

ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION (OPSC)

Odisha Civil Services (OCS) Preliminary Examination – 2025

General Studies Paper – I (GS-1) | Question Booklet Series: **SET – D** (Complete Questions 1 to 100)

Q1. Who advanced the slogan, “Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Pradhan aur do Nishan nahi chalenge”? (2025)

- (A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (B) V. D. Savarkar
- (C) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya
- (D) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

(D) Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

The slogan “Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Pradhan aur do Nishan nahi chalenge” (One nation cannot have two constitutions, two prime ministers and two flags) became the rallying cry of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee’s movement against the special constitutional status of Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370.

In 1953, Mukherjee launched an agitation opposing the separate constitution, separate flag, and separate Prime Minister (Wazir-e-Azam) that existed in Jammu & Kashmir. During this movement, he entered Jammu & Kashmir without a permit, was arrested, and later died in custody in Srinagar.

Why other options are incorrect?

- * Atal Bihari Vajpayee popularized the ideology later but did not originate the slogan.
- * V. D. Savarkar advocated Hindutva and cultural nationalism but was not associated with this slogan.
- * Deen Dayal Upadhyaya developed the philosophy of Integral Humanism but did not coin this slogan.

Q2. Consider the following Statement (S) and Explanation (E): (2025)

Statement (S):

The Fundamental Rights are absolute and cannot be restricted.

Explanation (E):

The State can impose reasonable restrictions on certain rights in the interest of sovereignty, security and public order.

Options:

- (A) Both S and E are correct and E is the correct explanation of S
- (B) Both S and E are correct but E is not the correct explanation of S
- (C) S is correct but E is incorrect
- (D) S is incorrect but E is correct

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Why Statement (S) is incorrect?

Fundamental Rights in India are not absolute. The Constitution itself permits the State to impose reasonable restrictions on various rights, particularly those under Article 19. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that no right can be unrestricted in a democratic society.

Examples:

- * Freedom of speech can be restricted for reasons such as public order, sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, decency, morality, etc.
- * Freedom of movement and assembly can also be regulated in the public interest.

Why Explanation (E) is correct?

The Constitution explicitly empowers the State to impose reasonable restrictions on certain Fundamental Rights to protect:

- * Sovereignty and integrity of India
- * Security of the State
- * Public order
- * Decency and morality
- * Friendly relations with foreign states

* Prevention of defamation, contempt of court, and incitement to offences

These restrictions are primarily provided under Articles 19(2) to 19(6).

Q3. The concept of Judicial Review in India is primarily derived from the Constitution of _____ while the concept of Parliamentary Sovereignty is influenced by _____. (2025)

(A) USA; UK

(B) UK; USA

(C) Canada; Australia

(D) Ireland; France

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

The Indian Constitution has borrowed several features from different countries.

Judicial Review – From the USA

Judicial Review refers to the power of the judiciary to examine the constitutionality of legislative and executive actions and strike them down if they violate the Constitution.

Key features borrowed from the United States:

* Judicial Review

* Fundamental Rights

* Written Constitution

* Independence of Judiciary

* Impeachment of the President

The doctrine of Judicial Review was established by the landmark case:

Marbury v. Madison (1803)

Chief Justice John Marshall held that the Supreme Court could invalidate laws contrary to the Constitution.

Parliamentary Sovereignty – From the UK

The British constitutional system is based on the principle of Parliamentary Sovereignty, which means Parliament is the supreme law-making authority.

India adopted a modified version:

- * Parliament is powerful but not supreme.
- * The Constitution remains supreme.
- * Courts can review laws passed by Parliament.

This balance was explained by the Supreme Court in:

Kesavananda Bharati Case

which evolved the Basic Structure Doctrine.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect?

- * (B) UK; USA → Reversed.
- * (C) Canada; Australia → Neither is the primary source of these concepts.
- * (D) Ireland; France → Incorrect constitutional sources.

Q4. A data protection law restricts sharing of personal data, but RTI activists argue it weakens transparency. (2025)

Question: This scenario highlights:

- (A) Conflict between two Fundamental Rights
- (B) Conflict between statutory rights
- (C) Conflict between Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Rights
- (D) Conflict between judiciary and executive

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

The scenario highlights a direct conflict between two major statutory rights enacted by Parliament: the Right to Information Act, 2005 (which guarantees citizens the statutory entitlement to access government-held public data) and the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (which establishes statutory protections and restrictions on the processing and disclosure of personal data). Because RTI activists argue that data protection legislation restricts information access, the primary legislative conflict is between these two statutory regimes.

Q5. Statement (S): Digital governance can enhance inclusion. (2025)

Explanation (E): It eliminates all forms of exclusion.

Options:

- (A) Both S and E are correct and E is the correct explanation of S
- (B) Both S and E are correct but E is not the correct explanation of S
- (C) S is correct but E is incorrect
- (D) S is incorrect but E is correct

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Why Statement (S) is Correct?

Digital governance (e-Governance) can significantly improve inclusion by:

- * Delivering services directly to citizens.
- * Reducing corruption and middlemen.
- * Increasing transparency and accountability.
- * Enhancing access to welfare schemes through digital platforms.

Examples:

- * DigiLocker
- * UMANG
- * Direct Benefit Transfer
- * Aadhaar

These initiatives have expanded access to public services for millions.

Why Explanation (E) is Incorrect?

Digital governance does not eliminate all forms of exclusion.

Several challenges remain:

- * Digital divide (lack of internet access)
- * Low digital literacy
- * Language barriers

- * Gender gap in digital access
- * Connectivity issues in remote areas
- * Exclusion due to authentication failures

Thus, digital governance can reduce exclusion but cannot completely eliminate it.

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committees (DRSCs): (2025)

- I. Permanent regular panels to frame legislations.
- II. They also examine the "Demand for Grants" for various departments during the budget process and review policies and performance of departments.
- III. There are 22 such Committees consisting of 31 members each.
- IV. The Estimates Committee and Public Accounts Committee are the two most important amongst such Committees.

How many of the above statements are true?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

Statement I: Incorrect

DRSCs are not constituted to frame legislation.

Their functions include:

- * Examining Bills referred to them.
- * Scrutinizing Demands for Grants.
- * Reviewing policies and administration of Ministries.

The power to enact laws remains with Parliament.

Therefore, Statement I is incorrect.

Statement II: Correct

One of the major functions of DRSCs is to:

- * Examine Demands for Grants of Ministries.
- * Review policy implementation.
- * Assess performance of departments.
- * Consider annual reports and long-term policy documents.

Hence, Statement II is correct.

Statement III: incorrect

At present:

- * There are 24 DRSCs under Parliament (since 2004).
- * However, the statement says 22 committees consisting of 31 members each.

This is a tricky statement because historically DRSCs were 24 committees with 31 members each (21 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha).

Therefore, the numerical part regarding 31 members each is correct, but the number 22 is incorrect.

Hence Statement III is incorrect.

Statement IV: Incorrect

The Estimates Committee and Public Accounts Committee (PAC) are important financial committees, but they are not DRSCs.

They belong to a separate category known as Financial Committees of Parliament.

Therefore Statement IV is incorrect.

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding Blue Flag beaches in India: (2025)

- I. Blue Flag certification is awarded to coastal sites that meet international standards for cleanliness, water quality, safety and sustainable management.
- II. The certification is granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- III. In India, the Blue Flag programme is implemented under the Integrated Coastal Zone

Management (ICZM) Programme.

IV. India has achieved Blue Flag certification for 13 beaches across 7 coastal states and 4 Union Territories as of 2025-26.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct: Blue Flag certification is an internationally recognized eco-label awarded to beaches and coastal sites meeting 33 stringent international criteria covering environmental education, water quality, safety, and sustainable environmental management.

Statement II is incorrect: The global certification is operated and awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), an international NGO based in Denmark, not directly by India's MoEFCC.

Statement III is correct: In India, the Blue Flag certification and beach development initiatives are implemented under the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Programme via the BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) scheme.

Statement IV is correct: As per the government's official status notifications and expansion of coastal eco-tourism sites under the ICZM framework, 13 certified beaches were formally catalogued across the specified coastal states and Union Territories in the official examination reference cycle.

Hence, exactly 3 statements (I, III, and IV) are correct -> Option (C).

Q8. Assertion (A): (2025)

Increasing atmospheric CO₂ reduces carbonate ion availability in seawater.

Reason (R):

Dissolved CO_2 forms carbonic acid, which releases hydrogen ions that bind with carbonate ions.

Options:

- (A) Both A and R are correct and R correctly explains A
- (B) Both A and R are correct but R does not explain A
- (C) A is correct but R is incorrect
- (D) A is incorrect but R is correct

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

When atmospheric CO_2 increases:

1. More CO_2 dissolves in oceans.
2. It reacts with water:
3. Carbonic acid dissociates:
4. Excess hydrogen ions combine with carbonate ions:

This reduces the concentration of carbonate ions needed by corals, molluscs and shell-forming organisms.

Therefore:

- * Assertion is correct.
- * Reason is correct.
- * Reason correctly explains the Assertion.

Q9. The HPV Vaccination drive launched by the Prime Minister in February 2026. (2025)

Consider the following statements:

- I. It is aimed at combating cervical cancer, the foremost common cancer in Indian women.
- II. The target group is girls of 14 years of age.
- III. Gardasil 9 is a HPV vaccine.
- IV. Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance provided US\$ 250 million in funding for vaccinating children.

How many of the above statement(s) are INCORRECT?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) None

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

Statement I is INCORRECT: Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among Indian women, not the foremost (breast cancer ranks first).

Statement II is CORRECT: The nationwide free campaign specifically targets adolescent girls who are 14 years of age to maximize efficacy before potential exposure

Statement III is CORRECT: Gardasil 9 is a widely recognized U.S.-approved nonary Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine that protects against nine strains of the virus.

Statement IV is CORRECT: Under a strategic partnership, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance provided US\$ 250 million in funding to target zero-dose children and support India's introduction of the HPV and typhoid vaccines.

Q10. Consider the following: (2025)

- I. The Hindu muhurta is of approximately 48 minutes duration.
- II. Each muhurta is divided into 30 kala.
- III. Nakshatra is the Sun's asterism.
- IV. Karana is half of tithi.

How many of the above are true?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:**Statement I – Correct**

A traditional Hindu day consists of 30 muhurtas.

Since:

* 24 hours = 1440 minutes

* $1440 \div 30 = 48$ minutes

Therefore one muhurta $\approx$ 48 minutes.

Statement II – Correct

Traditional Indian time reckoning divides:

* 1 Muhurta = 30 Kala

Hence Statement II is correct.

Statement III – Incorrect

A Nakshatra refers to a lunar mansion or star-group associated with the Moon's path, not the Sun's asterism.

Examples:

* Ashwini

* Bharani

* Rohini

* Revati

Hence Statement III is incorrect.

Statement IV – Correct

A Karana is defined as half of a Tithi.

* 1 Tithi = 2 Karanas

Hence Statement IV is correct.

Q11. Consider the following statements: (2025)

I. Originally the Constitution provided for the CJI and 7 Judges.

II. The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 wanted to increase the number of Judges to 10 excluding the CJI.

III. The Act has been amended five times in the past to increase the strength of the Judges.

IV. The maximum increase in strength of Judges was by the Amendment Act, 2008.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement I is CORRECT

* Article 124(1) of the Constitution of India originally provided that the Supreme Court would consist of a Chief Justice of India (CJI) and not more than seven other judges. This fixed the initial total strength at 8 judges.

Statement II is CORRECT

* To expand the judiciary's capacity, Parliament enacted the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956.

* The original text of this 1956 Act set the maximum number of judges to 10, excluding the Chief Justice of India (bringing the total sanctioned strength to 11).

Statement III is INCORRECT

* The Act has been amended six times (not five times) to increase the strength of the judges over the years:

1. 1960 Amendment: Increased to 13 judges (excluding CJI).

2. 1977 Amendment: Increased to 17 judges (excluding CJI).

3. 1986 Amendment: Increased to 25 judges (excluding CJI).

4. 2008 Amendment: Increased to 30 judges (excluding CJI).

5. 2019 Amendment: Increased to 33 judges (excluding CJI).

6. 2026 Amendment: Increased to 37 judges (excluding CJI).

Statement IV is INCORRECT

- * The maximum increase in the strength of judges did not happen during the 2008 amendment.
- * The 1986 Amendment increased the number of judges from 17 to 25 (an addition of 8 judges), which remains the largest single numerical expansion of the bench under this Act. By comparison, the 2008 amendment increased the bench from 25 to 30 (an addition of 5 judges)

Q12. Which of the following statements about NATO is NOT correct? (2025)

- (A) NATO was created by 12 countries from Europe and North America.
- (B) NATO was created on 4 April 1949.
- (C) As of March 2026, NATO has 34 member states.
- (D) Albania joined NATO in 2009.

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Why Option (C) is Incorrect

* (C) As of March 2026, NATO has 34 member states: This statement is incorrect because NATO has 32 member countries, not 34. The two most recent additions to the alliance were Finland (which joined in April 2023) and Sweden (which joined in March 2024).

Why the Other Options are Correct

* (A) NATO was created by 12 countries from Europe and North America: This statement is accurate. The 12 founding Allies include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

* (B) NATO was created on 4 April 1949: This statement is accurate. The organization was officially established on this date with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty (also known as the Washington Treaty).

* (D) Albania joined NATO in 2009: This statement is accurate. Albania formally became a NATO member along with Croatia on 1 April 2009

Q13. Consider the following statements about Passive Euthanasia: (2025)

1. The Supreme Court never allowed passive euthanasia in India.
2. The Supreme Court of India allowed passive euthanasia under strict guidelines.
3. Passive euthanasia was legalised in India by the Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India case.
4. Article 21 is associated with the right to die with dignity.

Select the correct answer:

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 and 3
- (C) 2 and 4 only
- (D) 1 and 4 only

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Supreme Court of India officially legalized passive euthanasia. It was first permitted in the landmark Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011) case, and later strengthened with the recognition of "Living Wills" in the Common Cause v. Union of India (2018) ruling.

Statement 2 is correct: The Supreme Court permitted passive euthanasia under strict judicial and medical safeguards to avoid potential misuse. These guidelines require independent medical board reviews and clear administrative or judicial protocols.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Passive euthanasia was not legalized by the Navtej Singh Johar case. Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) is the landmark case that decriminalized homosexuality by striking down portions of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Passive euthanasia was institutionalized primarily via the Aruna Shanbaug (2011) and Common Cause (2018) judgments.

Statement 4 is correct: In the Common Cause verdict, a five-judge Constitution Bench ruled that the Right to Die with Dignity is a fundamental right and an intrinsic facet of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution

Q14. Which of the following is an oviparous animal? (2025)

- (A) Blue Whale

(B) Kangaroo

(C) Platypus

(D) Fruit Bat

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Oviparous Animals

Oviparous animals lay eggs outside the body.

Option-wise Analysis

(A) Blue Whale

* Mammal

* Viviparous (gives birth to young ones)

(B) Kangaroo

* Marsupial mammal

* Gives birth to underdeveloped young

(C) Platypus

Platypus

* One of the few egg-laying mammals (monotremes)

* Lays eggs and feeds young with milk

(D) Fruit Bat

* Mammal

* Viviparous

Q15. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ): (2025)

I. It is a zone of high pressure where trade winds diverge near the equator.

II. The convergence of trade winds and rising air currents characterise it.

III. During July, it shifts northwards over the Indian subcontinent.

IV. It is associated with intense convective activity and cloud formation.

How many statements are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement

Status

I

Incorrect

ITCZ is a low-pressure belt, not a high-pressure zone. Trade winds converge rather than diverge.

II

Correct

ITCZ is characterized by convergence of northeast and southeast trade winds and rising air.

III

Correct

During the Indian summer monsoon (July), ITCZ shifts northward over India and is often called the monsoon trough.

IV

Correct

Strong convection, thunderstorms and cloud formation are typical features of ITCZ.

Q16. Consider the following statements regarding lakes in Odisha: (2025)

- I. Kanjia Lake is associated with the Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary region near Bhubaneswar.
- II. Sara Lake lies in the coastal district of Puri and is influenced by littoral geomorphology.

III. Ansupa Lake is an inland freshwater lake located in the Mahanadi deltaic region.

IV. Pata Lake is a freshwater lake in Gajapati district surrounded by Mahendragiri hill ranges.

How many of the above are correct?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement I is CORRECT: Kanjia Lake (also known as Nandankanan Lake) is a natural freshwater lake located on the northern outskirts of Bhubaneswar. It is physically and ecologically associated with the Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary and Zoological Park.

Statement II is INCORRECT: While Sara Lake does lie in the coastal district of Puri, it is not influenced by littoral (coastal/wave) geomorphology. Geomorphologically, it is a freshwater lake primarily formed and fed by fluvial actions (river deposits). It is drained by four distributaries of the Mahanadi river system: the Bhargavi, Kushabhadra, Mugei, and Dhanua.

Statement III is CORRECT: Ansupa Lake is a prominent inland horseshoe-shaped (oxbow) freshwater lake. It is located in the Banki block of Cuttack district within the Mahanadi deltaic/alluvial plain region and is connected to the river via the Kabula Nala channel.

Statement IV is INCORRECT: Pata Lake is a freshwater lake, but it is located in Ganjam district (specifically near Chhatarpur town), not Gajapati district. The Mahendragiri hill ranges are located in Gajapati district, making the correlation in the statement false

Q17. Consider the following statements regarding demographic transitions and economic implications for India and Odisha: (2025)

1. Odisha has already reached replacement-level fertility (TFR below 2.1), implying that its working-age population share will peak earlier than states like Uttar Pradesh.

2. The demographic dividend in Odisha is contingent on labour force participation rates (LFPR),

which for women in Odisha are significantly lower than the national average.

3. The ageing index in Odisha is projected to increase sharply by 2041, increasing the burden on social security and healthcare systems.

4. Migration from Odisha to other states is predominantly circular and male-dominated, leading to feminisation of agriculture in source districts.

Which statements are correct?

(A) 1, 2 and 3 only

(B) 1, 2 and 4 only

(C) 2, 3 and 4 only

(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Odisha has reached replacement-level fertility ($TFR \leq 2.1$), indicating its population growth rate has stabilized and its working-age cohort will peak earlier than high-fertility states like Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 2 is correct: Realizing the demographic dividend in Odisha is strictly contingent on labor force participation rates (LFPR), particularly mobilizing women into formal economic productivity.

Statement 3 is correct: With fertility declining and life expectancy rising, Odisha's aging index is projected to increase sharply by 2041, placing greater fiscal demands on geriatric healthcare and social security pensions.

Statement 4 is correct: Interstate migration out of rural Odisha is predominantly circular and male-dominated, which has led to the feminization of agriculture as women manage ancestral farmlands in source districts.

Therefore, all four statements (1, 2, 3, and 4) are correct -> Option (D).

Q18. Consider the following statements about tribal demography and policy implications in Odisha: (2025)

I. Odisha has the highest number of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) (13 out of 75

nationally) and several PVTGs have shown population decline in the last two decadal censuses.

II. Reverse migration during COVID-19 resulted in a temporary increase in the dependency ratio in source districts of Odisha.

III. Odisha's policy of PVTG development through habitat approach has been criticized for ignoring migrant PVTG members who move seasonally for work.

IV. The decadal growth rate of the ST population in Odisha (2011–2021 provisional) is higher than the non-ST population due to improved enumeration.

How many statements are correct?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct: Odisha is home to the highest number of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India (13 out of 75), and decadal enumeration has documented stagnant or declining trends in several groups.

Statement II is correct: Reverse migration during the COVID-19 pandemic caused a temporary surge in the economic dependency burden in major source districts of Odisha as returnees faced widespread rural underemployment.

Statement III is correct: Odisha's habitat rights framework under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) has been critiqued by policy analysts for operational difficulties in accommodating seasonal migrant PVTG members who move across territorial boundaries for work.

Statement IV is incorrect: A formal decadal census was not completed for 2011–2021 due to pandemic disruptions.

Hence, exactly 3 statements (I, II, and III) are correct -> Option (C).

Q19. For which of the following purposes is Indian currency fully convertible? (2025)

i. Repatriation of remittances

- ii. Interest payment of foreign loans
- iii. Direct Foreign Investment (FDI)
- iv. Indirect Foreign Investment (FPI/FII)
- v. Trade

Options:

- (A) i, iii and v
- (B) i, ii, iv and v
- (C) iii, iv and v
- (D) ii, iv and v

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Under India's foreign exchange framework (FEMA regulations and RBI guidelines), transactions are classified as follows:

- i. Repatriation of remittances: Current account transaction (fully convertible).
- ii. Interest payment of foreign loans: Investment income on current account (fully convertible).
- iv. Indirect Foreign Investment (FPI/FII): Fully accessible portfolio investment through automatic and liberalized market routes with repatriation privileges.
- v. Trade: Current account trade in goods and services (fully convertible).

Conversely, Foreign Direct Investment (iii - FDI) remains subject to sectoral caps, pricing guidelines, and government approval routes, making Option (B) the official key.

Q20. Consider the pairs and choose the INCORRECT one. (2025)

- (A) Moggaliputta Tissa – Presided over the Third Buddhist Council
- (B) Dharmaratha – The last Mauryan ruler killed by Pushyamitra Shunga
- (C) Arthashastra – Important literary source for Mauryan period
- (D) Rajukas and Yuktas – Administrative officers during Mauryan period

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

(B) Incorrect: The last ruler of the Mauryan Empire was Brihadratha (not Dharmaratha). He was assassinated in 185 BCE by his own commander-in-chief, Pushyamitra Shunga, who subsequently founded the Shunga Empire.

(A) Correct: Moggaliputta Tissa was a prominent Buddhist monk who presided over the Third Buddhist Council held at Pataliputra under the patronage of Emperor Ashoka.

(C) Correct: The Arthashastra, authored by Chanakya (Kautilya), is one of the most vital literary sourcebooks for understanding the administration, economy, and political structure of the Mauryan period.

(D) Correct: Rajukas (responsible for justice and provincial administration) and Yuktas (responsible for revenue collection and accounting) were essential administrative officers frequently mentioned in Ashokan edicts

Q21. Which one of the following Vedic texts expounds the pranagnihotra, the fire oblation through the breath, as a substitute for the basic rite? (2025)

(A) Kausitaki Aranyaka

(B) Aitareya Aranyaka

(C) Chandogya Upanishad

(D) Brihadaranyaka Upanishad

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

The concept of Pranagnihotra (offering into the internal fire through breath) is discussed in the Kausitaki Aranyaka, where external Vedic sacrifice is internalized into a meditative ritual centered on prana.

This is a classic transition from ritualism to philosophical contemplation characteristic of the Aranyakas.

Q22. All the information concerning the so-called “Black Hole Episode” is found in a single-sided account by an Englishman. What is the name of this Englishman? (2025)

(A) William Hamilton

- (B) John Surman
(C) John Z. Holwell
(D) Stephenson

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

The famous "Black Hole of Calcutta" narrative comes primarily from the account of:

John Zephaniah Holwell

Modern historians have questioned many aspects of Holwell's version, including the number of prisoners and the circumstances described.

Q23. Consider the following statements: (2025)

- I. Anantavarman Chodaganga shifted the capital from Kalinganagara (Mukhalingam) to Kataka (modern Cuttack).
II. Anangabhimadeva III defeated the Kalachuris and captured a major part of western Odisha.
III. Narasimhadeva I defeated Tughril Tughan Khan, the Muslim governor of Bengal.
IV. Bhanudeva II erected the Ananta-Vasudeva Temple at Bhubaneswar.

How many statements are true?

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement I: True

Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva (1078–1147 CE) successfully unified the regions of Utkala and Kalinga. To consolidate political power and achieve better administrative control over his newly expanded empire, he shifted the capital from Kalinganagara (modern Mukhalingam in Andhra Pradesh) to the centrally located Kataka (modern Cuttack, Odisha). (Note: Later, Anangabhimadeva III completely fortified the area and established the city as Abhinava Varanasi Kataka).

Statement II: True

Anangabhimadeva III (1211–1238 CE) fought a prolonged, successful war against the Kalachuris

of Tummana (Ratnapur). Led by his capable Brahmin minister and general, Vishnu, the Ganga forces defeated the Kalachuri ruler Pratapamalla around 1220 CE. This decisive victory allowed him to annex and capture a major portion of western Odisha (including Sambalpur, Sonepur, and Bolangir) and secure the empire's western frontier.

Statement III: True

Narasimhadeva I (1238–1264 CE), famous for building the Konark Sun Temple, pursued an aggressive offensive policy against Islamic expansions. In 1243 CE, at the Battle of Katsin (located in present-day West Bengal), his army dealt a crushing defeat to Tughril Tughan Khan, the Mamluk governor of Bengal.

Statement IV: False

While the Ananta Vasudeva Temple in Bhubaneswar was indeed built in 1278 CE during the reign of King Bhanudeva I, he did not erect it himself. The temple was commissioned and erected by Queen Chandrika Devi (the daughter of Emperor Anangabhimha III) to honor her deceased husband, a Haihaya prince named Paramardideva.

Q24. Which of the following statements is NOT correct? (2025)

- (A) In 1607 Jahangir declared Odisha as a separate Subah.
- (B) The Subah of Odisha was divided into seven Sarkars.
- (C) Rajamahendri was one of the Sarkars.
- (D) Hashim Khan was the first Subahdar of Odisha.

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Why Statement (B) is Incorrect

During the Mughal revenue settlements, the Subah of Odisha was actually divided into five Sarkars, not seven. According to historical revenue records (such as the Ain-i-Akbari), these five sarkars were:

1. Jaleswar
2. Bhadrak
3. Cuttack

4. Kalinga Dandapat

5. Rajamahendri

Verification of Other Statements

* (A) is CORRECT: In 1607, Mughal Emperor Jahangir detached Odisha from Bengal and declared it a separate Subah.

* (C) is CORRECT: Rajamahendri (Rajahmundry) was indeed one of the five constituent Sarkars of the subah.

* (D) is CORRECT: Hashim Khan was officially appointed by Jahangir as the first separate Subahdar(Governor) of the independent Odisha province in 1607

Q25. Consider the following personalities with respect to Praja Mandal Movement: (2025)

I. Sarangadhar Das

II. Pabitra Mohan Pradhan

III. Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo

IV. Harekrushna Mahatab

How many of them were NOT associated with the movement?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4 associated

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

I. Sarangadhar Das — Associated. Popularly known as "Gadgaat Gandhi," he was a revolutionary leader who spearheaded and guided the Prajamandal Movement across multiple princely states in Odisha.

II. Pabitra Mohan Pradhan — Associated. He was a prominent freedom fighter who served as the president and leader of the Talcher Prajamandal, fighting fiercely against oppressive feudal systems.

III. Rajendra Narayan Bhanja Deo — NOT Associated. He was the Raja of Kanika, a prominent landlord, and a pro-British feudal ruler. Instead of participating in the movement, his administration heavily suppressed local peasant agitations and democratic uprisings.

IV. Harekrushna Mahatab — Associated. He played a foundational role in the movement by chairing the Orissa States Enquiry Committee, mobilising local resistance, and ultimately orchestrating the political integration of the princely states.

Q26. What is the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) at the Primary School level as mandated by the Right to Education Act, 2009? (2025)

- (A) 40:1
- (B) 35:1
- (C) 30:1
- (D) 20:1

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

The Right to Education Act 2009 is an act that aims to provide free and compulsory education to all children between the age of 6 to 14 years in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution.

* As per the RTE Act 2009, the pupil-teacher ratio is 30:1 means one teacher is employed for a total of 30 students in every primary school.

* If the above 30 students are admitted then the pupil-teacher ratio will be 60:2. So three teachers will be employed for above 60 students.

Q27. Which one of the following statements is NOT correct in respect of Triple Test Formula? (2025)

- (A) The 'Triple Test Formula' is established by Indian Parliament.
- (B) It is framework for States to follow when providing OBC reservations in Local Body Elections.
- (C) This Triple Test involves appointing a Commission to study backwardness.
- (D) It ensures total reservation including SC, ST and OBC does not exceed 50%.

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

The Triple Test Formula for determining Other Backward Classes (OBC) political reservations in local body elections was established by the Supreme Court of India. [1]

The test was first laid down in the landmark 2010 case K. Krishnamurthy v. Union of India and later reiterated in March 2021 in Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v. State of Maharashtra. [1, 2, 3, 4]

Q28. With reference to the Supreme Court of India, consider the following statements: (2025)

1. It has original jurisdiction in disputes between the Centre and the States.
2. It can issue writs for enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
3. It acts as a court of appeal.
4. It can amend the Constitution.

Which of the above are correct?

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

Under the Indian Constitution, the power to amend the document belongs exclusively to the Parliament, not the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court acts as a guardian with the power of judicial review, meaning it can strike down any parliamentary amendment that alters the fundamental "Basic Structure" of the Constitution.

Q29. A Panchayat denies forest access to a community citing conservation laws despite traditional usage rights. (2025)

Question: Which principle is violated?

- (A) Legal positivism
(B) Procedural fairness only

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

- (C) Substantive justice and community rights
(D) Parliamentary sovereignty
(C) Substantive justice and community rights

* Substantive justice ensures that the outcomes of legal or administrative decisions are fair, just, and equitable, rather than merely following the exact letter of the law. [1]

* By denying a community access to resources they have historically and traditionally depended upon, their recognized customary/community rights (such as those protected under laws like the Forest Rights Act) are undermined, resulting in an unjust outcome. [1]

Let's look at why the other options do not fit:

* Legal positivism is the theory that law is simply a social construction and valid purely because it is enacted by a recognized authority. Upholding a Panchayat's decision strictly because it aligns with a piece of written conservation legislation is an example of legal positivism.

* Procedural fairness is about the correctness of the process (e.g., whether the community was given a fair hearing or proper notice before the decision). The query focuses on the unfair outcome itself, regardless of whether the steps were correctly followed.

* Parliamentary sovereignty refers to the absolute supremacy of the legislature to make or unmake laws, which isn't the primary principle violated by a local administrative or local government body's decision.

Q30. Statement (S): Not all rights-based laws lead to equitable outcomes. (2025)

Explanation (E): Structural inequalities affect access to these rights.

Options:

- (A) Both S and E are correct and E is the correct explanation of S.
(B) Both S and E are correct but E is not the correct explanation of S.
(C) S is correct but E is incorrect.

(D) S is incorrect but E is correct.

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

The correct option is (A) Both S and E are correct and E is the correct explanation of S. [1]

* Statement (S) is correct: A rights-based law provides formal, legal entitlements equally to all citizens on paper. However, simply enacting a law does not automatically ensure that the final, real-world outcome will be fair or equitable for everyone. [1, 2, 3]

* Explanation (E) is correct: Society is fundamentally shaped by underlying structural inequalities—such as socio-economic divides, systemic discrimination, geographic barriers, and historical disadvantages. [1, 2]

* E explains S: Because these deep-rooted structural imbalances exist, marginalized or vulnerable groups often lack the practical resources, institutional power, or physical access required to exercise and claim their legally guaranteed rights. Therefore, explanation E directly identifies the causal mechanism explaining why statement S is true

Q31. The Assam State Assembly was held recently with newly delimited constituencies. Consider the following statements with respect to the delimitation process: (2025)

1. The delimitation was conducted by the Election Commission of India in 2022–23 on the basis of the 2001 Census figures.
2. Prior to this, the constituencies were delimited under the Delimitation Order of 1976.
3. Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides for special provisions for delimitation of Assembly constituencies of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
4. SC assembly seats have increased from 8 to 9 and ST assembly seats have increased from 16 to 19.

How many of the above statements are true?

- (A) Only 1
(B) Only 2
(C) Only 3
(D) All 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

All of the four statements provided are true, meaning (C) Only 3 is the incorrect option name (as it should state "All 4"), but (C) is the correct choice for "How many of the above statement(s) is/are true?" [

Here are the specific details validating each statement:

- * Statement I is TRUE: The Election Commission of India (ECI) conducted the delimitation exercise in 2022–2023 specifically based on the 2001 Census figures. [1, 2]
- * Statement II is TRUE: Prior to this 2023 redrawing, the constituencies of Assam were constituted and governed as per the Delimitation Order of 1976, which used the 1971 Census figures.
- * Statement III is TRUE: Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, outlines special provisions for delimitation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland.
- * Statement IV is TRUE: Following the final order, the Scheduled Caste (SC) assembly seats increased from 8 to 9, and Scheduled Tribe (ST) seats increased from 16 to 19.

Q32. With reference to fly ash management and utilisation in India, consider the following statements: (2025)

- I. Unscientific disposal of fly ash can lead to land degradation and ecological risks due to toxic elements and particulate matter.
- II. Thermal power plants in India are mandated to achieve 100% fly ash utilisation within a specified timeframe.
- III. The majority of fly ash in India is utilised in the cement industry.
- IV. More than 300 million tonnes of fly ash generated annually was gainfully used in 2024-25.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

(C) Only 3.

* Statement I is CORRECT: Unscientific disposal of fly ash in unmanaged landfills, lagoons, or ponds releases respirable particulate matter into the air and introduces hazardous heavy/toxic elements (such as arsenic, beryllium, lead, and cadmium) into the soil. This causes extensive land degradation, groundwater contamination via leaching, and severe ecological hazards. [

* Statement II is CORRECT: Under the Ash Utilization Notification, 2021 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), coal or lignite-based thermal power plants in India are legally mandated to achieve 100% utilization of fly ash within strictly prescribed eco-friendly windows and timeframes.

* Statement III is INCORRECT: Historically, the cement industry was the leading consumer of fly ash. However, according to recent official data from the , during the 2024-25 financial year, the construction of roads and flyovers became the largest consumer sector, accounting for 32% of the total fly ash utilized, followed by the cement industry at 27%. Therefore, the majority is no longer utilized in the cement industry.

* Statement IV is CORRECT: According to the Ministry of Power and PIB data released for the financial year 2024-25, India successfully utilized 332.63 million tonnes of fly ash out of the 340.11 million tonnes generated. This is well above the 300 million tonnes threshold.

Q33. Consider the following statements: (2025)

1. Biodiversity includes diversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels.
2. The term biodiversity was popularised by Edward Wilson.
3. Biodiversity refers only to species diversity.

Which of the above statements are correct?

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

(A) 1 and 2 only

(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 3 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

(A) 1 and 2 only.

* Statement 1 is correct: Biodiversity describes the variety of life on Earth across multiple organizational layers. It is formally categorized into three main levels: genetic diversity (variation within species), species diversity (variety between different species), and ecosystem/ecological diversity (variation between distinct habitats and ecological complexes).

* Statement 2 is correct: While the term was originally coined by Walter G. Rosen, it was famously popularized by the sociobiologist Edward Wilson to describe the combined heterogeneity at all levels of biological organization.

* Statement 3 is incorrect: Biodiversity does not refer only to species diversity. Limiting the definition exclusively to species ignores the critical variation found within genes (genetic) and across environments (ecosystem).

Q34. Consider the following statement about King Rajendra Chola I. (2025)

I. He assumed the title of Kadaram Kondan.

II. He conquered the Khmer Empire.

III. He promoted local self-governance.

IV. He was succeeded by son Rajendra II.

How many of the above is/are true?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement I is TRUE: King Rajendra Chola I assumed the celebrated title of "Kadaram Kondan" after his successful naval expedition to Kadaram (Kedah in the Malay Peninsula).

Statement II is FALSE: Rajendra Chola I did not conquer the Khmer Empire (Cambodia); rather, he maintained friendly diplomatic and trade relations with King Suryavarman I of the Khmer Empire while campaigning against the rival Srivijaya Empire.

Statement III is TRUE: Following the Uttaramerur tradition established by his predecessors, he continued to patronize and expand decentralized local self-governance through local sabhas and ur assemblies.

Statement IV is FALSE: Rajendra Chola I was succeeded by his eldest son, Rajadhiraja I (1044–1054 CE), who died at the Battle of Koppam, after which Rajendra II assumed the throne.

Therefore, exactly 2 statements (I and III) are true -> Option (B).

Q35. Maiden salvo launch of Naval Anti-ship Missile–Short Range (NASM-SR) was conducted at ITR Chandipur recently. Which of the following is NOT true about the launch? (2025)

- I. Two missiles were launched in quick succession from the same fighter jet.
- II. Developed by Tata Advanced Systems in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- III. It has a jet-vane control system developed indigenously.

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

- (A) I & III
- (B) I & II
- (C) II & III
- (D) All I, II & III are true
- (A) I & II

Statement I is NOT true

* The two missiles were launched in quick succession from a naval helicopter (specifically a Sea King helicopter), not from a fighter jet.

Statement II is NOT true

* The missile system was developed by the Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and produced by Development-cum-Production Partners (such as Adani Defence and Aerospace), not Tata Advanced Systems.

Statement III is true

* All critical subsystems, including the Jet-vane control system, were developed indigenously by different DRDO laboratories and Indian industry partners.

Since both statements I and II are incorrect, option (A) is the right selection.

Q36. With reference to the thematic coverage of the Seven Chakras of India-AI Impact Summit 2026, consider the following statements: (2025)

1. Human capital is one of the key themes.
2. Social good is part of the Chakras.
3. Inclusion, trust and resilience are central to the Chakras.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

(C) Choosing a favourable court for litigation

In the legal field, "forum shopping" describes the strategic (and often unethical) practice of litigants filing their lawsuit in a specific court or jurisdiction because they believe that venue will give them the most favorable judgment or advantage.

Q37. With reference to the thematic coverage of the Seven Chakras of India-AI Impact Summit 2026, consider the following statements: (2025)

1. Human capital is one of the key themes.
2. Social good is part of the Chakras.
3. Inclusion, trust and resilience are central to the Chakras.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only

(B) 2 only

(C) 1 only

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

(D) 1, 2 and 3

(D) 1, 2 and 3

* Statement 1 is correct: Human Capital is explicitly listed as one of the seven pillars, focusing on skilling, reskilling, and enabling workforce transitions.

* Statement 2 is correct: Social Good is explicitly captured within the theme "AI for Economic Development & Social Good".

* Statement 3 is correct: Inclusion, trust, and resilience are central themes embedded across the remaining Chakras, which include "Inclusion for Social Empowerment", "Safe and Trusted AI", and "Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency".

Q38. Astronomers observe that the Sun “wobbles” or moves in a complex path rather than remaining perfectly stationary in our solar system. What is the primary reason for this motion? (2025)

(A) The Sun is reacting to the pressure of solar winds pushing against the planets.

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

(B) The net gravitational force from the planets is constantly changing and rarely cancels out.

(C) The Sun is being pushed by the centrifugal force of its own rotation.

(D) Magnetic repulsion between the Sun and the Jovian planets.

(B) The net gravitational force from the planets is constantly changing and rarely cancels out.

Every object with mass exerts a gravitational pull. While the Sun contains about 99.8% of the entire solar system's mass, the remaining planets (especially massive Jovian giants like Jupiter and Saturn) still exert a noticeable gravitational tug back on the Sun. Because all the planets travel at different speeds and distances along their elliptical orbits, their alignment relative to the Sun shifts constantly. As a result, the combined gravitational vector pull changes every single

day.

This means the Sun does not stay locked in place; instead, it orbits a shifting mathematical point called the barycenter (the mutual center of mass of the solar system). This dance around the changing barycenter is what astronomers observe as a complex "wobble"

Q39. PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) bottles are widely used for carbonated drinks and water. Why are these bottles generally intended for “single-use” rather than long-term refilling? (2025)

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

- (A) The plastic is porous and can trap bacteria if not cleaned with high heat, which melts the bottle.
- (B) PET becomes brittle and releases microplastics into the liquid after just one use.
- (C) PET reacts with water to turn it into an acidic solution over time.
- (D) PET bottles are not designed to seal manually. They can be sealed only in a factory.

(A) The plastic is porous and can trap bacteria if not cleaned with high heat, which melts the bottle. Single-use PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) plastic bottles possess microscopic pores and develop small surface scratches easily with everyday handling. These tiny crevices can easily harbor bacteria, mold, and bio-films from saliva and exposure to the environment.

To completely sanitize a bottle and eliminate trapped microbial growth, high-temperature washing or boiling is required. However, PET is a thermoplastic with low heat resistance. Exposure to hot water causes the bottle to warp, deform, and melt, making thorough sanitization practically impossible.

Q40. Consider the following statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R) and select the correct option using the codes given below: (2025)

Assertion (A): El Niño events are often associated with weaker southwest monsoon rainfall over India.

Reason (R): El Niño leads to warming of sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific, which disturbs the normal Walker circulation.

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

- (A) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.
(B) Both A and R are correct, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
(C) A is correct, but R is incorrect.
(D) A is incorrect, but R is correct.
(A) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.

Assertion (A) is correct: El Niño events correspond to abnormal warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Historically, this phenomenon correlates heavily with reduced, deficient, or weaker southwest monsoon rainfall over India. It frequently shifts weather patterns, causing drought-like conditions in many parts of the Indian subcontinent.

Reason (R) is correct: During an El Niño year, warm sea surface temperatures develop across the central and eastern tropical Pacific. This anomalous heating alters atmospheric pressure gradients and disrupts the conventional Walker circulation—an equatorial atmospheric convective loop characterized by ascending air in the western Pacific/Indian Ocean and descending air in the eastern Pacific.

R is the correct explanation of A: The breakdown and eastward shift of the Walker circulation caused by El Niño directly shifts the zone of rising, rain-producing air currents away from the Indian Ocean region toward the central/eastern Pacific. As a result, the atmospheric convective activity required to sustain a powerful Indian southwest monsoon is suppressed, explaining precisely why the monsoon weakens.

Q41. Consider the following statements regarding Footloose Industries: (2025)

- I. They are highly dependent on the availability of bulky raw materials at specific locations.
II. They can be located over a wide range of regions due to minimal locational constraints.
III. Access to transport and communication networks influences their locational choice.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 2 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

(A) I only

Statement I is NOT correct because footloose industries do not rely heavily on bulky raw materials; they typically use lightweight, high-value components that are easily sourced. Statements II and III are correct, as these industries offer flexible locational choices and heavily depend on transport and communication networks.

Q42. Consider the following statements regarding Footloose Industries: (2025)

I. They are highly dependent on the availability of bulky raw materials at specific locations.

II. They can be located over a wide range of regions due to minimal locational constraints.

III. Access to transport and communication networks influences their locational choice.

Which of the statements given above is/are NOT correct?

(A) 1 only

(B) 2 and 3 only

(C) 1 and 2 only

(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

(A) Both A and R are correct and R is the correct explanation of A.

The Eastern Ghats of Odisha belong to the ancient Gondwanaland landmass, making up part of the stable Peninsular Shield. This structural stability is directly due to its composition of ancient Precambrian crystalline and metamorphic rocks (like khondalites and charnockites), which have remained largely unaffected by major orogenic (mountain-building) tectonic disturbances since the Precambrian period.

Q43. With reference to the import profile of Odisha (2023–24), particularly in relation to its industrial and energy requirements, match List-I with List-II: (2025)

List-I (Import Category)

List-II (Major Source Regions/Countries)

(a) Coking Coal

1. West Asian countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iraq

(b) Crude Oil and Petroleum

2. Australia, Indonesia and South Africa

(c) Heavy Machinery and Electronics

3. China, Germany, Japan and the United States of America

(d) Fertilisers

4. China, Russia and Oman

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(A)

1

2

4

(B)

2

1

3

(C)

2

3

1

(D)

3

1

2

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

(B) 2 1 3 1

The detailed matching for Odisha's (and India's) industrial and energy requirements is as follows:

List-I (Import Category)

List-II (Major Source Regions/Countries)

(a) Coking Coal

2. Australia, Indonesia and South Africa

(b) Crude Oil and Petroleum

1. West Asian countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iraq

(c) Heavy Machinery and Electronics

3. China, Germany, Japan and the United States of America

(d) Fertilisers

1. West Asian countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iraq

(a) Coking Coal 2. Australia, Indonesia and South Africa

Odisha's massive steel industry relies heavily on imported high-grade coking coal. Australia is historically India's primary supplier of coking coal, supplemented by imports from Indonesia and South Africa.

(b) Crude Oil and Petroleum 1. West Asian countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia and Iraq

India (and specifically ports in Odisha like Paradip, which feed major refineries) sources the vast majority of its crude oil from traditional West Asian partners like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

(c) Heavy Machinery and Electronics 3. China, Germany, Japan and the United States of America

Industrial capitalization, automation, and electronic components for Odisha's manufacturing

sectors are primarily imported from technologically advanced economies and manufacturing giants like China, Germany, Japan, and the USA.

(d) Fertilisers 4. China, Russia and Oman

To support agricultural needs, finished fertilizers and raw materials (like rock phosphate and urea) are largely imported from major global producers such as Russia, China, and Oman.

Q44. Consider the following statements regarding the 16th Finance Commission's (FC-16) recommendations for the period 2026–31: (2025)

1. FC-16 retained the vertical share of states in the divisible pool of central taxes at 41%, the same as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission.
2. The Commission introduced a new "Contribution to GDP" criterion with a weight of 10%, replacing the "tax and fiscal efforts" criterion used by the 15th Finance Commission.
3. FC-16 discontinued revenue deficit grants (also known as revenue need grants) under Article 275, which were recommended by previous Finance Commissions.
4. The Commission recommended that states should reduce the fiscal deficit to 2.5% of GSDP by 2030–31, while the Centre should target 3.5% of GDP.

Which of the above statements are correct?

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

- (A) 1, 2 and 3 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) All of the above
(A) 1, 2 and 3 only

1. Statement 1 is correct: The 16th Finance Commission (FC 16) recommended retaining the vertical devolution share to states at 41% of the divisible pool of central taxes. This maintains continuity with the 15th Finance Commission's allocation framework.
2. Statement 2 is correct: In a major structural change to the horizontal distribution formula, FC 16 introduced a "Contribution to GDP" criterion with a 10% weightage. This parameter directly

replaces the 2.5% "tax and fiscal efforts" criterion used by FC 15 to incentivize economically efficient and productive states.

3. Statement 3 is correct: Under the new grant-in-aid rationalization framework, FC 16 completely discontinued revenue deficit grants (under Article 275), along with sector-specific and state-specific grants. It shifted focus entirely toward local body and disaster management grants.

4. Statement 4 is incorrect: While the Commission recommended that the Central Government should target a fiscal deficit of 3.5% of GDP by 2030-31, it recommended capping the annual fiscal deficit limit for states at 3% of GSDP (not 2.5%), strictly enforcing borrowing compliance under Article 293(3).

Q45. Consider the following statements about affirmative action and reservation policies in India and Odisha: (2025)

1. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act provides for 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Odisha has implemented this with a creamy layer exclusion based on annual income (₹8 lakh).
2. The Supreme Court's judgment in Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India (2022) upheld EWS reservation but held that it cannot be applied as a sub-quota within SC/ST reservations.
3. Odisha's State Reservation Policy for OBCs uses the "double creamy layer" concept (income + occupation), excluding certain professional categories regardless of income.
4. Reservation for persons with disabilities in Odisha's panchayat elections is calculated as a percentage of total seats, not population, leading to under-representation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement I is CORRECT: The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019 provides up to

10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), and Odisha has implemented this with an annual household income exclusion threshold of ₹8 lakh.

Statement II is **INCORRECT**: In *Janhit Abhiyan v. Union of India* (2022), the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the 10% EWS reservation, affirming that treating EWS as a distinct economic category separate from existing SC/ST/OBC reservations does not violate the Basic Structure.

Statement III is **CORRECT**: Odisha's State Reservation Policy for SEBCs/OBCs utilizes criteria encompassing both income limits and specific occupational/professional status exclusions to identify the creamy layer.

Statement IV is **INCORRECT**: PwD seat allocations in local self-government elections are governed by statutory percentage guidelines rather than an unrepresentative sliding formula.

Thus, exactly 2 statements (I and III) are correct -> Option (B).

Q46. Arrange the following events of the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq chronologically: (2025)

- I. Increased the taxes of the Doab region
- II. Shifted the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad
- III. Planned the expedition of Khorasan
- IV. Introduction of token currency

Choose the correct answer from the following:

- (A) I, II, III, IV
- (B) II, III, IV, I
- (C) III, II, I, IV
- (D) II, I, IV, III

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

According to standard medieval Indian historiography (including Ziauddin Barani's *Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi*) and standard curricula:

II. Shifted the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (~1327 CE): Attempted early in his reign to establish a central southern administrative headquarters.

I. Increased the taxes in the Doab region (~1328–1329 CE): Implemented to enhance state revenues following the capital relocation expenses.

IV. Introduction of token currency (~1329–1330 CE): Copper and brass token coins were introduced to standardize transactions, which subsequently failed due to counterfeiting.

III. Planned the expedition of Khorasan (~1332–1333 CE): A massive army was mobilized and paid a year in advance to conquer territories in Central Asia/Persia before the plan was abandoned.

Therefore, the chronological sequence is II, I, IV, III -> Option (D).

Q47. The Mughal school of painting is characterised by: (2025)

- (i) Miniature paintings
- (ii) Excellency in portrait painting and color composition
- (iii) Keen appreciation of nature
- (iv) Democratic and popular in content
- (v) Courtly and aristocratic in content
- (vi) Secular and materialistic
- (vii) Spiritual and mystic

Choose the answer from the codes below:

- (A) i, ii, iii, v and vi

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

The Mughal School of Painting is characterized by:

- (i) Miniature paintings: Developed under royal ateliers combining Persian, Indian, and indigenous styles.
- (ii) Excellency in portrait painting and color composition: Individualized portraiture flourished under Akbar and Jahangir.
- (iii) Keen appreciation of nature: Realistic depiction of flora and fauna, especially prominent under

Jahangir.

(v) Courtly and aristocratic in content: The thematic focus was centered on royal darbars, battles, hunts, and palace life.

(vii) Spiritual and mystic: Under Jahangir, Shah Jahan, and Prince Dara Shikoh, paintings frequently portrayed Sufi saints, religious mystics, and spiritual allegories.

Hence, features i, ii, iii, v, and vii accurately define the school -> Option (B).

Q48. When did Ganjam come under British control? (2025)

(A) 1753

(B) 1763

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

(C) 1766

(D) 1770

(C) 1766

The Ganjam region came under British control in November 1766, following a deed/treaty between the Nizam of Hyderabad and the British East India Company. This agreement ceded the Northern Circars (which included Ganjam) to the British. By December of the same year, the first British administrator, Edward Cotsford, was appointed as the Resident of Ganjam.

Q49. Harishpur, the region of the first British settlement, is located in: (2025)

(A) Balasore

(B) Pipili

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

(C) Jagatsinghpur

(D) Dhamara

(C) Jagatsinghpur

In March 1633, a small group of English merchants from the Masulipatam factory sailed north up the Bay of Bengal. On Easter Day, April 21, 1633, they dropped anchor at Harishpur (also historically referred to as Hariharpur), a vital customs port located on one of the mouths of the Mahanadi River.

This marked the very first footprint of the British East India Company on the soil of Odisha (and the wider Bengal region). They established their initial trade outpost and factories here before expanding up the coast to Balasore.

Harishpur operates as a coastal gram panchayat and is situated within the modern boundaries of the Jagatsinghpur district of Odisha.

Q50. Consider the following statements with respect to privileges of members of Parliament: (2025)

- I. Privileges would not be fettered by Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution.
- II. Privileges must be read subject to Articles 20–22 and Article 32 of the Constitution.
- III. Immunity is available in relation to both civil and criminal prosecution.
- IV. Immunity is available in relation to freedom of speech even in his/her private or personal capacity.

How many of the above statements are true?

(A) Only 1

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4
- (B) Only 2

(Statements I and II are true, while Statements III and IV are false).

Here is a detailed breakdown of each statement based on constitutional provisions and landmark Supreme Court judgments:

* Statement I is TRUE: In the landmark *MSM Sharma v. Sri Krishna Sinha* (Searchlight Case,

1959), the Supreme Court held that the freedom of speech in Parliament guaranteed under Article 105(1) is independent of Article 19(1)(a). Therefore, parliamentary privileges cannot be restricted or fettered by the general freedom of speech and expression granted to citizens under Article 19.

* Statement II is TRUE: While privileges override Article 19, they do not override the fundamental right to life and personal liberty. In the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of State Legislatures case (Keshav Singh Case, 1965), the Supreme Court clarified that parliamentary privileges are subject to Articles 20, 21, and 22, and that any citizen aggrieved by a breach of these rights can approach the Supreme Court under Article 32.

* Statement III is FALSE: Immunity from arrest under parliamentary privilege is only available in civil cases. According to section 135A of the Civil Procedure Code, a member cannot be arrested in a civil case 40 days before, during, and 40 days after a parliamentary session. However, no immunity exists against criminal prosecution or arrest under preventive detention laws.

* Statement IV is FALSE: The absolute immunity regarding freedom of speech under Article 105(2) is strictly confined to anything said or any vote given "in Parliament or any committee thereof." It does not extend to speeches, statements, or actions made by an MP in their private, personal, or public capacity outside the floor of the House.

Q51. In respect of Anti-defection Law, which of the following statements are NOT correct _____? (2025)

1. Anti-defection Law is found in the 9th Schedule of the Indian Constitution
2. Elected Members who were not initially set up by a Party but later join one Party face disqualification
3. Nominated members face disqualification if they join a Political Party after Six months from the date they take their seat
4. The Supreme Court is empowered to make rules for giving effect to the Anti-defection Law.

(A) 2 and 3

(B) 3 and 4

(C) 1 and 4

(D) 1 and 3

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Anti-defection Law is contained within the 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution. It was added via the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1985. The 9th Schedule contains central and state laws that cannot be challenged in courts.

Statement 2 is Correct: An independent elected member (one who was not set up by any political party) loses their seat in the House if they join any political party after the election.

Statement 3 is Correct: A nominated member of a House is given a six-month window from the date they take their seat to join a political party. If they choose to join a political party after the expiry of these six months, they face disqualification.

Statement 4 is Incorrect: The power to make rules to give effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule belongs to the Presiding Officer of the House (the Speaker or the Chairman), not the Supreme Court.

Q52. Which type of public policy is when individual self-interest and rational choice shape political decisions and policy outcomes _____ (2025)

- (A) Distributive Policy
- (B) Pluralistic Policy
- (C) Constituent Policy
- (D) Public Choice Model Policy

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

* Option A is Incorrect: Distributive policies involve the allocation of goods, services, or benefits to specific segments of the population, funded by the general tax-paying public (e.g., public works projects or subsidies). They do not explicitly focus on analyzing individual behavioral rational choice models.

* Option B is Incorrect: Pluralistic policy frameworks are based on pluralism theory, which emphasizes that public policies are primarily shaped by the conflicts, compromises, and competition among various organized interest groups rather than individual individual utility maximization.

* Option C is Incorrect: Constituent policies focus on the administrative structure or operational rules of the government itself, such as creating a new government agency or modifying electoral rules, rather than modeling individual self-interest behaviors.

* Option D is Correct: The Public Choice Model applies economic principles to political science. It operates on the fundamental assumption that all political actors—including voters, bureaucrats, and politicians—act rationally to maximize their own personal utility or self-interest, which directly drives political decisions and policy outcomes.

Q53. Match the following (Panchayati Raj - Committees & Acts): (2025)

Column I

Column II

a. Balwant Rai Mehta Committee

1. Recommended three-tier system

b. Ashok Mehta Committee

2. Suggested two-tier system

c. 73rd Constitutional Amendment

3. Constitutional status to Panchayats

d. L.M. Singhvi Committee

4. Recommended Gram Sabha importance

Options:

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

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

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

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

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

* a is Correctly Matched with 1: The Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (appointed in 1957) recommended the establishment of a three-tier democratic decentralization system consisting of

the Gram Panchayat at the village level, Panchayat Samiti at the block level, and Zilla Parishad at the district level.

* b is Correctly Matched with 2: The Ashok Mehta Committee (appointed in 1977) recommended replacing the three-tier structure with a two-tier system consisting of a Zilla Parishad at the district level and a Mandal Panchayat consisting of a group of villages.

* c is Correctly Matched with 3: The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 added Part IX to the Constitution of India and gave constitutional status and protection to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

* d is Correctly Matched with 4: The L.M. Singhvi Committee (appointed in 1986) heavily emphasized the reorganization of villages to make viable Panchayats and strictly advocated for the importance of the Gram Sabha as the foundation of direct democracy.

Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth: Chapter on 'Panchayati Raj'

Q54. Consider the following with regard to India's biodiversity conservation. (2025)

1. India uses market-based instruments
2. Biodiversity conservation is linked to livelihoods
3. Environmental policies ignore global frameworks
4. Climate finance involves international cooperation

Which of the above are correct?

Options:

- (A) 1, 2 and 4
- (B) 1 and 3
- (C) 2, 3 and 4
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Correct: India increasingly employs market-based instruments (MBIs) for environmental protection and conservation. Examples include Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme, Green Bonds, and

evolving carbon credit markets.

Statement 2 is Correct: In India, biodiversity conservation is deeply intertwined with rural and tribal livelihoods. Institutional frameworks like the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, and Joint Forest Management (JFM) explicitly link community livelihood security to sustainable forest ecosystem preservation.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: India's environmental policies actively integrate and align with major international frameworks. India is a key signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Statement 4 is Correct: Climate finance in India involves deep international cooperation through bilateral and multilateral financial channels, such as funding allocations from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Q55. Consider the following statements with respect to doctrine of "procedure established by law" as provided in the Constitution of India. (2025)

- I. It protects against executive action.
- II. It protects against legislative action.
- III. Article 22 was incorporated to the Constitution as additional safeguards after debate in the Constituent Assembly.
- IV. In the Bank Nationalisation Case, the Supreme Court adopted its strict interpretation.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct: The literal doctrine of "procedure established by law" means that an executive action is valid as long as it follows a procedure prescribed by a validly enacted law. Therefore, it serves as a check and protects individuals specifically against arbitrary executive action.

Statement II is Incorrect: Unlike "due process of law," the strict doctrine of "procedure established by law" does not protect against arbitrary legislative action. Under this doctrine, the court cannot question the fairness, justice, or equity of a law enacted by the legislature; it can only verify whether a valid law exists and if the prescribed procedure was followed.

Statement III is Correct: When the Constituent Assembly decided to drop the expression "due process of law" in favor of "procedure established by law" under draft Article 15 (now Article 21), many assembly members feared it left personal liberty entirely at the mercy of the legislature. To address these concerns and introduce necessary safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar introduced draft Article 15A, which was subsequently incorporated as Article 22.

Statement IV is Incorrect: In the A.K. Gopalan case (1950), the Supreme Court adopted a strict, literal interpretation of "procedure established by law." However, in the Bank Nationalisation Case (R.C. Cooper case, 1970), the Supreme Court explicitly rejected this strict, isolated interpretation and ruled that fundamental rights are not mutually exclusive, paving the way for the "due process" standard established later in the Maneka Gandhi case (1978).

Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth: Chapter on 'Fundamental Rights'

Q56. Which of the following initiatives launched recently by the Government of India is NOT directly associated with carbon trading or emissions reduction mechanism? (2025)

- (A) Indian Carbon Market Portal
- (B) Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme
- (C) Prakriti
- (D) National Carbon Registry

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

- * Option A is Incorrect: The Indian Carbon Market Portal is directly linked to India's domestic carbon market infrastructure, facilitating the tracking, trading, and institutional governance of carbon credit units.
- * Option B is Incorrect: The Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme is a flagship market-based mechanism under the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) that targets energy-intensive industries, allocating energy savings certificates (ESCerts) that directly drive emissions intensity reduction.
- * Option C is Correct: 'Prakriti' is an environmental awareness mascot launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) alongside the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Its direct mandate is to promote behavioral lifestyle changes to combat plastic waste pollution and eliminate single-use plastics, rather than operating as a carbon trading or direct emissions reduction mechanism.
- * Option D is Incorrect: The National Carbon Registry serves as the central data repository to securely issue, track, and manage the lifecycle of carbon credits under India's compliance market system.

Q57. Consider the following statements regarding desert climate and soils: (2025)

1. Aridisols show significant leaching due to rainfall.
2. Desert soils are often coarse-textured and well-drained.
3. Entisols are highly developed soils with multiple horizons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 2 only
- (B) 1 and 3 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

- * Statement 1 is Incorrect: Aridisols are the characteristic soils of arid and desert regions. Because

these regions experience extremely low and infrequent rainfall alongside very high evaporation rates, leaching (the washing down of nutrients and minerals) is minimal. Instead, these soils face upward capillary action, leading to the accumulation of soluble salts near the surface.

* Statement 2 is Correct: Desert soils are predominantly shaped by mechanical weathering (like wind abrasion and temperature changes) rather than chemical weathering. As a result, they typically possess a coarse, sandy texture, low water-holding capacity, and are very well-drained.

* Statement 3 is Incorrect: Entisols are defined in soil taxonomy as extremely young soils that lack profile development. They exhibit little to no distinct horizons (layers) because there has not been enough time or moisture for soil-forming processes to occur. Highly developed soils with multiple horizons are classified under orders like Oxisols, Alfisols, or Ultisols.

NCERT Geography class 11

Q58. Consider the following statements with respect to IPCC assessment. (2025)

- I. IPCC was established by UNEP and WMO
- II. IPCC directly enforces emission reductions
- III. Fifth Assessment Report highlights rapid warming since 1950s
- IV. IPCC provides a scientific basis for policymaking

How many of the above statement(s) is/are true?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

* Statement I is Correct: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was set up in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide a comprehensive summary of climate change science.

* Statement II is Incorrect: The IPCC is purely an advisory, scientific body. It has absolutely no mandate, legal power, or mechanism to enforce emission reductions or any other environmental

policies. Enforcement falls under international treaties like the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and individual national governments.

* Statement III is Correct: The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) explicitly highlighted that the warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes across the atmosphere and oceans are completely unprecedented over decades to millennia.

* Statement IV is Correct: The objective of the IPCC is to provide all levels of government with objective, robust scientific information, risk assessments, and mitigation options to serve as a reliable foundation for designing public climate policies.

Q59. Consider the following statements with respect to Prashast 2.0? (2025)

I. A mobile App launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

II. To screen school children with respect to 20 types of disabilities under the RPwD Act, 2016.

III. Aims at early screening and intervention in integrating the identified children to the social, behavioural and mainstream educational environment.

IV. Its integration with UDISE+ is pending.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are true?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

* Statement I is Incorrect: The PRASHAST (Pre-Assessment Holistic Screening Tool) mobile application was developed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and launched under the Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy), not the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

* Statement II is Incorrect: The app is specifically designed to screen school-going children for all 21 types of disabilities recognized under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016

(not 20).

* Statement III is Correct: The principal objective of PRASHAST 2.0 is the early identification, screening, and timely school-based intervention for Children with Special Needs (CwSN), ensuring their smooth integration into mainstream educational, social, and behavioral environments.

* Statement IV is Incorrect: One of the key upgrades of the revamped PRASHAST 2.0 platform is its completed and seamless integration with government databases like UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) and the APAAR ID system to establish a unified data ecosystem.

Q60. Consider the following match with respect to "Aapki Poonji, Aapka Adhikar" campaign to reclaim the unclaimed financial assets. (2025)

I. Bank Deposit - UDGM Portal

II. Insurance Proceeds - Bima Kiran Portal

III. Mutual Fund Investment - MITRA Portal

IV. Dividends and shares - SEBI Portal

How many of the above is/are correctly matched?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Match I is Correct: Under the campaign, the UDGM Portal (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation), developed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is the dedicated centralized platform to search and trace unclaimed bank deposits and inoperative accounts across various banks.

* Match II is Incorrect: Unclaimed insurance policy proceeds and payouts are tracked through the Bima Bharosa Portal (an initiative under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of

India - IRDAI), not a "Bima Kiran" portal.

* Match III is Correct: Unclaimed investments in mutual funds are tracked using the MITRA Portal (Mechanism for Investors to Track Rightful Assets) launched by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

* Match IV is Incorrect: Unpaid dividends and unclaimed shares are managed and retrieved via the IEPFA Portal (Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority), which operates under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, rather than a generic SEBI portal.

Q61. Match the following Biosphere Reserves with their corresponding State (List-I) and year for national designation of India (List-II): (2025)

List-I (Biosphere Reserve and State)

List-II (Year of designation)

(a) Panna, Madhya Pradesh

1. 1988

(b) Nanda Devi, Uttarakhand

2. 2011

(c) Agasthyamalai, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

3. 2009

(d) Cold Desert, Himachal Pradesh

4. 2001

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

(a) (b) (c) (d)

(A) 1 2 3 4

(B) 2 3 1 4

(C) 2 1 3 4

(D) 2 1 4 3

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

* Item (a) is Correctly Matched with 2: The Panna Biosphere Reserve in Madhya Pradesh was notified as a national biosphere reserve by the Government of India in the year 2011. (It was later included in UNESCO's MAB network in 2020).

* Item (b) is Correctly Matched with 1: The Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve in Uttarakhand is one of India's oldest biosphere reserves, designated nationally in 1988.

* Item (c) is Correctly Matched with 4: The Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve, straddling the border of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, was established and designated nationally in the year 2001.

* Item (d) is Correctly Matched with 3: The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (which includes Pin Valley National Park and surroundings) in Himachal Pradesh was designated nationally in 2009.

Q62. With reference to pipeline transportation of oil, consider the following statements: (2025)

I. In regions such as Europe, Russia, West Asia and India, pipelines are widely used to transport crude oil from oil wells to refineries and ports.

II. Pipeline networks are generally absent in Central Asian countries due to difficult terrain and political constraints.

III. Turkmenistan has developed pipeline connectivity extending to Iran and parts of China.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(A) I only

(B) I and III only

(C) II and III only

(D) I, II and III

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Statement I is Correct: Pipelines serve as the most efficient and cost-effective mode of overland bulk transport for liquids and gases. In industrialized and resource-rich areas like Europe, Russia, West Asia, and India, extensive pipeline networks are widely used to link production oil wells directly to domestic refineries and cross-border maritime ports.

* Statement II is Incorrect: Central Asian countries possess some of the world's largest oil and

natural gas reserves. Far from being absent, pipeline infrastructure is extensive and serves as their primary economic lifeline for exporting hydrocarbons to global markets (e.g., the Central Asia–China gas pipeline network and the Caspian Pipeline Consortium).

* Statement III is Correct: Turkmenistan has successfully diversified its hydrocarbon export routes away from traditional reliance on Russia by establishing strategic pipeline networks directed towards Iran (the Korpezhe-Kurt Kui pipeline) and extensive links spanning directly across to parts of China.

Q63. With reference to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), consider the following statements : (2025)

- I. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- II. As of December 2024, it has 166 member countries.
- III. India is a founding member of the organisation.
- IV. It was established in 1945 along with the United Nations system.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) I and III only
- (B) I, II and III only
- (C) II and IV only
- (D) I, II, III and IV

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Statement I is Correct: The headquarters of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are located at the Centre William Rappard in Geneva, Switzerland, where it has been stationed since its inception.

* Statement II is Correct: Following the formal approval and ratification at the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in early 2024, both Comoros and Timor-Leste officially submitted their protocols of accession. Timor-Leste joined as the 166th member country in late August 2024, bringing the total membership count to 166 as of December 2024.

* Statement III is Correct: India was one of the original 23 contracting parties to the General

Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) since 1948. Consequently, India became an original founding member of the WTO when it officially replaced GATT on January 1, 1995.

* Statement IV is Incorrect: The WTO was officially established on January 1, 1995, following the 1994 Marrakesh Agreement. The international bodies established alongside the United Nations system in 1944–1945 were the Bretton Woods institutions (the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank), not the WTO.

Q64. Consider the following major Ports of the World (List-I) and match them with their correct functional classification (List-II): (2025)

List-I (Port)

List-II (Functional Type)

(a) Maracaibo, Venezuela

1. Entrepot Port

(b) Rotterdam, Europe

2. Oil Port

(c) Kochi, India

3. Ports of Call

(d) Aden, Yemen

4. Naval Port

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

1. (b) (c) (d)

(A) 3 1 4 2

(B) 3 4 1 2

(C) 4 1 2 3

(D) 2 1 4 3

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

* Item (a) is Correctly Matched with 2: Maracaibo in Venezuela is situated near large oil reserves

and functions primarily as a specialized Oil Port that deals explicitly with the loading, storage, and tanker shipping of crude oil.

* Item (b) is Correctly Matched with 1: Rotterdam is a classic example of an Entrepot Port. It acts as a major collection, transshipment, and redistribution hub where goods from all over the world are imported and subsequently re-exported to different European destinations.

* Item (c) is Correctly Matched with 4: Kochi (Cochin) houses the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy and possesses deep strategic defense infrastructure, categorizing its primary national security function as a Naval Port.

* Item (d) is Correctly Matched with 3: Aden is located on a critical maritime transit bottleneck route and developed historically as a Port of Call. These ports serve as vital refueling, provisioning, and watering stations for commercial ships on long oceanic voyages.

NCERT Class 12 Fundamentals of Human Geography

Q65. Consider the following statements about education policy and learning outcomes in India and Odisha: (2025)

I. NEP 2020 recommends home language/mother tongue as medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but Odisha faces challenges due to multiplicity of tribal languages.

II. Odisha's "Mo School Abhiyan" has been successful in mobilizing alumni funds for infrastructure, but studies show weak correlation between infrastructure and learning outcomes without pedagogical reform.

III. ASER 2023 for Odisha shows that while enrollment remains high (>95%), the proportion of Class 3 children who can read a Class 2 level text has declined compared to pre-COVID levels.

IV. Odisha's "Siksha Sahayata Yojana" provides scholarships for higher education to SC/ST/OBC students, but renewal requires 75% attendance, which is difficult for wage laborers.

How many of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct: NEP 2020 promotes the mother tongue as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5; in Odisha, the presence of 62 tribal communities with 21 languages poses significant multilingual education challenges.

Statement II is correct: The Mo School Abhiyan has mobilized substantial alumni and CSR funds for school infrastructure, but empirical studies indicate that physical infrastructure improvements require accompanying pedagogical reforms to enhance learning outcomes.

Statement III is correct: ASER assessment surveys in Odisha have highlighted persistent foundational learning recovery challenges for primary school children in reading and arithmetic.

Statement IV is correct: Educational assistance schemes like the Siksha Sahayata Yojana under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board mandate minimum attendance thresholds (75%) for scholarship renewal, which can be challenging for migratory families.

Hence, all 4 statements are correct -> Option (D).

Q66. Who said "The Arab invasion of Sindh is a triumph without results"? (2025)

- (A) Vincent Smith
- (B) Stanley Lane Poole
- (C) Sir Jadunath Sarkar
- (D) Irfan Habib

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Option A is Incorrect: Vincent Smith was a prominent British historian of ancient India, famous for his works on Ashoka and Akbar, but did not coin this phrase.

* Option B is Correct: British historian Stanley Lane-Poole famously observed that the Arab conquest of Sindh was merely an isolated episode in Indian history that did not lead to permanent expansion at the time, summarizing it as "a triumph without results".

* Option C is Incorrect: Sir Jadunath Sarkar was an expert on Mughal history, particularly Mughal-

Maratha relations and the reign of Aurangzeb.

* Option D is Incorrect: Irfan Habib is a renowned contemporary Marxist historian specializing in the economic and technological history of Medieval India.

Q67. Who confessed: The defeats of many Billies and Braithwaites will not destroy them. I can ruin their resources by land, but I cannot dry up the sea? (2025)

- (A) Haider
- (B) Tipu Sultan
- (C) Sher Singh
- (D) Anwar-ud-din

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

* Option A is Correct: Haider Ali (the ruler of Mysore) expressed this profound realization regarding the ultimate geopolitical power of the British Empire during the Anglo-Mysore Wars, acknowledging that despite defeating commanders like Baillie and Braithwaite on land, he could not overcome England's supreme global naval advantage.

* Option B is Incorrect: Tipu Sultan succeeded his father Haider Ali and actively built navies and international alliances, but this specific quote was uttered by his father.

* Option C is Incorrect: Sher Singh was a prominent Sikh monarch and commander who fought against the British much later during the Anglo-Sikh wars.

* Option D is Incorrect: Anwar-ud-din was the Nawab of the Carnatic who was killed during the early Carnatic Wars.

Q68. The Mahalwari system in Odisha was introduced in which district? (2025)

- (A) Jajpur
- (B) Balasore
- (C) Cuttack
- (D) Sambalpur

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

* Option A, B, and C are Incorrect: Coastal and central regions of Odisha, including Cuttack, Balasore, and Jajpur, were largely placed under the Permanent Settlement (Zamindari system) introduced by the British administration.

* Option D is Correct: The Sambalpur district of western Odisha historically experienced the Mahalwari system because it was governed alongside the Central Provinces administrative block, where land revenue assessments were settled collectively with the entire village community (Mahal).

Q69. The opening of College in Cuttack took place in which year? (2025)

(A) 1865-66 AD

(B) 1867 AD

(C) 1868 AD

(D) 1869 AD

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

* Option A is Incorrect: 1865–66 marked the devastating Odisha Famine (Na'Anka Durbhikhya). While this tragedy highlight the absolute lack of education and infrastructure, the college itself was not opened during these years.

* Option B is Incorrect: In 1867, efforts and proposals were being aggressively mobilized by Thomas Edward Ravenshaw to start collegiate education, but regular classes did not commence.

* Option C is Correct: The first higher education college in Odisha, initially operating as collegiate classes within the Cuttack Zilla School, was officially opened in January 1868 with just six students. This legendary institution was later rechristened as Ravenshaw College (now Ravenshaw University).

* Option D is Incorrect: By 1869, the newly formed college was already in its second year of operational instructional classes, making this date historically inaccurate for its initial opening.

Q70. Examine the following statements. (2025)

Statement-I: The Courts are prohibited to inquire to the advice given by the Ministers to the Governor

Statement-II: The Ministers have no legal responsibility as per the constitutional provision.

In the above context, which one of the following is correct?

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- (C) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

Statement-I is Correct: Article 163(3) of the Constitution of India provides that the question whether any, and if so what, advice was tendered by Ministers to the Governor shall not be inquired into in any court.

Statement-II is Correct: Under the Indian constitutional scheme, ministers have no individual legal responsibility in a court of law for the official acts of the executive (unlike the British system where ministers must countersign public acts and can be sued).

Statement-II explains Statement-I: Because the executive acts in the name of the Governor and ministers do not bear separate legal liability in court for policy advice, the judicial branch is constitutionally prohibited from inquiring into cabinet deliberations, safeguarding the confidentiality of executive advice. Hence, Option (A) is correct.

Q71. Consider the following statements regarding aquatic organisms: (2025)

1. Plankton are small organisms that float in water.
2. Nekton includes organisms that actively swim in water.
3. Benthos are organisms that live suspended in the water column.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

* Statement 1 is Correct: Plankton consist of microscopic or small organisms (like phytoplankton and zooplankton) that lack the ability to swim effectively against a current and primarily drift or float in the upper layers of water.

* Statement 2 is Correct: Nekton comprises all aquatic animals that can swim actively and independently against water currents, such as fish, squids, and marine mammals.

* Statement 3 is Incorrect: Benthos refers to organisms that live on, in, or near the bottom floor of a water body (the benthic zone), such as crabs, corals, and sea anemones. Organisms that live suspended in the water column are categorized as pelagic (plankton or nekton).

NCERT CLASS 12 BIOLOGY

Q72. With reference to cyclones, consider: (2025)

1. Cyclones form when sea temperature exceeds $\sim 27^{\circ}\text{C}$
2. High-pressure zones initiate cyclones
3. Wind spirals inward towards low-pressure centre
4. Cyclones move toward regions of higher pressure
5. Cyclones derive energy from ocean heat

Which of the above are true?

- (A) 1, 3 and 5 only
(B) 1, 2 and 4 only
(C) 2, 3 and 5 only
(D) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: * [Official OPSC Status: DROPPED FROM VALUATION]

Explanation:

Official Examination Notice: This question was officially dropped from valuation by the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC) due to a typographical printing error in the question booklet where '-27°C' was printed instead of '~27°C'. Full/prorated marks are awarded to all candidates.

Concepts:

1. Tropical cyclones form over warm ocean waters with sea surface temperatures exceeding 26.5°C–27°C.
2. They originate from low-pressure atmospheric disturbances (not high-pressure zones).
3. Winds spiral inward toward the central low-pressure eye due to the Coriolis effect.
4. Cyclones derive their energy from latent heat of condensation released from rising moist ocean air.

Q73. Consider the following statements regarding outcomes of COP30: (2025)

1. The Belém Package focuses primarily on setting new binding emission targets.
2. The Global Mutirão Agreement prioritises implementation over ambition.
3. The Just Transition Mechanism includes legally guaranteed financial commitments.
4. The Global Implementation Tracker is intended to assess alignment with the 1.5°C pathway.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1 and 4 only
(B) 1, 2 and 3 only
(C) 2, 3 and 4 only
(D) 2 and 4 only

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

* Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Belém Package is a comprehensive set of 29 negotiated decisions adopted at COP30. Its structural focus is moving away from purely debating future numbers to focusing explicitly on actionable implementation and execution, rather than setting new mandatory or legally binding emission reduction targets.

* Statement 2 is Correct: The Global Mutirão Agreement represents a major political consensus

that shifts focus toward deliverability, practical cooperation, and near-term implementation rather than endlessly raising long-term text ambitions.

* Statement 3 is Incorrect: While COP30 successfully formally adopted the new Just Transition Mechanism (also called the Belém Action Mechanism) to support economies moving away from fossil fuels, the final text did not include new or legally guaranteed finance commitments, which remains a major point of advocacy for developing nations.

* Statement 4 is Correct: The Global Implementation Tracker was specifically rolled out to track and verify whether real-world state actions and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) accurately align with carbon pathways required to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Q74. India integrates biodiversity finance with development planning. (2025)

Question: This best reflects:

- (A) Greenwashing
- (B) Sustainable development paradigm
- (C) Command economy
- (D) Fiscal federalism

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Option A is Incorrect: Greenwashing refers to deceptive marketing or false public relations claims designed to make an organization appear environmentally friendly without making real structural changes. Real fiscal policy integration does not fall under this category.

* Option B is Correct: Integrating ecological financing into macroeconomic development planning directly fulfills the Sustainable Development Paradigm. This approach balances immediate economic and social growth with long-term ecosystem stability, ensuring that natural biodiversity capital is preserved for future generations.

* Option C is Incorrect: A command economy is an economic framework where a centralized authoritarian government completely controls production, prices, and resource allocation (e.g., the historical Soviet system), which is irrelevant to biodiversity planning integration.

* Option D is Incorrect: Fiscal federalism deals specifically with the financial relations, tax sharing, and division of resource allocations between different tiers of government (Central vs. State),

which does not intrinsically define conservation-development linkages.

Q75. Which of the two Articles of Indian Constitution override Fundamental Rights in respect of Article 14 Right to Equality and State level Economic Redistribution _____ (2025)

- (A) Art. 300 (a) & (d)
- (B) Art. 39 (b) and (c)
- (C) Art. 18 (2) & (4)
- (D) Art. 19(c) and(d)

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Option A is Incorrect: Article 300A deals with the "Right to Property" (stating that no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law). It is a legal/constitutional right, not a mechanism designed to override Article 14 for redistribution purposes, and there is no clause "(d)" under Article 300.

* Option B is Correct: Articles 39(b) and 39(c) are Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs) focused on economic redistribution—specifically, ensuring that the ownership and control of material resources subserve the common good, and preventing the concentration of wealth. Under Article 31C of the Constitution, laws enacted by the State to implement Articles 39(b) and 39(c) cannot be declared void or unconstitutional even if they violate the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 19.

* Option C is Incorrect: Article 18 deals with the "Abolition of Titles." Clauses (2) and (4) restrict Indian citizens from accepting titles or presents from foreign states. They have no relationship with economic redistribution policies.

* Option D is Incorrect: Articles 19(1)(c) and 19(1)(d) guarantee the Fundamental Rights to form associations/unions and to move freely throughout the territory of India, respectively. They do not function as tools that override Article 14.

Indian Polity by M. Laxmikanth: Chapter on 'Directive Principles of State Policy'

Q76. In which Article of Indian Constitution the 'Doctrine of Estoppel' is found? (2025)

- (A) Art. 115
- (B) Art. 117
- (C) Art. 123
- (D) None of the Article in the Constitution

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

The Doctrine of Estoppel is a principle rooted in common law and equity jurisprudence. It is not explicitly codified or mentioned in any specific Article of the Indian Constitution. The doctrine operates on the principle that a person is prevented from asserting a fact or right that is inconsistent with a position previously taken by that person, especially when another party has acted in reliance upon the earlier position.

In the Indian legal context, the Doctrine of Estoppel is primarily governed by Section 115 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, which states that when one person has, by his declaration, act or omission, intentionally caused or permitted another person to believe a thing to be true and to act upon such belief, neither he nor his representative shall be allowed, in any suit or proceeding between himself and such person, to deny the truth of that thing.

The doctrine has been extensively applied by Indian courts through judicial interpretation, but it does not find a place in any specific constitutional provision. Articles 115, 117, and 123 deal with supplementary grants, special provisions as to financial bills, and ordinance-making power of the President, respectively, and have no relation to estoppel.

Source: Doctrine of estoppel | Pleadings Blog <https://blog.ipleaders.in> › Evidence

Q77. Under whose Prime Ministership the nomenclature of 'Prime Minister's Secretariat' was changed to 'Prime Minister's Office'? (2025)

- (A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (B) Morarji Desai
- (C) Indira Gandhi
- (D) P.V. Narasimha Rao

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

The Prime Minister's Secretariat (PMS) was established in 1947. It was renamed the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in 1977 by the Morarji Desai administration. This structural change was a direct response to the massive over-centralization of executive power within the Secretariat under Indira Gandhi's Emergency regime. Desai wanted to signal a downscaling of this "super-ministry" status by framing it strictly as an "Office".

Sources: <https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/prime-ministers-office/>

Q78. Consider the following with respect to pygmy hog (*porcula salvania*). (2025)

- I. It is the rarest species of wild pig.
- II. It inhabits in the tall, dense, wet alluvial grasslands of Himalayan Southern foothills.
- III. It is a critically endangered species as per IUCN Red List.
- IV. Their conservation was started by the trust founded by Gerald Durrell.

How many of the above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct. The pygmy hog is recognised as the world's smallest and rarest species of wild pig. It is a unique member of the family Suidae with no close living relatives.

Statement II is correct. The pygmy hog is endemic to the tall, dense, wet alluvial grasslands found in the Himalayan foothills, specifically in Assam, India. It is highly dependent on this specific habitat type known as the terai-type grasslands, which have been severely degraded due to agricultural encroachment and human activities.

Statement III is correct. The pygmy hog is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. It was previously listed as Critically Endangered, and its status reflects the ongoing

conservation efforts including captive breeding and reintroduction programmes.

Statement IV is correct. Organized efforts to prevent its extinction were spearheaded by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, which was founded by legendary naturalist Gerald Durrell. The trust officially initiated the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) in collaboration with the government and local bodies

Sources: https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/FAO-countries/India/docs/case_studies/Pygmy_Hog.pdf

Q79. Consider the following statements about the Mpemba effect. (2025)

- I. Freezing of hotter water faster than colder water under specific conditions.
- II. JLN Advanced Scientific Research has used supercomputers to develop the first simulation of ice formation proving the Mpemba effect of water.
- III. Named after Nigerian scientist Erasto Mpemba, who rediscovered it in 1969.
- IV. Aristotle, Robert Hooke and Descartes have noted about this experiment earlier.
- V. Relaxation of materials due to sudden temperature changes is technically called out-of-equilibrium phenomena.

How many of the above statements are true?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Only 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct: The Mpemba effect describes the counterintuitive observation where hotter water can freeze faster than colder water under specific conditions.

Statement II is correct: Researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) in Bengaluru utilized supercomputing simulations to model ice nucleation and provide theoretical insights into the Mpemba effect.

Statement III is incorrect: Erasto Mpemba was a Tanzanian student (not Nigerian) who

observed the effect in 1963 and published his findings in 1969.

Statement IV is incorrect in attribution: Historical notes on warm water freezing were recorded by Aristotle, Bacon, and Descartes, but the specific experimental parameters are historically distinct.

Statement V is correct: The relaxation of thermodynamic systems under sudden temperature changes is classified as an out-of-equilibrium phenomenon.

Therefore, exactly 3 statements (I, II, and V) are correct -> Option (C).

Q80. Presently a 9-Judges Bench of the Supreme Court is hearing the Sabarimala reference. Consider the following statements relevant to the 9-Judges Bench of the Supreme Court. (2025)

I. It is as per the Article 145(3) of the Constitution.

II. KS Puttaswamy vs. UOI case

III. Indra Sawhney and Ors vs. UOI and Ors case

IV. S.R. Bommai and Ors vs. UOI and Ors case

How many of the above are correct?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

I. Article 145(3) of the Constitution: This article mandates that any case involving a "substantial question of law" regarding constitutional interpretation must be heard by a minimum of five judges. When referring the Sabarimala review questions to a larger bench, the Court did so under this provision.

II. KS Puttaswamy vs. UOI case: This landmark 9-Judge Bench judgment (Right to Privacy) is frequently cited by the Court to define "constitutional morality" and the balancing of fundamental individual rights with group rights.

III. *Indra Sawhney and Ors vs. UOI and Ors* case: This is a definitive 9-Judge Bench decision regarding reservation policies and the interpretation of Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution. It is historically referenced by the 9-Judge Bench in *Sabarimala* for its teachings on applying and balancing constitutional principles.

IV. *S.R. Bommai and Ors vs. UOI and Ors* case: Another foundational 9-Judge Bench ruling (which cemented secularism as a basic feature of the Constitution and detailed the scope of judicial review under Article 356). The bench hearing the *Sabarimala* reference frequently draws upon this case's analysis of constitutionalism, secularism, and state power.

Q81. Which of the following statements about the Children's Booker Prize is NOT correct? (2025)

1. It will be awarded annually from 2027
2. It will be awarded annually from 2028
3. The founding partner and principal funder of it is the AKO Foundation
4. The founding partner and principal funder of it is the TVS Foundation

Select the correct answer from the codes given below.

- (A) 2 and 4 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 only
(D) 4 only

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

The Children's Booker Prize is a newly announced literary award specifically designed to recognise outstanding children's literature. The prize is set to be awarded annually beginning from 2027, not 2028, making Statement 2 incorrect. The founding partner and principal funder of the Children's Booker Prize is the AKO Foundation, not the TVS Foundation, making Statement 4 also incorrect.

Therefore, statements 2 and 4 are NOT correct, and the answer is (A). Statements 1 and 3 accurately describe the prize, with Statement 1 correctly noting the commencement year as 2027 and Statement 3 correctly identifying the AKO Foundation as the founding partner and principal

funder.

Q82. Which one of the following processes involves a decrease in entropy? (2025)

- (A) Burning of coal in air
- (B) Formation of NH_3 from H_2 and N_2
- (C) Evaporation of water
- (D) Melting of ice

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Entropy is a thermodynamic quantity that represents the degree of disorder or randomness in a system. A decrease in entropy implies an increase in order within the system.

The chemical reaction for the formation of ammonia is: $\text{N}_2 + 3\text{H}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{NH}_3$. In this reaction, four moles of gaseous reactants (one mole of nitrogen and three moles of hydrogen) combine to produce two moles of gaseous ammonia. Since the number of moles of gas decreases from four to two, the degree of randomness and disorder in the system decreases significantly. This results in a negative change in entropy (ΔS is negative), confirming a decrease in entropy.

In the case of burning coal, a solid is converted into gaseous products including carbon dioxide and water vapour, which represents a massive increase in entropy. Evaporation of water involves a phase transition from liquid to gas, which greatly increases molecular disorder and thus increases entropy. Melting of ice involves a transition from solid to liquid state, which increases molecular freedom and disorder, thereby increasing entropy.

Q83. With reference to the geomorphological evolution of the Peninsular Plateau of India, match the following hill ranges (List-I) with their corresponding geomorphological origin and characteristics (List-II). (2025)

List-I (Hill Range) --- List-II (Type/Characteristic)

- (a) Aravalli Range --- 1. Highly denuded remnant of an ancient fold mountain system (residual mountain)
- (b) Nallamala Hills --- 2. Structural hill range forming a major segment of the Eastern Ghats

(c) Javadi Hills --- 3. Dissected plateau remnant representing fragmented Eastern Ghats

(d) Mahendragiri Hills --- 4. North-eastern discontinuous extension of the Eastern Ghats near the coastal plain

Codes:

(A) 3-2-1-4

(B) 1-2-3-4

(C) 1-3-2-4

(D) 2-1-3-4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

* Statement 1 (Pair a) is Correctly Matched with 1: The Aravalli Range is one of the oldest geological fold mountain systems in the world. Over eras of exposure, it has undergone extensive weathering and erosion, standing today as a highly denuded, relict residual mountain range.

* Statement 2 (Pair b) is Correctly Matched with 2: The Nallamala Hills are located primarily in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana between the Krishna and Pennar rivers. Geologically, they form a well-defined, continuous structural hill range that comprises a core, major segment of the central Eastern Ghats.

* Statement 3 (Pair c) is Correctly Matched with 3: The Javadi Hills lie in northern Tamil Nadu. In this southern stretch, the Eastern Ghats lose their continuous character entirely and are heavily broken by vast river valleys (like the Palar River), leaving behind isolated, dissected plateau remnants that highlight the fragmented nature of the range.

* Statement 4 (Pair d) is Correctly Matched with 4: The Mahendragiri Hills are located in the Gajapati district of Odisha. They represent the north-eastern discontinuous extension of the Eastern Ghats as the system tapers off close to the eastern coastal plains.

Q84. Consider the following statements regarding the statutory definition of "disaster" as provided under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. (2025)

1. It covers events arising from both natural and anthropogenic causes, including those due to accidents or negligence.

2. It necessarily entails a large-scale loss of human life for an event to be classified as a disaster.

3. It includes damage to property, the environment and resultant human suffering.
4. It is characterised by an occurrence of such nature or magnitude that it exceeds the coping capacity of the affected community.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct because the definition explicitly covers both natural and anthropogenic (man-made) causes, including accidents and negligence.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The statutory definition uses the disjunctive "or" — substantial loss of life, or human suffering, or damage to property, or environmental degradation, any one of these conditions is sufficient. Loss of human life is therefore not a necessary condition for an event to qualify as a disaster. The original Statement 2 in the question, which says a disaster "necessarily entails a large-scale loss of human life," directly contradicts the plain text of Section 2(d) of the Act and is therefore incorrect.

Statement 3 is correct because the definition expressly includes damage to and destruction of property, damage to or degradation of the environment, and human suffering.

Statement 4 is correct because exceeding the coping capacity of the affected community is an essential element of the statutory definition under the Act.

Q85. With reference to oilseeds in India, consider the following statements. (2025)

- I. Oilseeds are cultivated primarily for the extraction of edible oils.
- II. Dryland regions such as Malwa Plateau, Marathwada, Gujarat and Rajasthan are important oilseed-growing areas.
- III. Oilseeds occupy about one-third of the total cropped area in India.

IV. Groundnut, rapeseed and mustard, soybean and sunflower are major oilseed crops in India.

How many of the above is/are CORRECT?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct. The primary purpose of oilseed cultivation in India is the extraction of edible oils for cooking and food processing. India is one of the largest producers and consumers of edible oils in the world.

Statement II is correct. Dryland and semi-arid regions including the Malwa Plateau in Madhya Pradesh, Marathwada in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan are among the most important oilseed-growing regions of India. These regions have climatic conditions conducive to crops such as groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, and soybean.

Statement III is incorrect. Oilseeds in India occupy approximately 13 to 15 percent of the total gross cropped area, not one-third. One-third would be approximately 33 percent, which is a significant overestimation. Cereals, not oilseeds, dominate Indian agricultural land use.

Statement IV is correct. Groundnut, rapeseed and mustard, soybean, and sunflower are indeed among the nine major oilseed crops cultivated in India, along with sesamum, linseed, castor, safflower, and nigerseed.

Q86. Which one of the following correctly describes the geographical behaviour of Bahuda, Vansadhara and Nagavali rivers? (2025)

- (A) They originate in Chhattisgarh and flow through Odisha to Andhra Pradesh
- (B) They originate in Odisha and terminate within the state
- (C) They originate in Odisha and flow into Andhra Pradesh before joining the Bay of Bengal
- (D) They originate in Andhra Pradesh and flow into Odisha

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

The Bahuda, Vansadhara, and Nagavali are rivers that originate in the Eastern Ghats region of southern Odisha. These rivers flow in a generally southward direction, crossing the state boundary into Andhra Pradesh before eventually draining into the Bay of Bengal. They are therefore inter-state rivers flowing between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

The Vansadhara river originates in the Kalahandi district of Odisha and flows through Rayagada before entering Andhra Pradesh. The Nagavali originates in the highlands of Odisha and flows southward. The Bahuda river similarly originates in Odisha and flows into Andhra Pradesh. All three rivers traverse the Southern Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border region and are of significance for both states in terms of irrigation and water resource sharing agreements.

Q87. With reference to the power sector in Odisha, the Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC) plays a significant role in thermal power generation in the state. In this context, OPGC was incorporated on: (2025)

- (A) 1st January 1985
- (B) 14th November 1984
- (C) 26th January 1986
- (D) 15th August 1983

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

The Odisha Power Generation Corporation Limited (OPGC) was incorporated on 14th November 1984 as a state government undertaking under the Companies Act. It was established with the primary objective of setting up, operating, and maintaining power generating stations in the state of Odisha. OPGC plays a critical role in the thermal power sector of Odisha, primarily through the Ib Thermal Power Station located at Banharpali in Jharsuguda district. The corporation has expanded its capacity over the years and is a major contributor to the installed power generation capacity of the state. It operates as a joint venture with AES Corporation, an international power company.

Q88. Consider the following description of a demographic trend in India: "Between 1971 and 2021, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) declined from 5.2 to 2.0. During the same period, the proportion of the population aged 60 years and above increased from 5% to over 10%. The working-age population (15-59 years) peaked around 2020 and is projected to begin declining after 2040." (2025)

Based on this description, which of the following statements is most accurate?

- (A) India has already entered the fourth stage of demographic transition.
- (B) The demographic dividend window in India is now closed because the working-age population has already started declining.
- (C) India's TFR is still above replacement level (2.1), so the population will continue to grow indefinitely.
- (D) The increase in elderly population means India will face ageing-related challenges even while the working-age population is still large.

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Option A is incorrect. The fourth stage of demographic transition is characterised by very low fertility rates (below replacement level), low mortality rates, and population stabilisation or decline. While India's TFR has fallen to approximately 2.0, which is below the replacement level of 2.1, India has not yet fully entered the fourth stage as population continues to grow due to population momentum and regional variations in fertility.

Option B is incorrect. According to the description provided, the working-age population peaked around 2020 and is projected to begin declining only after 2040. Therefore, the demographic dividend window has not yet closed, and India still has approximately two decades to harness the productive potential of its large working-age population through appropriate policy interventions in education, skill development, and employment generation.

Option C is incorrect. The description clearly states that India's TFR has already declined to 2.0, which is below the replacement level of 2.1. Therefore, the assertion that TFR is still above replacement level is factually wrong based on the passage.

Option D is correct. The passage simultaneously describes a growing elderly population with its proportion rising from 5% to over 10%, and a working-age population that remains large until at

least 2040. This creates a unique challenge where India must simultaneously manage the opportunities of its demographic dividend while beginning to prepare for the social security, healthcare, and pension burdens associated with an ageing population. This is the most nuanced and accurate reading of the demographic data presented.

Q89. Consider the following statements about targeting and leakage in poverty alleviation programs in India and Odisha. (2025)

- I. Aadhaar-based biometric authentication for PDS in Odisha has reduced duplicate ration cards, but studies show increased exclusion errors for elderly and tribal populations.
- II. Odisha's "One Nation One Ration Card" (ONORC) implementation allows migrant workers from Odisha to access subsidized grains in destination states.
- III. DBT for MGNREGS wages in Odisha has reduced corruption but not significantly reduced delays, as fund release remains sequential.
- IV. SECC 2011 data, still used for targeting, has not been updated, leading to inclusion of households that have exited poverty and exclusion of new poor.

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Statement I is Correct: The implementation of Aadhaar-Based Biometric Authentication (ABBA) in the Public Distribution System (PDS) successfully removed duplicate cards. However, research highlights that biometric authentication failures due to worn-out fingerprints or weak network connectivity in remote tribal pockets lead to exclusion errors for elderly and tribal groups.

Statement II is Correct: Under the interstate portability of the "One Nation One Ration Card" (ONORC) plan, migrant workers moving out of Odisha can seamlessly collect their subsidized ration from any active Fair Price Shop (FPS) in their destination states.

Statement III is Correct: While Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) under MGNREGS has heavily reduced corruption and intermediaries, payment delays persist. This is primarily because fund processing remains bound to a sequential, multi-layered administrative approval workflow between State and Central bodies.

Statement IV is Correct: Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 metrics remain the baseline for targeting several social welfare schemes. Because it hasn't been updated recently, it introduces static classification errors, where households that have moved out of poverty remain included, while newly vulnerable poor households are excluded.

Q90. Population distribution between rural and urban areas is best represented using which of the following graphical methods? (2025)

- (A) Hythergraph
- (B) Ergograph
- (C) Dots and spheres
- (D) Line graph

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Dots and spheres are the most appropriate graphical and cartographic methods for representing population distribution between rural and urban areas. Dot maps use individual dots, each representing a specific number of persons, to show dispersed rural population across geographic space. Proportional spheres or circles represent the relative size and concentration of urban populations at specific locations. Together, these two methods effectively capture both the dispersed nature of rural settlement and the concentrated character of urban agglomeration on a single map.

A Hythergraph is a climograph that plots mean monthly temperature against mean monthly rainfall and is used for climatic classification, not population distribution. An Ergograph is a graphical representation of crop calendars showing the seasonal distribution of agricultural operations and is used in agricultural geography. A Line graph is used for showing trends over time and is not suited for spatial population distribution.

Q91. Match the correct pair for List-I and List-II. (2025)

List-I --- List-II

- a. Monetarism --- I. R.F. Kahn
- b. Employment Multiplier --- II. T. Havelmo
- c. Multiplier effect of balanced budget --- III. John Muth
- d. Rational Expectation Hypothesis --- IV. Milton Friedman

Codes:

- (A) II-IV-III-I
- (B) IV-I-II-III
- (C) I-III-IV-II
- (D) III-II-I-IV

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Monetarism is the school of economic thought associated with Milton Friedman (IV). Friedman argued that the quantity of money in an economy is the primary determinant of nominal GDP in the short run and the price level in the long run. He advocated for steady, predictable growth in the money supply and was a strong critic of discretionary fiscal and monetary policy.

The Employment Multiplier concept was developed by Richard Ferdinand Kahn (I), a British economist and student of John Maynard Keynes. Kahn introduced the concept of the multiplier in 1931, which Keynes later generalised into the investment multiplier in his General Theory. The employment multiplier specifically showed how additional investment spending could lead to a greater proportional increase in total employment.

The Multiplier effect of the balanced budget is associated with Trygve Haavelmo (II), a Norwegian economist and Nobel Laureate. The Haavelmo theorem, also known as the balanced budget multiplier theorem, demonstrates that an equal and simultaneous increase in government spending and taxes by the same amount will result in an increase in GDP by that same amount, yielding a multiplier of one.

The Rational Expectations Hypothesis was originated by John Muth (III) in his landmark 1961 paper. The hypothesis posits that economic agents make decisions based on rational expectations formed using all available information, and that their predictions are not

systematically wrong on average.

Q92. Consider the following pairs. (2025)

- I. Mudrarakshasa: Narrates the ascent of Samudragupta to power
- II. Malavikagnimitram: Drama by Kalidasa about the Sunga ruler Agnimitra
- III. Milindapanho: Conversation between Menander and Nagasena
- IV. Dathavamsa: A Buddhist Ceylonese Chronicle of Tooth Relic

How many pair(s) is/are **WRONGLY** matched?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) None

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

Pair I is wrongly matched. Mudrarakshasa is a Sanskrit play written by Vishakhadatta. It narrates the political strategy and manoeuvres of Chanakya (Kautilya) in establishing Chandragupta Maurya on the throne of the Nanda empire, that is, the ascent of Chandragupta Maurya to power. It has no relation to Samudragupta, who was a Gupta dynasty ruler approximately five centuries later. This is the only wrongly matched pair.

Pair II is correctly matched. Malavikagnimitram is indeed a drama written by the celebrated Sanskrit poet Kalidasa. It revolves around the love story of Agnimitra, the Sunga king, with Malavika, and provides important historical information about the Sunga period.

Pair III is correctly matched. Milindapanho, meaning Questions of Milinda, is a Pali Buddhist text that records a philosophical dialogue between the Indo-Greek king Menander I (known in Pali as Milinda) and the Buddhist monk Nagasena. It is an important source for both Buddhist philosophy and Indo-Greek history.

Pair IV is correctly matched. Dathavamsa is a Pali text from Sri Lanka that chronicles the history of the Tooth Relic of the Buddha and its journey to Sri Lanka. It is an important source for Buddhist history and the religious history of Ceylon.

Q93. Match the columns. (2025)

I --- II

I. Annie Besant --- First Indian woman to become Congress President in 1925

II. Badruddin Tyabji --- First Muslim President of Congress in 1887

III. Mahatma Gandhi --- Presided over the Belgaum session of Congress in 1924

IV. Syed Ahmed Khan --- Earned the knighthood in 1888

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

(A) Only 1

(B) Only 2

(C) Only 3

(D) All 4

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

Pair II is correctly matched. Badruddin Tyabji presided over the third session of the Indian National Congress held in Madras in 1887, becoming the first Muslim President of the Indian National Congress.

Pair III is correctly matched. Mahatma Gandhi presided over the 39th session of the Indian National Congress held at Belgaum in December 1924. This was the only occasion on which Gandhi served as the President of the Congress.

Pair IV is correctly matched. Syed Ahmed Khan received the Knight Commander of the Star of India (KCSI) honour from the British government in 1888. The year and the fact of receiving a knighthood are both factually accurate.

Q94. Match List-I with List-II with respect to language of Indus Valley civilisation and select the answer using the codes given below the lists. (2025)

List-I --- List-II

i. Mahadevan --- (a) Language was Dravidian and Script relied upon homophones

- ii. SR Rao --- (b) Language is closer to Dravidian than to any other language
- iii. Kinnier-Wilson --- (c) Accept the Dravidian hypothesis and published an impressive computer concordance
- iv. Parpola --- (d) Attempt to read the contents of the inscriptions in terms of analogies between Harappan and Sumerian signs
- v. Soviet Scholars --- (e) Attempt to read the script as containing a pre-Indo-Aryan language of the Indo-European family

Codes:

- (A) i-a, ii-c, iii-e, iv-d, v-b
- (B) i-d, ii-a, iii-b, iv-c, v-e
- (C) i-c, ii-e, iii-d, iv-a, v-b
- (D) i-b, ii-d, iii-a, iv-e, v-c

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

* Scholar i is Correctly Matched with (c): Iravatham Mahadevan accepted the Dravidian framework hypothesis and famously compiled and published a highly rigorous, groundbreaking computer-coded concordance of the Indus inscriptions in 1977 under the Archaeological Survey of India.

* Scholar ii is Correctly Matched with (e): S.R. Rao, the prominent archaeologist who excavated Lothal, argued against the Dravidian thesis. Instead, he attempted to decipher the script by connecting it to an early, pre-Indo-Aryan or proto-Old Indo-Aryan language belonging to the Indo-European family, reading it from right to left.

* Scholar iii is Correctly Matched with (d): Assyriologist J.V. Kinnier-Wilson explored a West Asian connection and attempted to read the script by establishing direct semantic and structural analogies between Harappan signs and Sumerian cuneiform characters used in Mesopotamia.

* Scholar iv is Correctly Matched with (a): Finnish scholar Asko Parpola led a team that comprehensively advocated for the Dravidian hypothesis, proposing that the logographic Indus signs largely functioned through the rebus principle (relying heavily on homophones), where a picture of an object represents a phonetic sound.

* Scholar v is Correctly Matched with (b): The team of Soviet Scholars (led by Yuri Knorozov in the 1960s) utilized early computer analysis to investigate the structural positioning of the

characters and mathematically concluded that the underlying language is structurally closer to Dravidian than to any other known language family.

Q95. Consider the following statements in the speech of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the World Economic Forum at Davos. (2025)

Statement-I: The middle powers must act together.

Statement-II: We are neither at the table nor on the menu.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

In his speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney emphasised the importance of middle powers collaborating and acting collectively in the face of an increasingly multipolar and uncertain global order. Statement I accurately captures this central theme of his address and is therefore correct.

Statement II, which states that middle powers are neither at the table nor on the menu, is a misquotation or misattribution. The original expression, which has been variously attributed but is widely used in political discourse, is typically formulated as one is either at the table or on the menu, implying that those who do not participate in decision-making become subject to decisions made by others. Carney's speech did not use this precise formulation in the manner described in Statement II. The framing of Statement II as presented in the question is therefore incorrect.

Q96. Which of the following cities acted as the meeting point for trade routes from east to west and from north to south from historical perspective? (2025)

- (A) Kausambi
- (B) Ujjain
- (C) Mathura
- (D) Paithan

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Historically, the ancient city of Ujjain (Ujjayini / Avanti) served as the pivotal crossroads and meeting point of major ancient Indian commercial routes. It connected the northern trans-regional route (Uttarapatha) coming from the Gangetic plains with the southern trans-peninsular route (Dakshinapatha) leading to the Deccan, as well as the east-west routes linking eastern production centers to the western Arabian Sea ports such as Bharuch (Barygaza). Hence, Option (B) is the official OPSC answer.

Q97. With reference to the temple architecture of Odisha, consider the following. (2025)

- I. The Vaidyanath temple near Sonapur has a lofty gateway.
- II. The Vaital temple at Bhubaneswar is designed in Khakhara style.
- III. The Sun temple at Konark is a living temple.
- IV. The Chausath Yogini temple at Hirapur is circular in plan.

How many statements mentioned above are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) Only 4

Answer: Option (B)

Explanation:

Statement I is Incorrect: The Vaidyanath (Kosaleswar) temple at Baidyanath near Sonapur is an ancient shrine famous for its unique Koshali style carvings and early Kirtimukha motifs, but it does not possess a lofty gateway. In Odishan architecture, the most iconic

temple featuring a highly celebrated detached arched gateway (torana) is the Mukteswar Temple in Bhubaneswar.

Statement II is Correct: The Vaital Deul Temple in Bhubaneswar is a masterpiece of the Khakhara order (a distinct subdivision of the Kalinga school of architecture). It features a prominent barrel-vaulted, semi-cylindrical roof (wagon-roof structure) traditionally used for shrines associated with Tantric and Kapalika worship.

Statement III is Incorrect: The Sun Temple at Konark is a non-living temple. Active ritualistic worship has not been conducted in this sanctuary for centuries, and it is preserved as an archaeological monument under the care of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Statement IV is Correct: The Chausath Yogini Temple at Hirapur is globally renowned for its hypaethral (open-air, roofless) design and is strictly circular in plan, housing niches along its inner circular wall for the 64 Yogini images.

Q98. With reference to Jayi Rajaguru, consider the following statements. (2025)

- I. His full name was Jayakrushna Rajaguru Mahapatra.
- II. He was the royal preceptor to Mukundadeva II.
- III. He mobilized an army of Paiks and revolted against the British East India Company in 1804.
- IV. On 6 December 1806 he was executed at Midnapore.

How many statement(s) mentioned above is/are correct?

- (A) Only 1
- (B) Only 2
- (C) Only 3
- (D) All 4

Answer: Option (D)

Explanation:

Statement I is correct. The full name of Jayi Rajaguru was Jayakrushna Rajaguru Mahapatra. He belonged to a family of royal advisors and was a revered figure in early nineteenth century Odisha.

Statement II is correct. Jayi Rajaguru served as the Rajaguru, meaning the royal preceptor or spiritual advisor, to Mukundadeva II, who was the last independent king of Odisha before the region came under British control. His role gave him significant influence in the royal court and among the people.

Statement III is correct. Jayi Rajaguru organised the Paik rebellion, mobilising an army of Paiks, who were the traditional militia or footsoldiers of Odisha, against the oppressive revenue policies and administrative practices of the British East India Company. The uprising began in 1804 and is considered one of the earliest organised armed revolts against British colonial rule in Odisha, predating the 1857 uprising by more than five decades.

Statement IV is correct. After the suppression of the rebellion, Jayi Rajaguru was captured and subjected to a public execution on 6 December 1806 at Midnapore, known today as Medinipur, in present-day West Bengal. He is revered as a martyr and a pioneer of the freedom struggle in Odisha.

Q99. Which literary source mentions Kalinga and Odra along with the sacred river Baitarani and Goddess Viraja? (2025)

- (A) Vayu Purana
- (B) Manu Smriti
- (C) The Mahabharata
- (D) None of the above

Answer: Option (C)

Explanation:

* Earliest Mention: The Mahabharata makes the earliest epic reference to the ancient territories of Kalinga and Odra.

* The Sacred Context: In the Vana Parva (Book of the Forest) of the epic, the sage Lomasa guides the Pandavas on a pilgrimage. He explicitly points out the land of Kalinga where the sacred river Baitarani flows and references the region associated with Goddess Viraja (modern-day Jajpur in Odisha).

Why Other Options Are Incorrect

* (A) Vayu Purana: While the Vayu Purana does mention the regional geography and ancient lineages of eastern India, it is not the original source linking all four elements (Kalinga, Odra, Baitarani, and Viraja) together in this explicit historical narrative.

* (B) Manu Smriti: This is an ancient legal and social text (Dharmashastra) that focuses on social codes, laws, and conduct rather than the detailed geographical and pilgrimage descriptions of the Odishan territory.

Q100. Which of the following statement/s is/are NOT correct in respect of the number of Ministers in the Council of Ministers? (2025)

(1) The total number of Ministers excluding Prime Minister should not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of Lok Sabha

(2) The 91st Constitution Amendment Act introduced a cap on the number of Ministers in the Council of Ministers

(3) The principle of 15% of the total strength of Legislative Assemblies is also applicable to States in Indian Union

(4) The ceiling on the numerical strength of Council of Ministers is limited to 15% of the strength of both the Houses of Parliament

(A) 1 and 4

(B) 2 and 3

(C) 3 and 4

(D) 2 and 4

Answer: Option (A)

Explanation:

(1) The total number of Ministers excluding Prime Minister should not exceed 15 percent of the total strength of Lok Sabha

This is incorrect because the 15% cap includes the Prime Minister. According to Article 75(1A), the total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Union Council of Ministers cannot exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.

(2) The 91st Constitution Amendment Act introduced a cap on the number of Ministers in the Council of Ministers

This is correct. The 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003 inserted the ceiling limits to restrict oversized cabinets and curb political appeasement.

(3) The principle of 15% of the total strength of Legislative Assemblies is also applicable to States in Indian Union

This is correct. Article 164(1A) mandates that the total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state cannot exceed 15% of the total strength of that State's Legislative Assembly (with a minimum floor limit of 12 ministers)

(4) The ceiling on the numerical strength of Council of Ministers is limited to 15% of the strength of both the Houses of Parliament

This is incorrect. The 15% limitation is strictly calculated based on the strength of the Lok Sabha (House of the People) alone, not the combined strength of both Houses of Parliament
