ONDC breaks the monopolies of large private e-commerce players and creates a level playing field for small businesses, local retailers, and MSMEs to reach consumers directly.

Option D is Incorrect: ONDC does not mandate UPI for all online transactions. While it is frequently called the "UPI of e-commerce" because it applies the same open-network philosophy to online shopping, it does not enforce UPI as the sole payment method.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 80

Economy | Current Affairs

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

Option A is a correct statement: UPI is a real-time payment interface that facilitates the transfer of fiat money already held in bank accounts. The Digital Rupee (e₹) is actual sovereign digital currency (legal tender) issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), functioning as the digital equivalent of physical paper cash.

Option B is a correct statement: In UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited (with backend inter-bank settlement). In the case of the Digital Rupee, transactions occur directly between digital wallets. The transfer of the e₹ token itself provides instantaneous finality of settlement (exactly like handing over physical cash), bypassing bank intermediation and eliminating the need for a separate settlement process.

Option C is a correct statement: Because UPI transactions are routed through bank accounts, every transaction is recorded in the user's bank statement. Digital Rupee transactions are wallet-to-wallet; therefore, individual peer-to-peer transfers do not reflect in bank statements (only the initial loading or unloading of the e₹ wallet from a bank account is recorded).

Option D is an incorrect statement: Money transferred via UPI is commercial bank money; hence, the liability lies with the respective commercial banks. The Digital Rupee, however, is a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) and represents a direct liability of the RBI, guaranteed by the sovereign, not the commercial banks.

Therefore, Option D is the correct answer.

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Question 81

Economy | Current Affairs

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 24x7 access, promoting financial inclusion.
3. Tokenization of real world assets will allow the 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

Statement 1 is Correct: Real-World Asset (RWA) Tokenization is the process of converting the ownership rights of physical or traditional financial assets (such as real estate, gold, commodities, or bonds) into digital tokens on a distributed ledger or **blockchain**. Each token represents a proportional share or claim on the underlying asset.

Statement 2 is Correct: Unlike traditional financial markets and real estate registries that have fixed operating hours, geographic limitations, and settlement delays, blockchain-based tokenized assets can be traded globally, **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**, with near-instant settlement. Additionally, tokenization allows high-value, traditionally illiquid assets to be divided into smaller, affordable fractions. This lowers the barrier to entry, enabling retail investors and underserved populations to participate in wealth-building markets, thereby directly promoting **financial inclusion**.

Statement 3 is Correct: In the Indian context, RWA tokenization democratizes access to high-growth, capital-intensive sectors (like commercial real estate, agricultural land, and infrastructure projects). Regulatory bodies like the **IFSCA** (in GIFT City) have already begun approving tokenization platforms under regulatory sandboxes to unlock these previously inaccessible investment opportunities for everyday Indian retail investors.

Therefore, all three statements are correct, making the correct option A.

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Question 82

Economy

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

Sustainability Bonds are fixed-income instruments where the proceeds are exclusively applied to finance or re-finance a combination of both **environmental (green)** and **social** projects.

Green Bonds are specifically earmarked to raise money exclusively for climate and environmental projects (e.g., renewable energy, pollution prevention, biodiversity conservation).

Social Bonds raise funds exclusively for projects that address or mitigate a specific social issue and seek to achieve positive social outcomes (e.g., affordable basic infrastructure, access to essential services, affordable housing).

Sovereign Bonds refer to debt securities issued by a national government to finance general government spending and manage national debt. The term refers to the issuer rather than the specific use of proceeds, meaning a standard sovereign bond is not inherently restricted to environmental or social projects.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 83

Economy | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Incorrect: M1xchange is an RBI-regulated Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform. Financing on M1xchange is strictly **collateral-free** and "without recourse" to the MSME. The transaction is driven by the creditworthiness of the corporate buyer, meaning the MSME does not need to pledge any assets or take on traditional debt to secure the funds.

Statement 2 is Correct: The primary function of M1xchange is facilitating the discounting of invoices and Bills of Exchange. MSMEs upload verified trade receivables to the platform to receive early liquidity via competitive bidding by financiers (Banks and NBFCs).

Statement 3 is Incorrect: M1xchange is a receivables exchange and financing platform, not a credit rating agency. In India, credit rating agencies (such as CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, or SMERA) are distinct entities primarily regulated by SEBI, whereas M1xchange operates under the RBI's payment and settlement systems framework.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 84

Economy

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 an 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 **Crowding Out Effect** is a prominent macroeconomic concept associated with expansionary fiscal policy and deficit financing.

Option A is incorrect: A situation where private investment increases due to increased government spending is known as the **Crowding In Effect**. This typically happens during a deep recession when government spending boosts aggregate demand, improving business expectations and encouraging private investment despite potential interest rate changes.

Option B is correct: The **Crowding Out Effect** occurs when the government runs a budget deficit and borrows heavily from the financial market to finance its increased spending. This massive borrowing increases the overall demand for a limited pool of **loanable funds**. The heightened competition for capital drives up the equilibrium **interest rates**. Higher interest rates make borrowing more expensive for private businesses and consumers, leading to a decline in private sector investment. Thus, the private sector is effectively "crowded out" of the credit market.

Option C is incorrect: An increase in taxes generally reduces the disposable income of consumers and the retained earnings of businesses, which typically leads to a decrease, not an increase, in private sector investment and consumption.

Option D is incorrect: Government spending directly adds to aggregate demand. The crowding out effect argues that the net impact on aggregate demand might be smaller than expected because the increase in government spending is partially offset by a decrease in private investment, but it does not mean government spending has zero impact.

Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.

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Question 85

World Geography | Current Affairs

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 technological innovations. Their unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties make them critical for artificial intelligence hardware, robotics, space exploration, electric vehicles, and advanced defense systems.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: While China dominates global REE mining, accounting for roughly 69% of global production, the second-largest producer is the **United States**, followed by Myanmar and Australia. India ranks much lower globally and is not the second-largest producer.

Statement 3 is Correct: The Government of India officially launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in **January 2025**. The mission is a strategic blueprint designed to secure domestic and global supply chains, reduce import dependence, and establish a robust framework for self-reliance in critical minerals essential for clean energy and technology.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: Rare Earth Elements are a set of **17** metallic elements, not 13. This group comprises the 15 lanthanides on the periodic table, along with scandium and yttrium, which share similar chemical properties and are typically found in the same ore deposits.

Therefore, the correct option is A.

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Question 86

Economy Current Affairs

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: Aviation Hull Insurance is a specialized property insurance policy designed to cover physical loss or damage to the aircraft itself. Standard hull policies cover the aircraft's fuselage (body), wings, propulsion systems (engines), avionics, and on-board instruments or equipment. It is distinct from Aviation Liability Insurance, which covers legal liabilities for third-party property damage or passenger injuries.

Statement 2 is Correct: The **Montreal Convention (1999)**, formally known as the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air, has been ratified by over 130 parties globally, including India. Article 21 of the convention establishes a two-tier liability regime for passenger death or bodily injury. Under the first tier, for damages up to a specified threshold, the airline is held **strictly liable**. This means the victim's family or nominee is automatically entitled to compensation without being required to prove negligence or fault on the part of the airline.

Therefore, both statements are correct, making the correct option C.

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Question 87

Economy

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: According to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), **Crowdfunding** is officially defined as the solicitation of funds (usually small amounts) from multiple investors through a web-based platform or social networking site for a specific project, business venture, or social cause. It democratizes capital raising by bypassing traditional financial intermediaries and directly connecting entrepreneurs with a large pool of individual backers online.

Statement 2 is Correct: Crowdfunding provides an alternative financing route for **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** and startups. It allows them to raise funds at a **lower cost of capital** compared to high-interest traditional loans or giving up massive equity stakes to institutional investors. Furthermore, it enables them to secure funding without undergoing the rigorous, time-consuming procedures, strict collateral requirements, and heavy compliance associated with traditional bank lending or formal stock exchange listings.

Since both statements are correct, the correct option is C.

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Question 88

Economy

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

Sl. No.	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 India	Securities and Exchange Board of 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 Incorrect: The **R.N. Malhotra Committee** was constituted in 1993 by the **Government of India**, not the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). In fact, the IRDAI was established in 1999 as a direct result of this committee's recommendations to reform the insurance sector.

Row 2 is Correct: The **L.C. Gupta Committee** was appointed by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** in 1996 to develop a regulatory framework and prepare a roadmap for the introduction of **derivatives trading** in India.

Row 3 is Incorrect: The **Urjit R. Patel Committee** was constituted in 2013 by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to revise and strengthen the **Monetary Policy Framework**, not for reforming bank lending to the housing sector. It famously recommended the adoption of flexible inflation targeting and the creation of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Row 4 is Correct: The **Y.H. Malegam Committee** was constituted in 2010 by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to study issues and recommend regulations for the **Microfinance sector** (NBFC-MFIs) following the Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis.

Therefore, only rows 2 and 4 are correctly matched.

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Question 89

Economy

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: Non-Banking Financial Companies (**NBFCs**) are strictly prohibited from accepting demand deposits (such as savings or current accounts that are repayable on demand). While certain NBFCs can accept term/fixed deposits, they can only do so if they hold a specific deposit-taking Certificate of Registration from the RBI.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: It is a misconception that all NBFCs must register with the RBI. To avoid dual regulation, financial companies regulated by other statutory bodies are exempted from RBI registration. Examples include Venture Capital Funds and Merchant Banks (regulated by **SEBI**), Insurance companies (regulated by **IRDAI**), Nidhi companies (regulated by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**), and Chit Fund companies (regulated by **State Governments**).

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Unlike traditional commercial banks, NBFCs do not form part of the national payment and settlement system. Consequently, they cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves.

Statement 4 is Correct: The deposit insurance cover provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (**DICGC**)—which protects deposits up to ₹5 lakh—is exclusively available to bank depositors. This facility is **not** available to depositors of NBFCs, even if the NBFC is legally authorized to accept term deposits.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 90

Economy Current Affairs

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: Both the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and India's National MPI are calculated using the **Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology**. This method measures acute poverty by counting the overlapping deprivations that individuals experience simultaneously.

Statement 2 is Correct: India's National MPI, calculated by **NITI Aayog**, consists of **12 indicators**. It retains the 10 standard indicators from the Global MPI and adds two new ones to better reflect India's specific development priorities.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The two additional indicators in the National MPI are **Maternal Health** (added to the Health dimension) and **Bank Account** (added to the Standard of Living dimension). Therefore, these two are exclusive to NITI Aayog's National MPI and are not present in the UNDP's Global MPI, which only has 10 indicators.

Therefore, option A is the correct answer.

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Question 91

Science & Technology

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 is Correct: Genetic medicines (such as gene therapy and gene editing) treat or prevent diseases at their root cause. They work by introducing, removing, or changing genetic material to **correct or compensate for faulty or missing genes** responsible for a disease.

Statement 2 is Correct: Genetic material cannot simply be injected into the body; it requires a carrier, or "vector," to successfully penetrate target cells. **Engineered viruses** (like adeno-associated viruses or lentiviruses) are genetically modified to remove their disease-causing properties and are widely used to deliver therapeutic genes. **Lipid nanoparticles (LNPs)** are highly effective non-viral vectors that encapsulate the genetic payload (such as mRNA or CRISPR-Cas9 tools) in a protective fat layer to safely deliver it into cells.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Genetic medicines **do not alter the entire DNA sequence**. The human genome contains approximately 3 billion base pairs and over 20,000 genes. Gene therapies are highly precise, targeting only specific localized sequences or single genes (e.g., replacing one defective gene or making a targeted cut) while leaving the vast majority of the patient's native DNA completely unchanged.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 92

Science & Technology

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 is Correct: At their core, Large Language Models (LLMs) function by analyzing input context and calculating a statistical probability distribution for the next possible words (tokens) in a sequence. In their most basic form of text generation (known as "greedy decoding"), they pick the word with the absolute highest probability. While standard applications often introduce controlled randomness (stochastic sampling like *top-k* or *temperature scaling*) to make text more creative, the foundational mechanism relies on assigning probabilities to select the next word.

Statement 2 is Correct: LLM training relies heavily on mathematical optimization. Algorithms such as Stochastic Gradient Descent and backpropagation are used to iteratively adjust billions of model parameters. The explicit goal of this process is to minimize a "loss function," which mathematically represents the model's prediction errors compared to the actual training data.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: LLMs do not produce inherently unbiased outputs. Because they learn from massive, human-generated datasets scraped from the internet, they are well-documented to inherit, reflect, and sometimes amplify historical and societal biases (e.g., gender, racial, or cultural stereotypes) present in their training data.

Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 93

Science & Technology

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 is Correct: The primary goal of stealth technology is to minimize an object's **Radar Cross-Section (RCS)**, making it appear as small as a bird or insect on enemy screens. This is achieved through geometric shaping (to deflect waves away from the source) and by coating the surface with **Radar Absorbing Materials (RAM)**, which absorb electromagnetic radar energy and dissipate it as heat.

Statement 2 is Correct: Stealth objects are not completely invisible. Their shapes and RAM coatings are typically optimized to defeat high-frequency radars (like X-band) used for precise weapons targeting. However, they can often be detected by low-frequency radars (such as VHF and UHF bands). The longer wavelengths of these specific frequencies resonate with the aircraft's physical dimensions, allowing detection, though they lack the resolution required for a missile lock.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Metamaterials are artificially engineered structures with unique electromagnetic properties. In advanced stealth applications, they are used to decrease or eliminate radar scattering, not increase it. They achieve this by either perfectly absorbing the electromagnetic radiation or by bending and redirecting the waves smoothly around the object (electromagnetic cloaking) so that no signal scatters back to the radar receiver. Increasing scattering would make the object highly visible, defeating the purpose of stealth.

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 94

Science & Technology

Which of the following statements with regard to Black Boxes used in modern aircrafts 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 is Incorrect: Black boxes are equipped with an Underwater Locator Beacon (ULB). When immersed in water, the ULB activates and emits an **acoustic (ultrasonic) pulse** (typically at 37.5 kHz) to guide sonar-equipped searchers. It does not emit light pulses, as light cannot travel effectively through deep ocean water.

Statement 2 is Correct: The term "black box" collectively refers to two distinct recording devices (which are sometimes combined into a single unit): the **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**, which records radio transmissions and sounds in the cockpit, and the **Flight Data Recorder (FDR)**, which records technical flight parameters such as altitude, airspeed, heading, and acceleration.

Statement 3 is Correct: The data is stored inside a highly protected component called the Crash-Survivable Memory Unit (CSMU). To survive extreme impact (up to 3,400 Gs), deep-sea pressure, and intense fire (up to 1,100°C), the CSMU's outer armor is manufactured using heavy-duty **stainless steel** or **titanium**, layered with thermal insulation.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 95

Environment & Ecology | Current Affairs

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 is Incorrect: Hydrogen obtained from fossil fuels (primarily natural gas) through steam methane reforming, where the resulting carbon emissions are captured and stored using Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) technologies, is known as **Blue Hydrogen**, not Green Hydrogen.

Statement 2 is Correct: Green Hydrogen is produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen via electrolysis, using electricity generated entirely from renewable energy sources (such as solar or wind). It is a completely zero-emission process.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **National Green Hydrogen Mission** launched by the Government of India has set quantified targets for 2030. It aims to develop a green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum. This will lead to the abatement of nearly **50 MMT** of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, alongside reducing fossil fuel imports and creating over 6 lakh jobs.

Therefore, the correct option is B.

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Question 96

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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 is Correct: The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe)** was established in 2020 as an autonomous, single-window nodal agency under the **Department of Space (DOS)**. Its primary mandate is to promote, authorize, and facilitate the participation of private entities in India's space sector, acting as a bridge between ISRO and private players.

Statement 2 is Correct: In May 2024, the Chennai-based space startup **Agnikul Cosmos** successfully launched the **Agnibaan SOrTeD** suborbital rocket from its private launchpad in Sriharikota. This historic mission marked the world's first flight powered by a single-piece, fully **3D-printed rocket engine** (a semi-cryogenic engine named **Agnilet**).

Statement 3 is Incorrect: Skyroot Aerospace is a prominent private Indian startup that develops its own independent launch vehicles (the **Vikram** series) and engines. However, it does not develop fuel or engines for the **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)**. The GSLV is an **ISRO-owned** heavy-lift rocket, and its liquid and cryogenic stages and fuels are developed entirely in-house by ISRO (e.g., via the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre).

Therefore, the correct option is C.

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Question 97

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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 is Incorrect: Drones typically communicate with ground command centres using standard **Radio Frequency (RF) bands** (e.g., UHF, S-band, L-band) or **Satellite Communications (SATCOM)** to ensure reliable, long-range connectivity. The **Terahertz (THz) band** is an emerging, highly experimental frequency envisioned for future 6G networks. Because THz waves suffer from severe atmospheric attenuation and have a very short range, they are currently being researched for high-speed inter-drone (drone-to-drone) communication at close proximity, not for long-range links to a command centre.

Statement 2 is Correct: The defining characteristic of a drone swarm is decentralized collective intelligence. Individual drones actively communicate with one another (often via ad-hoc mesh networks) to coordinate formations, share sensor data, avoid collisions, and adapt to real-time environmental changes without relying on a central controller.

Statement 3 is Correct: Electronic Warfare (EW) is a primary defense against drone swarms. **GPS Spoofing** is a standard and commonly used countermeasure. It involves broadcasting fake satellite signals to deceive the drones' navigation systems, forcing them off course, causing mid-air collisions, or triggering forced landings.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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Question 98

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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 is Incorrect: The **GenomeIndia Project** is an independent, pan-India initiative launched in January 2020. It is not a part of the international **Human Genome Project** (which was a global effort that ran from 1990 to 2003). Instead, it was inspired by the Human Genome Project to address the historical underrepresentation of Indian genetics in global databases.

Statement 2 is Correct: The project is officially funded and spearheaded by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Statement 3 is Correct: Its core objective is to map and build a comprehensive catalogue of the genetic diversity of the Indian population. The project successfully sequenced 10,000 whole genomes from 99 distinct ethnic, social, and linguistic groups across India to create a reference genome for the Indian population.

Therefore, Option B is correct.

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Question 99

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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

Statement 1 is Correct: The **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with **50 to 1000 physical qubits** within 8 years. Specifically, it targets 50–100 physical qubits in 5 years and scales up to 50–1000 physical qubits in 8 years using platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.

Statement 2 is Correct: The implementation of the mission explicitly includes the establishment of **four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)** in top academic and national R&D institutes across India. These hubs focus on distinct technology verticals: Quantum Computing (led by IISc Bengaluru), Quantum Communication (led by IIT Madras), Quantum Sensing & Metrology (led by IIT Bombay), and Quantum Materials & Devices (led by IIT Delhi).

Therefore, both statements are correct.

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Question 100

Science & Technology | Current Affairs

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 (DOM)** is a flagship initiative launched and implemented 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 an indigenous manned submersible vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). It is specifically designed to carry **3 people** (aquanauts) in a titanium alloy sphere to a depth of **6,000 meters** for deep-sea exploration, including the study of marine biodiversity and the mining of rare minerals like polymetallic nodules.

Statement 3 is Correct: Samudrayaan is India's first manned deep-sea ocean mission and is a primary sub-project under the broader **Deep Ocean Mission**.

Therefore, option B is the correct answer.

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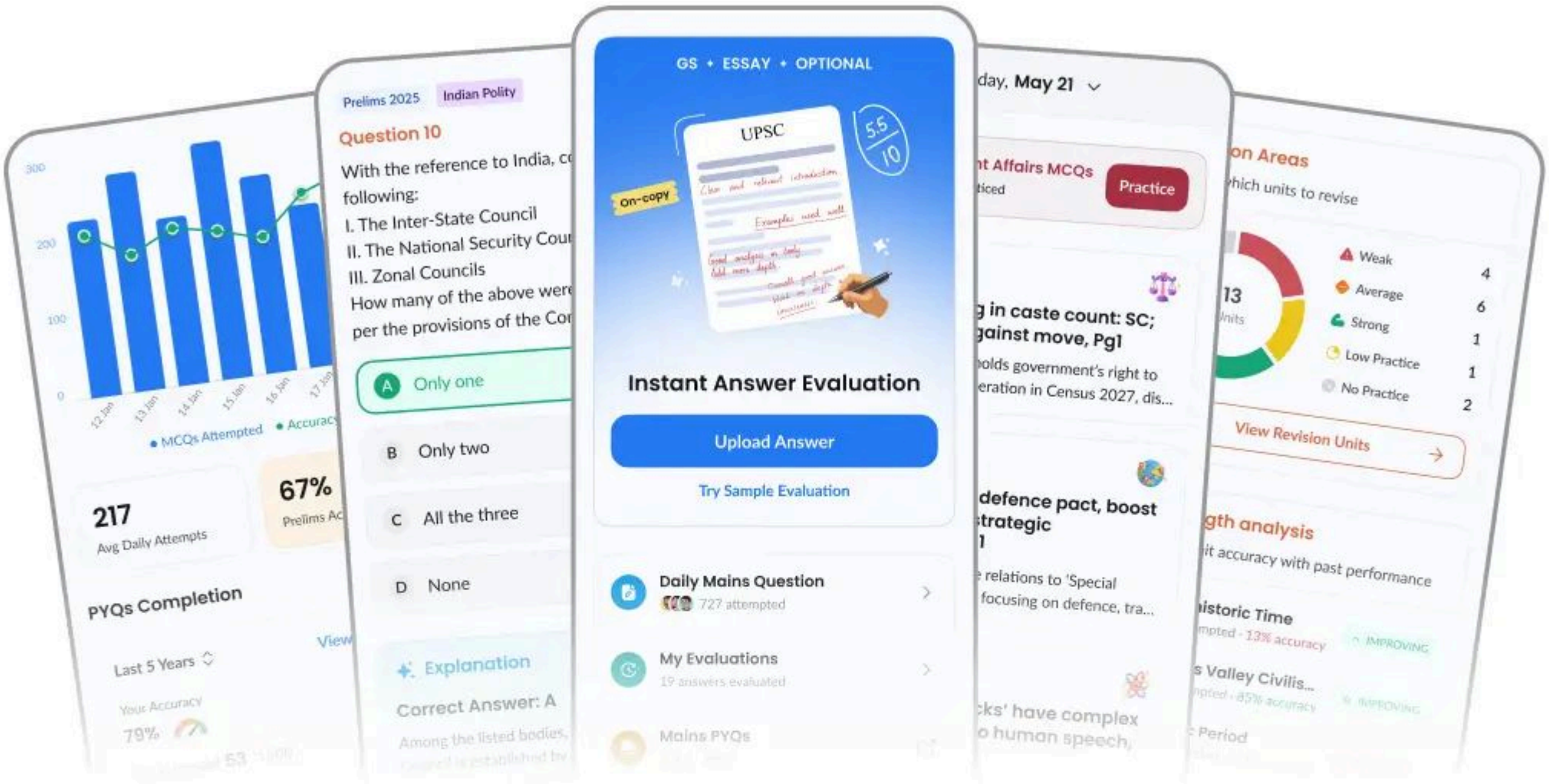

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