

1. Consider the following assertion :

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

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: d

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The *Nadi-Sukta* hymn of the *Rigveda* provides a historical and geographical enumeration of rivers (including the Ganga, Yamuna, Sarasvati, and Sutlej), but it does not serve as the scientific or geological basis for identifying river-linking shifts during the **Pleistocene period** (which ended over 11,000 years ago).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Robert Bruce Foote is widely regarded as the father of Indian prehistory, famous for discovering Paleolithic stone tools in southern and western India. He did not conduct the geological explorations of the northern Sutlej-Yamuna divide that formed the basis for this specific Pleistocene hypothesis.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The presence of closely related freshwater river dolphins—specifically the **South Asian river dolphin** (*Platanista gangetica*), which contains two subspecies (the Indus river dolphin and the Ganges river dolphin)—in two completely separate drainage networks is a major biological proof. Because these blind freshwater dolphins cannot survive in saltwater, they could not have migrated from one river mouth to another via the sea. Their distribution proves that a freshwater connection must have existed between the Indus and Ganga systems in the past, allowing them to diverge from a common ancestral population when a tributary like the Yamuna or Sutlej shifted its course.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

In early aniconic Buddhist iconography (found in historic sites like Sanchi and Bharhut), artists did not depict the Buddha in human form. Instead, they used symbolic representations. An **empty seat** or throne primarily represents the **meditation of the Buddha** (specifically his seat under the Bodhi tree where he attained enlightenment).

Why the other options are incorrect:

- **(b) The Buddha's First Sermon:** This event is represented by the symbol of a **Wheel**(Dharmachakra), which signifies the turning of the wheel of law at Sarnath.
- **(c) The Buddha's Mahaparinibbana:** The final passing away (death) of the Buddha is symbolically represented by a **Stupa**.
- **(d) The Buddha's Mahabhinishkramana:** The Great Renunciation (leaving his palace home) is traditionally depicted by a **riderless horse** or footprints

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Only pair **3 (Parushni : Ravi)** is correctly matched.

Here is the evaluation of each pair:

- **1. Vitasta : Chenab**
 - **Incorrect:** Vitasta is the ancient Vedic name for the modern **Jhelum** river.
- **2. Asikni : Jhelum**
 - **Incorrect:** Asikni (or Asikini) is the ancient name for the modern **Chenab** river.
- **3. Parushni : Ravi**
 - **Correct:** Parushni corresponds exactly to the modern **Ravi** river. This location is famously celebrated in the Rigveda as the site of the Battle of the Ten Kings.
- **4. Yavyavati : Beas**
 - **Incorrect:** The ancient Vedic name for the **Beas** river is **Vipas** or **Vipasha**. Yavyavati is an entirely separate stream historically identified by scholars with either the modern Yamuna River or the Ghaggar-Hakra river system

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The correct answer option is that **statements 1 and 3 are correct, while statement 2 is incorrect.**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Amaravati Stupa (historically known as the *Mahachaitya*) was built in ancient Dhanyakataka, which is situated on the right bank of the **lower Krishna River valley** in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Amaravati school of art introduced a highly dynamic style using white/cream-coloured Palnad limestone. It laid the foundation for subsequent South Indian sculpture (such as Ikshvaku, Pallava, and Chola

arts). Furthermore, its distinct aesthetic spread trans-oceanically, profoundly influencing early Buddhist sculptures in **Sri Lanka and Southeast Asian maritime regions** like Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Amaravati Stupa was actually **larger than the Sanchi Stupa**. At its peak, Amaravati was the largest stupa in the Indian subcontinent, with a diameter of approximately 50 metres and a height of nearly 30 metres. This surpassed the dimensions of Great Stupa No. 1 at Sanchi, making it the most massive structure of its kind rather than "next only" to it

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

1. Senguttuvan : Chera
2. Udyanjeral : Chola
3. Nedunjeliyan : Pandya

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The incorrect pair is **2. Udyanjeral : Chola**.

Incorrectly Matched Pair

- **2. Udyanjeral : Chola:** This pair is incorrectly matched. **Udiyanjeral** (also known as Uthiyan Cheralathan) was actually the first recorded ruler and founder of the **Chera dynasty**, not the Chola dynasty.

Correctly Matched Pairs

- **1. Senguttuvan : Chera:** This pair is correctly matched. **Cheran Senguttuvan** (often called the Red Chera) is celebrated as the greatest ruler of the ancient Chera dynasty. He is famously mentioned in the Tamil epic *Silappatikaram*.
- **3. Nedunjeliyan : Pandya:** This pair is correctly matched. **Nedunjeliyan** (notably *Nedunchezhiyan* of Nedunjeliyan II) was a prominent king of the **Pandya dynasty** who defeated a coalition of Cholas and Cheras at the famous Battle of Thalaiyalanganam

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

1. Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.
3. The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.
4. The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose won the 1939 Tripuri Congress presidential election by defeating Gandhi's preferred candidate, Pattabhi Sitaramayya. However, he **failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi**. The old guard (right-wing) of the Congress, backed by Gandhi, refused to cooperate with him, ultimately forcing his resignation.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Congress Left was deeply disunited** during this crisis. Instead of standing firmly as a consolidated faction behind Bose, different leftist groups pursued conflicting agendas, which isolated Bose within the leadership structure.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The Communists (as part of the Left Consolidated Committee) **initially supported Bose** in his radical anti-imperialist endeavours inside the Congress, though they later distanced themselves from him when he formally split away and the international political scenario shifted with World War II. Therefore, a blanket statement that they did not support his endeavours is inaccurate.

Statement 4 is correct: Key socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan (representing the Congress Socialist Party) and M.N. Roy explicitly **preferred to maintain Congress unity**. They felt that dividing the primary anti-colonial front (INC) right before an impending global war would weaken the freedom struggle, leading them to withdraw active support from Bose's factional defiance

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:**Why Statement 1 is Incorrect**

Immediately following the annexation of Awadh in 1856, the British moved aggressively to dismantle the power of the local aristocrats. The **talukdars were disarmed and their forts were completely destroyed**. They were strictly forbidden from keeping private armies, armed retainers, or maintaining fortified bases. Additionally, while they were heavily dispossessed, they did not lose their *entire* estates; their landholding dropped from roughly 67% of Awadh's villages down to 38% under the initial settlement.

Why Statement 2 is Correct

The first British land policy introduced in the region was the **Summary Settlement of 1856**. This revenue system was fundamentally built on the official British assumption that the **talukdars were interlopers (outsiders)** who lacked any permanent, historical, or legal stakes in the land. The colonial administration claimed that these landlords had secured their estates purely through force, coercion, and fraud during the decline of the Nawabi rule.

Why Statement 3 is Correct

British officials operated under the economic philosophy that removing middlemen would optimize governance and revenue. They believed that by bypassing and removing the taluqdars, they could **settle revenue assessments directly with the actual cultivators and peasants**. The British argued this would protect the primary producers from feudal exploitation while simultaneously diverting a massive chunk of agricultural surplus straight into East India Company treasuries

8. Consider the following assertion :

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

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

All statements (1, 2, and 3) support the assertion, meaning the correct choice is typically "1, 2 and 3" (or "All of the above").

1. Reforms retained and extended the principle of separate electorates: This directly supports the assertion. The 1919 Reforms did not just keep the separate electorates introduced in 1909 for Muslims; they extended them to Sikhs, Europeans, Anglo-Indians, and Indian Christians. This institutionalised community identity as the basis for political participation.

2. Separate electorates were supposed to counter Indian nationalism, which was growing stronger: This explains the strategic motivation behind the reform's nature. By dividing the electorate along religious and community lines, the colonial government sought to fragment the growing, unified Indian national movement into localized, communal interests.

3. Deprived classes rallied around the favours inherent in separate electorates: This highlights the consequence of the system. Because political power and legislative seats were tied to community identity, depressed and deprived classes realized that organizing themselves as distinct social blocks was the only way to secure political safeguards and "favours," leading directly to the birth of community-driven alliance

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur was an eminent Indian classical vocalist who belonged to the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana. He received his rigorous training under Ustad Alladiya Khan's sons, Manji Khan and Bhurji Khan, which deeply shaped his unique style and mastery over complex, rare ragas (Anwat ragas).

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Vedic Roots: While the *Rig Veda* frequently invokes **Kshetrapati** ("Lord of the field") to bless agriculture, ploughing, and cattle, the specific feminine counterpart **Kshetra-patni** appears in the Atharva Veda (specifically AV-S II.12.1).

Evolution of Meaning: In early Vedic agricultural hymns, the term referred to a protective deity or personification presiding over fertile land.

Philosophical Transition: In later texts like the *Bhagavad Gita*, the underlying word **Kshetra** shifts from a literal piece of land to a profound philosophical concept denoting the physical body or the entire material world, while the soul is identified as the *Kshetrajna* ("knower of the field")

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

In Carnatic music, Dheera Shankarabharanam is the 29th Melakarta raga. It uses all seven notes in their basic, unaltered form (*Shuddha Swaras* in the Western sense, or all major notes). This precisely matches **Raga Bilawal** (or Bilawal Thaata) of Hindustani classical music, which serves as the foundational, all-natural major scale. Both are equivalent to the Western **C Major scale**

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Hilton-Young Commission (1926): Formally known as the *Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance*, it recommended fixing the rupee-sterling exchange rate at **1s. 6d.** (1 shilling and 6 pence) per rupee, instead of the ratio favored by Indian nationalists (1s. 4d.).

The British Motive: The overvalued exchange rate made British imports cheaper in India and reduced the rupee cost of "Home Charges" (colonial administrative costs, pensions, and interest on sterling debt) transferred to the UK.

Remittances & Creditworthiness: Maintaining this specific fixed rate ensured that the colonial government could smoothly manage these unilateral **remittances** back to London while assuring foreign investors of British India's stable fiscal capacity and **creditworthiness** to service its external debt.

Impact on India: This high rate artificially inflated the price of Indian goods abroad, which harmed Indian agricultural exporters and local cotton manufacturers by making their products uncompetitive

13. Consider the following statements :

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

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Transition to money economy: The first statement highlights the specific terminology used for different denominations of money (*kahapana*, *nikkha*, *hamsa*, and *kakanika*) found in early Buddhist (Pali) texts. The second statement corroborates this with thousands of physical, punch-marked silver and copper coins excavated from various historical sites. Together, this clear transition from barter to standard currency directly represents the **transition to a money economy**.

Emergence of urban life: In ancient Indian history, the advent of punch-marked coinage (around the 6th–5th centuries BCE) is inextricably linked to the "**Second Urbanisation**"—the period that saw the rise of the Mahajanapadas, major cities, complex trade routes, and specialized urban guilds. A money economy is a core structural prerequisite for maintaining sophisticated city life and administrative states. Therefore, these statements are also classic evidence used by historians to trace the **emergence of urban life** in northern India

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

1. Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami: This early Chalukya structure is one of the oldest and best-preserved examples of the **Dravida (South Indian) style**. Its shikhara features a octagonal dome-like structure (*shikhara*) over tiered storeys, characteristic of southern traditions.

2. **Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole:** Built during the Early Chalukya period, this temple is notable for introducing early northern architectural traits to the region, showcasing a distinct **Nagara-style curvilinear shikhara**.
3. **Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh:** Constructed during the Gupta period in northern India, this landmark monument is widely celebrated as one of the earliest standalone stone temples to feature a classical **Nagara-style shikhara** (curvilinear tower).
4. **Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal:** This massive, ornate temple complex was built by Queen Lokamahadevi to commemorate a victory over the Pallavas. It is modeled directly on the Kailasanatha temple of Kanchipuram and represents the pinnacle of the **Dravida style** in early Chalukya art

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

According to Jain philosophy, a worldly soul wanders endlessly through a cycle of rebirths across **four realms of existence**, known as the **Four Gatis** (*Chau Gati*). These four main states of existence are:

- 1. **Deva (Celestial or Heavenly Beings / Gods):** Living in the heavenly realms.
- 2. **Manushya (Humans):** The human form, which is considered highly privileged because it is the only realm from which a soul can achieve ultimate liberation (*Moksha*).
- 3. **Tiryancha (Animals and Plants):** This comprehensive category covers all sub-human life, including quadrupeds, birds, insects, plants, and microorganisms.
- 4. **Naraki (Hellish Beings):** The fourth core state of existence, consisting of souls suffering in the netherworlds or hells due to their negative karma

16. The Hallisalasya painting in the Bagh Caves represents :

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

The Hallisalasya (also known as Hallisaka) painting inside Cave 4 of the Bagh Caves in Madhya Pradesh portrays a joyous, secular folk dance. The mural features a group of female dancers and musicians moving in a circle, and it is historically considered an early precursor to the Rasa Lila

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: The earliest epigraphic (inscriptional) evidence of the decimal place-value system within India is found in the **Mankani plates of Taralasvamin** from Gujarat, which are dated to Kalachuri Year 346, corresponding to **AD 595–596**. Although some epigraphists debate the authenticity or absolute proof of certain early plates, this specific record is universally cited in historical examinations of ancient Indian scientific developments as the earliest epigraphic trace.

Statement 2 is correct: While the decimal place-value system was known and used by mathematicians much earlier (such as Aryabhata), its adoption in official public inscriptions took centuries to completely standardise. By the **ninth century AD**, the use of the place-value system and decimal notation became widespread and general in inscriptions across all regions of India.

Statement 3 is correct: Interestingly, some of the most definitive early physical evidence of the place-value system actually appears outside the Indian mainland. Sanskrit and Old Khmer inscriptions found in Southeast Asia (such as the Sambor inscription in Cambodia and others in Sumatra/Java) explicitly use decimal place-values and the symbol for zero as early as the **seventh century AD (specifically, dates ranging from 604 to 683 CE)**.

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

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

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement I → Inference 1

- The discovery of numerous **spindle-whorls** but absence of spinning wheels indicates that spinning was done manually at the household level.
- This suggests spinning was a **labour-intensive domestic activity**.

Statement II → Inference 2

- Standardized **weights and measurement scales with graduations** reflect advanced mathematical precision and scientific understanding among the Harappans.
- It also indicates regulated trade and administration.

Statement III → Inference 3

- Spacious brick houses with wells and courtyards indicate urban planning and prosperity.
- However, this does **not** imply a **common property system**.
- In fact, variation in house sizes suggests differences in wealth and social status.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Bardoli Satyagraha (1928): Triggered in the Bardoli taluka of Gujarat when the British colonial government announced a **22% hike in land revenue**. Led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the peasants successfully launched a no-tax movement forcing the government to roll back the excessive assessment.

Eka Movement (1921–1922): Formed in the northern districts of Avadh (U.P.), the primary grievance of the peasants was the **exorbitant extraction of rent** by landlords and taluqdars, which was often 50% higher than the legally recorded rent.

20. Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic period :

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

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

1. There is evidence in the Rigveda of the use of asma chakra (stone pulley wheel) and ahava (strapped wooden pails) to draw up water.
2. Mention has been made in the Rigveda of the use of implements like parashu/kulisha (axe) and datra/srni (sickle).

3. There is a history of the use of ox, even before the Rigveda, for ploughing the land and pulling the carts.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **Information 1** explicitly supports both Statement I (irrigation via wells/troughs) and Statement II (use of pulleys needing heavy draught animal pulling power).
- **Information 2** does not support either statement. Axes (parashu/kulisha) and sickles (datra/srni) relate to forest clearance and to harvesting; they say nothing about drawing water out of wells or about the use of draught-animal power to lift it, which is precisely what Statements I and II assert.
- **Information 3** supports the baseline usage patterns of oxen mentioned in Statement II (establishing that draught animal power was long available and relied upon for farm traction).

Therefore, only Informations 1 and 3 bear on the two statements, and **(c) 1 and 3 only** is the correct combination.

Q21. Tungurahua Volcano, which was declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO in 2025, is situated in which one among the following countries?

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

Answer: (a) Ecuador

Explanation

The **Tungurahua Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark** in **Ecuador** spans nearly **2,397 sq. km** across the **Andes Mountains** and is named after the active **Tungurahua Stratovolcano**, popularly called the **“Throat of Fire”** in the Quichua language. The geopark preserves over **417 million years of volcanic and glacial history**, featuring **deep canyons, waterfalls, crystal-clear rivers, and therapeutic hot springs**. The famous town of **Baños de Agua Santa**, located at the volcano’s base, is known for **adventure tourism**, mineral-rich thermal baths, and the iconic **“La Casa del Árbol”** swing viewpoint. Managed across five municipalities and two provinces, the geopark reflects a successful balance between **geotourism, cultural heritage preservation, environmental awareness, and community resilience**. UNESCO recognized the site for its exceptional **geological heritage**, active volcanic landscape, and the ability of local communities to sustain a diversified economy despite recurrent volcanic activity.

<https://science.nasa.gov/earth/earth-observatory/eruption-of-tungurahua-7215/>

Q22. With reference to Madhav National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In March 2025, the Government of India officially notified **Madhav National Park** as the **58th Tiger Reserve** of India. It became the 9th Tiger Reserve in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Sakhya Sagar** is a major lake located within Madhav National Park. It was designated as a **Ramsar Site** (Wetland of International Importance) in 2022.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Madhav National Park is situated entirely in the **Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh**. While it is part of a larger ecological corridor that connects with Rajasthan (the Ranthambore-Kuno-Madhav corridor), the park's administrative area is not shared with Rajasthan.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/indias-58th-tiger-reserve-madhav-tiger-reserve-madhya-pradesh>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/madhav-national-park-45>

Q23. With reference to the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands feature a typical **humid, tropical coastal climate**. The proximity to the equator keeps the temperatures warm throughout the year (ranging roughly between 22°C and 32°C), while surrounding oceanic waters ensure high levels of humidity.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to their unique geographic position in the Bay of Bengal, the islands experience a dual monsoon regime. They receive heavy rainfall from both the **South-west monsoon** (typically from May to September) and the returning **North-east monsoon** (typically from October to December).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The islands receive their *maximum* precipitation between **May and November** (accounting for roughly 80-90% of their total annual rainfall). The period between January and April is actually considered the dry season, characterized by minimal rainfall and clear skies.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/andaman-nicobar-islands>

Q24. Which of the following geographical features or phenomena is/are associated with the Peninsular Block of India?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Western Coast of India has experienced significant tectonic activity and structural changes. Parts of the western coast (such as Mumbai, Konkan, and parts of Gujarat) underwent **submergence**

beneath the Arabian Sea due to faulting and tilting of the Peninsular Block during the Tertiary period. This process gave the western coast its characteristic indentation and natural harbor sites.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Peninsular Block is primarily composed of highly relict and ancient stable landmasses. The hills of the Eastern Ghats—such as the **Veliconda Hills** (Andhra Pradesh) and the **Mahendragiri Hills** (Odisha)—are classic examples of **residual (or relict) mountain ranges**. They have been heavily denuded and dissected by ancient river systems over millions of years.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Deep, V-shaped valleys and rapid vertical erosion are characteristic features of *youthful* river systems found in the **Himalayan region**, not the Peninsular Block. Peninsular rivers (like the Godavari, Krishna, and Mahanadi) flow through broad, shallow, and graded valleys with low gradients. This is because the Peninsular landscape is geologically old and its drainage systems have largely reached a state of maturity.

Q25. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India:

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

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

- 1 only
- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3
- 3 only

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Explanation

NOTE: 2025 marked 10 years of Sagarmala Programme

1. Statement II validates the effectiveness of the strategies envisioned in statement I.

- Statement I highlights the core strategy: achieving port-led growth through cost-effective coastal infrastructure. Statement II confirms that this strategy works by showcasing the actual outcomes, such as major growth in water shipping routes and boosted global port rankings.
- For example, projects like the **Ghogha–Hazira Ro-Pax Ferry Service** slashed cross-region travel times from 10 hours on the road down to just 4 hours by sea. Additionally, dedicated coastal berth developments successfully added **9.84 MTPA of cargo capacity**, showing that infrastructure upgrades directly drive shipping efficiency.

2. Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework.

- Statement III introduces **Sagarmala 2.0**, which is an expansion of the initial targets. It takes the fundamental infrastructure baseline established in Statement I and maps it onto a generational timeline.
- The project scales up its objectives to align with the **Viksit Bharat Mission**, targeting sustainable maritime modernization to help drive India toward a **\$30 trillion economy by 2047**.

3. Statement I contradicts statement III by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation.

- This statement is incorrect because the relationship is complementary, not contradictory.
- The program's framework relies on a phased evolution. Building physical foundations—such as upgrading port connectivity and developing industrial clusters—serves as the mandatory launchpad for the high-tech, sustainable maritime innovations planned for the 2047 expansion.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/sagarmala-project-44>

Q26. Consider the following statements about *Rhynchosstylis retusa* (Foxtail orchid):

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** *Rhynchosstylis retusa* (popularly known as the Foxtail Orchid) is an **epiphytic orchid**, meaning it grows non-parasitically on other plants (typically tree trunks and branches) for physical support while absorbing moisture and nutrients from the air and rain.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is **not endemic** to North-east India. While it is highly abundant and culturally significant there, its geographical distribution is widespread across the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia—including Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, the Western Ghats, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** It is officially recognized as the **State Flower of both Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**. In Assam, it is locally known as *Kopou Phool* and holds immense cultural value as an essential adornment for dancers during the Bohag Bihu festival.

Q27. Which one of the following statements with regard to the Moidams, built by the Tai-Ahom kingdom and inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is/are correct?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: Moidams did not act as **army fortresses**. They were not defensive or military structures. Instead, they were **funerary monuments** built as **mound burial sites** using earth, bricks, and stones, primarily in Assam's **Charaideo** region under the **Tai-Ahom dynasty**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Moidams were not **recreation centres** of royals and nobles. There is no historical or archaeological evidence supporting any **leisure or recreational function**. They were sacred **burial structures** associated with royal funerary practices.

Statement 3 is correct: Moidams were **burial grounds** of the royals and nobles of the **Tai-Ahom dynasty**. They enshrine the mortal remains of **Ahom royalty**, often buried along with their **paraphernalia**. After the 18th century, **cremated remains** were also entombed in Moidams at **Charaideo** following the adoption of **Hindu cremation practices**.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Moidams were not **battle drill centres**. The **Ahom military system** functioned separately, with organised **infantry, navy, artillery, and guerrilla warfare traditions**, but Moidams had no role in **military training or combat preparation**.

Do you know?

During its 46th session in New Delhi, the World Heritage Committee officially inscribed the '**Moidams – the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty**' on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

These structures represent the **late medieval (13th–19th century CE) mound burial tradition** of the **Tai-Ahom dynasty of Assam**. They were primarily constructed using **earth, bricks, and stone**, typically forming a mound of earth often enclosed by a **brick or stone wall**. Located mainly in **Charaideo district of Assam**, Moidams serve as the **resting place of the Ahom royal families**, enshrining the mortal remains of royalty who were often buried along with their **paraphernalia**. After the **18th century**, the Ahom rulers adopted **Hindu cremation practices** and began entombing the **cremated bones and ashes** in Moidams at Charaideo. These burial systems are considered comparable to the **royal tombs of ancient China and the Pyramids of Egypt**. The **Ahom Kingdom**, established in **1228 in the Brahmaputra valley by Chaolung Sukapha**, ruled Assam for nearly **600 years until 1826 (Treaty of Yandaboo)**. The kingdom had a structured **administrative system based on paiks (forced labour)** and was organized into **khels (clans controlling villages)**. The Ahoms maintained a strong **military system comprising infantry, navy, artillery, elephantry, cavalry, and spies**, and were known for their expertise in **guerrilla warfare and riverine military tactics**, including the historic **Battle of Saraighat (1671)** led by **Lachit Borphukan**, where they defeated the Mughal forces.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/moidams>

Q28. At the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) held in June, 2025 in France, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations demonstrated its leading voice on marine and ocean issues, especially on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for resilient livelihood and "Blue Transformation".

Which of the following combinations about the "Four Betters" proposed by FAO for "Blue Transformation" is correct?

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

Answer: (b) Better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life.

Explanation

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Strategic Framework 2022-31 provides a ten-year roadmap designed to support the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development amidst escalating global risks, macroeconomic uncertainties, and the compounding challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. At its core, the framework aims to drive a fundamental transformation toward more efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agri-food systems. This mission is organized around a core systemic narrative known as the **"four betters"**:

- **Better Production**
- **Better Nutrition**
- **Better Environment**
- **Better Life**

These four pillars serve as an interconnected organizing principle to leave no one behind, while directly contributing to **SDG 1 (No Poverty)**, **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**, and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**.

To turn this vision into tangible results, the FAO has moved away from bespoke, isolated targets and transitioned to a common language by identifying **twenty Programme Priority Areas (PPAs)**. Guided by strategic foresight that monitors 18 critical socio-economic and environmental drivers—such as climate change, natural resource degradation, and market concentration—the FAO will implement its interventions across all programs by deploying four cross-cutting **"accelerators"**:

1. **Technology**
2. **Innovation**
3. **Data**
4. **Complements** (encompassing governance, human capital, and institutional strength)

Ultimately, the framework outlines a shift toward a **"One FAO"** business model. This model is designed to optimize the organization's normative strengths, build transformative partnerships, and leverage innovative financing to effectively navigate an era of increasing risk and vulnerability.

Q29. Which of the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana is/are correct?

1. It is the largest desert lake in the world.
2. The lake is situated in South Sudan along the eastern fringe of the Sahara desert.

3. The lake is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also referred to as the 'Jade Sea'.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation

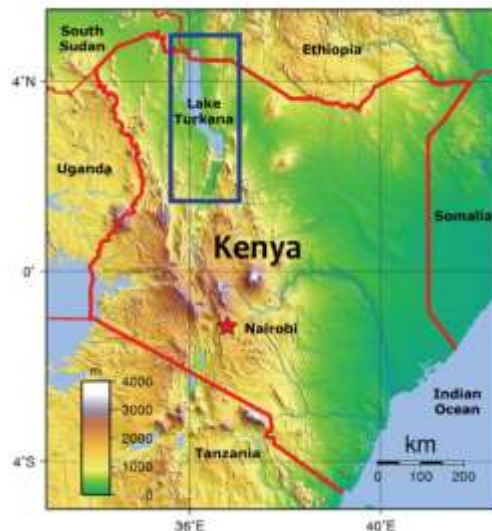
Statement 1 is correct: Lake Turkana is the world's largest permanent desert lake. It is also the fourth-largest lake in Africa and is located in the East African Rift Valley system, making it a unique arid-zone lake with significant ecological and geological importance.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Lake Turkana is not located in South Sudan nor along the Sahara desert margin. It is situated mainly in northern Kenya, with its northern tip extending into southern Ethiopia, within the Eastern arm of the East African Rift System.

Statement 3 is correct: Lake Turkana is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its outstanding geological and ecological value. It is also famously known as the "Jade Sea" because of its distinctive greenish-blue (jade) waters caused by its mineral-rich, alkaline nature.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/nakura-dam>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/unesco-list-of-world-heritage-sites-in-danger>



Q30. Which one of the following is the first Plan Vivo certified Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) project in India?

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

Answer: (c) Khasi Hills Community REDD+ project

Explanation

The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project (Meghalaya) is India's first community-based REDD+ programme and the first in India to receive Plan Vivo certification. It began in 2011 and focuses on avoided deforestation and assisted natural regeneration of around 27,000 hectares of cloud forest in the East Khasi Hills region. The project also supports community livelihoods, women-led microfinance, forest fire control, and biodiversity conservation in a globally significant biodiversity hotspot.

Q31. Consider the following statements with reference to India's response to climate change:

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

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

1. Statement I is empirically supported by statement II.
2. Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in statement I.
3. Statement I and statement III together establish the premise of long-term sustainability.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Statement I is correct: India's **Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS)** is a key policy document submitted to the **UNFCCC in 2022**. It lays out India's **long-term pathway toward low-carbon development and achieving net-zero emissions by 2070**, while balancing development needs, energy security, and climate resilience.

Statement II is correct: India's **4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4)**, submitted in **December 2024**, reported an approximately **7.93% reduction in total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 compared to 2019**, as per official government data released by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.

Statement III is incorrect: **Climate-resilient development (CRD)** does not depend only on **quick and short-term emission reductions**. As highlighted by the **IPCC and India's climate policy approach**, CRD requires a **balanced mix of mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable development**, with both short-term actions and long-term structural transformations. Focusing only on short-term emission cuts is insufficient for long-term resilience.

Relationship analysis:

1. **Statement I is empirically supported by statement II (Correct):** Statement I establishes a long-term goal (Net Zero by 2070). Statement II provides empirical, real-world data showing that India is actively tracking and succeeding in reducing its absolute carbon footprint on its way to that long-term target.
2. **Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in statement I (Correct):** Statement I relies on a **long-term, transitional strategy** (LT-LEDS over multiple decades up to 2070). Statement III asserts that climate resilience *necessarily* depends on **quick and short-term** targets. Therefore, the short-term compulsion of Statement III directly contradicts the structural, phased approach of Statement I.
3. **Statement I and statement III together establish the premise of long-term sustainability (Incorrect):** Because Statement III demands quick, short-term results and ignores the gradual transition required for a developing nation, it undermines rather than establishes a balanced premise for long-term sustainability alongside Statement I.

Thus, relationships 1 and 2 are correct, making **(b)** the right choice.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/indias-long-term-low-emission-development-strategy>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/indias-emissions-inventory-efforts-at-mitigation>

Q32. With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 2

Explanation:

The Western Hoolock Gibbon is India's only ape species and is strictly **arboreal (tree-dwelling)**, using a unique locomotion method called **brachiation**, where it swings hand-over-hand between branches.

Let's evaluate the statements:

Statement 1 – Correct

The Western Hoolock Gibbon is listed as **Endangered on the IUCN Red List**. It is found in Northeast India, and sanctuaries like the **Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary (Assam)** provide important habitat protection.

Statement 2 – Correct

They are specialized for **brachiation**, which allows them to swing efficiently between trees in the forest canopy. This is their primary mode of movement.

Statement 3 – Incorrect

They do **not** have a strong and heavy build like gorillas. In fact, gibbons are **lightweight, slender, and highly agile**, adapted for life in trees, not ground-based strength.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/western-hoolock-gibbon-habitat-features-diet-iucn-status>

Q33. Which of the following best explain(s) the rationale for protecting mangrove ecosystems in the context of climate resilience?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 3 only.

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Incorrect:

Mangroves do not store freshwater; rather, they grow in **saline and brackish water conditions**. They are not suitable for freshwater-dependent crops like paddy. While some coastal regions such as the **pokkali fields of Kerala** or **bheris of the Sundarbans** practice traditional salt-tolerant farming near estuaries, this is not because mangroves create freshwater conditions. In fact, clearing mangroves for agriculture worsens soil conditions and increases vulnerability to coastal hazards.

Statement 2 is Incorrect:

Mangroves do not have salt-sensitive roots; they are **halophytes (salt-tolerant plants)**. They survive by filtering and excreting salt. Moreover, converting mangrove ecosystems into freshwater or even aquaculture zones is ecologically damaging and is a major cause of mangrove loss, not a benefit derived from them.

Statement 3 is Correct:

Mangroves act as powerful **natural bio-shields**, with dense root networks that absorb tidal energy and reduce the impact of cyclones, storm surges, and even tsunamis. They also support rural livelihoods by providing **fuelwood, timber, honey, fisheries nursery grounds, crab collection**, and other ecosystem services, making them vital for both protection and sustenance in coastal regions.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/mangroves-41>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/sundarbans>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/mangroves-2>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/mangroves>

Q34. In what way(s) does the Vizhinjam International Seaport represent a structural shift in India's maritime trade and logistics policy?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Incorrect:

Vizhinjam International Seaport does not function exclusively as a domestic cargo hub. In fact, it is India's **first deep-water transshipment port**, designed to handle **international container traffic**. Its core objective is to reduce dependence on foreign transshipment hubs like Colombo and Singapore, not to eliminate foreign collaborations or focus only on domestic coastal shipping.

Statement 2 is Incorrect:

The port is not primarily designed for **passenger cruise tourism or heritage shipping**. While cruise facilities may exist as a supplementary feature, the strategic focus of Vizhinjam is on **container transshipment and global cargo movement**, not tourism or heritage branding.

Statement 3 is Correct:

Vizhinjam leverages its **natural deep draft (18–20 meters)** and **strategic location just off major global shipping routes**. This allows it to accommodate large vessels, reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment ports, and help retain revenue within the country. It is a structural shift in India's maritime logistics policy aimed at positioning India as a **regional maritime hub**.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/vizhinjam-port-23>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/vizhinjam-port-project>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/vizhinjam-port>

Q35. Identify the river of the Indian sub-continent on the basis of the following information:

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

Select the answer from the following:

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

Answer: (c) Sutlej

Explanation:

The **Sutlej River** is a major tributary of the **Indus River system**. It originates from the **Tibetan Plateau near Lake Rakshastal in China**, then flows through **India (Himachal Pradesh and Punjab)** and enters **Pakistan**, thereby passing through **three countries**, satisfying statement 2.

It is also an example of an **antecedent drainage system**, meaning the river existed before the uplift of the Himalayas. As the mountains rose, the Sutlej maintained its course by cutting deep gorges through the rising terrain rather than being diverted. The river is highly significant for **irrigation**, especially in north-west India and Pakistan, where it feeds extensive canal systems like the **Sirhind Canal system**, supporting intensive agriculture in Punjab and adjoining regions. Importantly, the Sutlej **does not form distributaries**, because it does not develop a deltaic network before joining the Indus system.

Why other options are incorrect (with specifics)

The **Indus River** also originates in the Tibetan Plateau and flows through **China, India, and Pakistan**, and it is a major irrigation lifeline. However, before reaching the **Arabian Sea in Pakistan**, the Indus River **splits into a complex delta system with about 17 active and abandoned distributaries**. Prominent active distributaries include **Hajamro, Ghorabari, Piti, Mouthani, Juna, and Khaur**, forming the **Indus River Delta**, which directly violates statement 4.

The **Brahmaputra River** flows through **China, India, and Bangladesh** and is also antecedent in nature. However, it develops a **highly braided channel system and distributaries in its lower course**, especially in Bangladesh, disqualifying it due to statement 4.

The **Teesta River** flows through exactly **two countries: India and Bangladesh**. Originating from **Himalayan glaciers in Sikkim (India)**, it travels about **414 km southward through West Bengal** before entering Bangladesh, where it eventually merges with the **Brahmaputra River system**, not flowing through three countries and thus failing statement 2.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/satluj-river>

Q36. Which of the following with reference to Indian States is/are not correct?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) 2 and 3

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: **Uttar Pradesh** shares its borders with the highest number of other Indian states. It is bordered by **8 states** (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Bihar) and **1 Union Territory** (Delhi).

Statement 2 is incorrect: **West Bengal** shares the longest international land border among all Indian states, spanning **2,217 km** along the India-Bangladesh border. While Rajasthan shares a extensive border with Pakistan (1,037 km), it is significantly shorter than West Bengal's boundary with Bangladesh.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Sikkim is *not* the only state that shares its boundary with just one other Indian state. There are actually **two** such states in India:

1. **Sikkim** – shares its domestic border exclusively with *West Bengal*.
2. **Meghalaya** – shares its domestic border exclusively with *Assam*

Q37. Which of the following statements with regard to the arrival of Amur Falcons at Doyang Lake in Nagaland each year from Mongolia is/are correct?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: The arrival of the Amur Falcons at Doyang Lake in Pangti village, Nagaland, is celebrated globally as one of the most successful community-led conservation stories. In the early 2010s, tens of thousands of these raptors were being hunted for meat daily. Through aggressive, sustained conservation campaigns led by local communities, NGOs, and the forest department, the hunting was completely stopped. Today, the village acts as a safe haven, earning Nagaland the title of "Falcon Capital of the World."

Statement 2 is incorrect: While scientists use advanced tracking technologies (like satellite radio transmitters) to *study and map* their migration routes, these technologies do not "guide" the birds back. Migratory birds rely entirely on their intrinsic biological mechanisms—such as the Earth's magnetic field, the position of the sun/stars, and genetic memory—to navigate their journey.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Amur Falcons have *not* adapted to permanent residency in India. They remain strictly **long-distance migratory birds**. They breed in East Asia (Siberia and Mongolia), fly to Northeast India (specifically Nagaland and Manipur) as a brief autumn stopover to fatten up on termites, and then embark on an incredible non-stop flight across the Arabian Sea to winter in Southern Africa.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/amur-falcon-habitat-features-diet-iucn-status>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/amur-falcon>

Q38. Which among the following is/are the objective(s) of the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) initiative under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (d) 3 only

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect: Encouraging monoculture in rainfed areas is not an objective of the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) initiative under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). The RAD framework is designed specifically to move away from monoculture systems. It promotes **diversified Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)** that combine **crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and agro-forestry**. The aim is to improve **income stability, risk diversification, and climate resilience**, especially in vulnerable rainfed regions.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Increasing rice cultivation in irrigated regions is not part of the RAD objectives. The initiative is focused exclusively on **rainfed agriculture**, not irrigated farming systems. Its goal is to strengthen **rainfed farming**

sustainability through **resource efficiency, diversification, and resilience-building**, rather than promoting any specific crop in irrigated areas.

Statement 3 is correct: Enhancing productivity and minimising climatic risks through Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) is a central objective of the RAD initiative. It adopts a **watershed-plus approach** and promotes **cluster-based development models** that integrate multiple farming components. This helps improve **productivity**, ensures **income diversification**, and reduces **climate-related risks** in rainfed agricultural systems.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/climate-resilient-agriculture-in-india-challenges-schemes-way-forward>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-editorials/why-does-india-need-climate-resilient-agriculture>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/impact-of-climate-change-on-farmers>

Q39. Which of the following is/are the most significant implication(s) of obtaining Oeko-Tex certification for Eri Silk in the global textile industry?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: Obtaining **Oeko-Tex certification** for Eri Silk significantly enhances its position in the global textile market. As per PIB, this certification assures that the product is **free from harmful substances** and meets strict **international safety and quality standards**. This enables Indian exporters to access **high-end global markets**, especially those that prioritise **eco-friendly, chemical-free, and sustainable textiles**.

Statement 2 is correct: The certification also confirms that Eri Silk complies with **international safety, environmental, and quality benchmarks**. This compliance increases **consumer confidence** and improves acceptance in **premium eco-conscious markets worldwide**, aligning the product with global demand for **ethical and sustainable fashion materials**.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/eri-silk>

Q40. Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach the Indian Ocean?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3

Explanation

The **Strait of Hormuz** is a strategically vital maritime chokepoint that connects the **Persian Gulf** to the Gulf of Oman and the wider Indian Ocean. Any country whose coastline lies exclusively within the landlocked expanse of the Persian Gulf relies completely on this narrow strait to access open global waters.



Country Analysis

- **Bahrain (Included):** Bahrain is an island nation located entirely inside the Persian Gulf. To travel into the Indian Ocean, any ship departing from its ports must sail eastward through the Persian Gulf and pass directly through the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Qatar (Included):** Qatar is a peninsula jutting out into the central Persian Gulf. Just like Bahrain, its maritime logistics are completely bound by the gulf's geography, making transit through the Strait of Hormuz mandatory to head south into the Indian Ocean.



- **Egypt (Excluded):** Egypt is located in northeast Africa. Its maritime access routes are through the Mediterranean Sea to its north and the **Red Sea** to its east. Ships from Egypt sail south through the Red Sea and enter the Indian Ocean via the **Bab-el-Mandeb** strait into the Gulf of Aden, bypassing the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz entirely.
- **Syria (Excluded):** Syria is located in the Levant region and has a coastline exclusively along the eastern **Mediterranean Sea**. For a Syrian ship to reach the Indian Ocean, it would travel through the Mediterranean, transit south via Egypt's Suez Canal, enter the Red Sea, and pass through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait.

Thus, only Bahrain (1) and Qatar (3) are Persian Gulf littoral nations dependent on the Strait of Hormuz, making option (b) the correct choice.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/strait-of-hormuz>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/us-initiates-naval-blockade-of-strait-of-hormuz>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/strait-of-hormuz-how-a-blockade-could-cripple-the-indian-economy>

Q. 41. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists :

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

Code :

	A	B	C	D
(a)	3	1	2	4
(b)	3	2	1	4
(c)	4	2	1	3
(d)	4	1	2	3

Answer: C

Explanation:

A. Silver Notice — 4. To identify and trace criminal assets

The Silver Notice is a newer specialized alert designed to help member countries share intelligence to locate, monitor, and trace illicit wealth and laundered assets (such as bank accounts, real estate, and digital assets).

B. Blue Notice — 2. To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities

Also known as an enquiry notice, it helps gather intelligence on an individual's location or background regarding a criminal investigation, often before formal charges are filed.

C. Black Notice — 1. To seek information on unidentified bodies

This notice is issued globally to help identify deceased individuals whose remains have been found but whose identities cannot be established locally.

D. Green Notice — 3. To provide warning about a person's criminal activities

This serves as an alert for individuals who have committed criminal offenses and are considered a persistent potential threat to public safety in other jurisdictions.



Sources for Answer:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpol_notice?utm

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/silver-notice>

Q42. Which of the following statements in relation to NIRANTAR (National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience), a platform of institutions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

NIRANTAR (National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience) is an institutional coordination platform established by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** to promote synergies, cross-collaboration, and shared scientific outcomes among various environmental bodies without setting up any new physical infrastructure or increasing manpower.

Statement 1 is Correct: The **Ecosystem Survey and Analysis** vertical is led by the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)**, Kolkata. This vertical focuses on surveying and analyzing floral and faunal resources, utilizing the expertise of organizations like the BSI and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

Statement 2 is Incorrect: The **Research and Management of Ecosystem Services** vertical is led by the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)**, Dehradun, **not** the Central Zoo Authority (CZA). The ICFRE is the apex body for forestry research, making it the designated lead for ecosystem management and research services. The CZA primarily regulates zoos and is not the lead for this broad research vertical.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **Capacity Development Support** vertical is led by the **Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM)**, Bhopal. The IIFM specializes in management education and training in the forestry sector, making it the natural lead for capacity building and human resource development under the platform.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2213829®=3&lang=1>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/nirantar-platform-explained>

Q43. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany visited India in January, 2026. Which of the following is/are not correct in terms of outcomes of this visit?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

- (a) 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4

(d) 1 only

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Charité Medical University, Berlin**, **not** the University of Hamburg. This agreement **focuses** on collaborative research in traditional medicine.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** **Hockey India** and the **German Hockey Federation** effectively **signed** an MoU on **Youth Hockey Development** to strengthen sports cooperation.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Both nations **established** a dedicated **bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific** to coordinate maritime security and strategic interests in the region.
- **Statement 4 is Incorrect:** The list of official outcomes **include** the opening of an Honorary Consul in Ahmedabad. Germany currently **maintains** Honorary Consuls in cities like **Goa, Hyderabad, and Thiruvananthapuram**.

Sources for Answer:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl%2F40582%2FList of Outcomes Visit of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany to India January 12 2026=&utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl%2F40582%2FList+of+Outcomes+Visit+of+the+Chancellor+of+the+Federal+Republic+of+Germany+to+India+January+12+2026=&utm_source=chatgpt.com)
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2209260®=3&lang=2>

Q44. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct ?

1. It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India.
2. It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

DHRUV64 Microprocessor: Key Facts

- **DIR-V Programme Milestone:** DHRUV64 **stands as the third chip fabricated** under the **Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Programme**. This initiative **aims directly** at enabling the creation of indigenous microprocessors for India's future.
- **India's First Homegrown 1.0 GHz Chip:** It **marks India's achievement** as the **first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor**.

Statement 1 is Correct: The **DIR-V Programme** explicitly **lists DHRUV64 as the third chip** in its fabrication sequence, following THEJAS32 and THEJAS64.

Statement 2 is Correct: Official announcements confirm DHRUV64's status as the first indigenous chip to reach the 1.0 GHz speed benchmark with a 64-bit dual-core architecture.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelId=156505&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=1>

<https://www.iasgvan.in/daily-current-affairs/national-technology-day-2026-history-significance-theme>

Q45. The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) recently introduced a national standard to test and assess bomb disposal system. Which of the following statements with regard to this system is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Correct: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) officially designates the new standard as **IS 19445:2025**. This standard sets the **Performance Evaluation and Requirements** for bomb disposal systems.

Statement 2 is Correct: The standard creates a **unified framework** for testing and certification. This uniformity directly **improves interoperability** across different agencies (like police, paramilitary, and defense forces) by ensuring all equipment meets the same benchmarks.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL)**, a DRDO lab, developed this standard. However, it was created **in collaboration with Indian stakeholders** (like the Ministry of Home Affairs), **not** with the 30th Central Scientific Research Institute, Russia.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2209191®=3&lang=1>

<https://www.iasgvan.in/daily-current-affairs/bureau-of-indian-standards-bis>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2209191®=3&lang=2>

Q46. 'X', born in the UK, was conferred the Nobel Prize in 2025. He was a professor in an American university when this prize was announced. Identify 'X' :

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- John Clarke received the **2025 Nobel Prize in Physics** for his work on macroscopic quantum tunneling.
- He **was born** in Cambridge, United Kingdom, in 1942.
- He **held** the position of Professor of Physics at the **University of California, Berkeley (USA)** when the committee announced the prize.

Other options

- Michel H. Devoret: He **shared** the 2025 Physics prize but **hails** from **France**, not the UK.
- Richard Robson: He **won** the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry but **conducts** his research at the **University of Melbourne** in **Australia**, not an American university.
- Joel Mokyr: He **accepted** the 2025 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences but **was born** in the Netherlands, not the UK.

Sources for Answer:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/science/nobel-prize-in-physics-2025-john-clarke-michel-devoret-and-john-martinis-win-award-for-breakthroughs-in-quantum-tunnelling-and-energy-quantisation-details/articleshow/124359009.cms>
<https://www.iasgyan.in/tag/nobel-prize-physics-2025>

Q47. Which of the following statements with regard to the Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments: Key Facts

- **Shared Governance Structure:** The four Grand Slam tournaments **have established** a shared governance structure. This partnership **allows** them to lead a shared vision for advancing tennis while protecting the sport's history.
- **Eligibility Rules:** Entry is open to internationally ranked tennis players who are above the age of 14. **Players under 14 are not eligible.** Ranked players above that age **may enter** the main draw directly, through the qualifying event, or on a wild card.

- **Wild Card Limitations:** Players **do** face limitations on the number of Wild Cards they **may** **receive**, but this limit generally applies to a single season (e.g., on the WTA Tour, a player **may** **receive** a maximum of 3 wild cards in a year). There is **no** strict "career" limit on the total number of Wild Cards a player **may** **accept** over their lifetime.

Statement 1 is Correct: The four tournaments (Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon, US Open) **operate** as a unified partnership to coordinate rules, officiating, and strategic growth.

Statement 2 is Correct: The Grand Slams operate an open-entry framework. Subject only to the minimum age condition of 14, internationally ranked players are eligible to enter, whether by direct acceptance into the main draw, through the qualifying rounds, or via a wild card.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The limitation on Wild Cards **applies** per year (annual limits), not to a player's entire career. A player **can receive** Wild Cards in multiple different years throughout their career.

Sources for Answer:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Slam_\(tennis\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Slam_(tennis))

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/australian-open>

Q48. Which one of the following pairs of semiconductor plants in India and their locations is *not* correctly matched ?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement (a) is Correct: CG Power and Industrial Solutions (partnering with Renesas and STARS) **locates** its OSAT facility in **Sanand, Gujarat**.

Statement (b) is Correct: Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd. (TSAT) **builds** its indigenous semiconductor packaging unit in **Morigaon, Assam**.

Statement (c) is Incorrect: The HCL-Foxconn Joint Venture (India Chip Pvt. Ltd.) **establishes** its semiconductor facility in **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh** (specifically the YEIDA region), **not** in Madhya Pradesh.

Statement (d) is Correct: SicSem Pvt. Ltd. **sets up** the country's first Silicon Carbide (SiC) manufacturing plant in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Sources for Answer:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-economics/india-semiconductor-mission-12-chip-plants-display-fab-10675320/>

Q49. Which of the following statements with regard to India's indigenous new high resolution weather model, the 'Bharat Forecast System,' is/are correct ?

1. Its objective is to generate forecasts at the Panchayats cluster level.

2. It was developed by IIT Delhi.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS): Key Facts

- **Objective:** The **Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS)** aims directly at generating highly localized forecasts. It **operates** at a 6 km resolution, which effectively **corresponds** to the cluster of panchayats level. This high resolution **allows** for precise predictions of extreme weather events.
- **Development:** The **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune, **developed** the system. It is **powered** by the supercomputer 'Arka'.

Statement 1 is Correct: The system's primary goal is to provide actionable weather data at the **Panchayat cluster level** (approx. 6 km resolution), significantly improving upon previous 12 km models.

Statement 2 is Incorrect: **IITM Pune**, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, **created** the model, not IIT Delhi.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2220205®=3&lang=1>
<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/bharat-forecasting-system>

Q50. Consider the following statements with regard to the film 'Boong' :

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Correct: The film '**Boong**' won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (**BAFTA**) Award in the **Best Children's and Family Film** category. This win **occurred** at the 2026 ceremony in London.

Statement 2 is Correct: Lakshmipriya Devi directed the film. This project **marks** her directorial debut and **tells** the story of a young boy in Manipur.

Statement 3 is Correct: 'Boong' stands as the first Indian film to win a BAFTA specifically in the Children's and Family Film category. While Indian talent (like A.R. Rahman and Resul Pookutty) has won BAFTAs previously, and films like *Gandhi* (a UK co-production) have won Best Film, 'Boong' secured the first victory for an Indian production in this specific genre.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2232861®=3&lang=1>

Q51. Which of the following statements regarding the features of blockchain technology are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** Blockchain **stores** records in an immutable ledger. This feature **allows** organizations to share data with relevant stakeholders securely, because cryptographic hashing **prevents** unauthorized alteration.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** A decentralized network **distributes** identical copies of the entire ledger across multiple computers (nodes). These nodes **sync** the data within seconds whenever a new transaction block **receives** validation.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** A **Hybrid blockchain** combines public and private networks to allow selective data access. A **Consortium blockchain** operates under a group of multiple pre-selected organizations, not a mixture of open-to-all public and closed private structures.
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** Cryptographic hashing and consensus mechanisms **make** recorded data practically immutable. These mathematical algorithms **ensure** nobody can alter or delete a block once the network **accepts** and **adds** it to the chain.

Sources for Answer:

<https://blockchain.gov.in/Home/BlockChain?blockchain=feature>
<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/blockchain.asp>
<https://www.iasgyan.in/tag/blockchain-technology>

Q52. An e-commerce revenue model where the seller has control over pricing but doesn't keep products in stock and instead transfers customer orders and shipment details to a third-party supplier, who then ships the goods directly to the customer, is called :

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Dropshipping Model:** The seller **maintains** control over product pricing but **carries** zero inventory. When a buyer **places** an order, the seller **forwards** the customer details to a third-party supplier, who then **ships** the merchandise directly to the consumer.
- **Affiliate Revenue Model:** A business **earns** a commission by promoting and driving traffic to another merchant's products. The affiliate **exerts** no control over product pricing, fulfillment, or shipping.
- **Transaction Fee Revenue Model:** A platform (like eBay or PayPal) **charges** a fee or percentage for facilitating transactions between buyers and sellers. It **does not handle** product inventory or physical delivery.
- **Agency Revenue Model:** A firm **acts** as an agent or broker to connect buyers and sellers, earning a fixed percentage of the contract value. It **does not manage** retail storefront pricing or product fulfillment logistics.

Sources for Answer:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drop_shipping <https://news.abplive.com/business/what-is-dropshipping-e-commerce-business-strategy-sees-impact-in-india-1660236>
<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/open-network-for-digital-commerce-40>

Q53. Which one of the following correctly represents the three key sub-indices of the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

RBI Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index): Key Sub-Indices

- **Access Parameter:** This sub-index **measures** the availability of financial infrastructure. It **comprises** 35% of the total index weight and **tracks** banking outlets, ATMs, and post offices.
- **Usage Parameter:** This sub-index **evaluates** the actual consumption of financial services. It **holds** the highest weight at 45% and **monitors** active savings accounts, credit extensions, insurance policies, and pension sign-ups.
- **Quality Parameter:** This sub-index **assesses** the standard and safety of financial services. It **allocates** the remaining 20% of the weight to **evaluate** financial literacy, consumer protection, and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Methodology of Financial Inclusion Index



Source: RBI

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelD=154980&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=1#:~:text=FI%2DIndex%20is%20based%20on,financial%20literacy%20and%20consumer%20protection.>
<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/financial-inclusion-index-2025-rbi-report>

Q54. Which one of the following best describes the key objective of India's 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC) initiative ?

- To allow government control over all digital commerce transactions
- To replace private e-commerce players

- (c) To break the dominance of large e-commerce platforms by enabling interoperability across networks
- (d) To mandate UPI-based payments for all online transactions

Answer: C

Explanation:

ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) is a Government of India initiative designed to democratize e-commerce by breaking the monopoly of walled-garden platforms like Amazon and Flipkart. Instead of being a single app, it is a decentralized, open-protocol network that allows buyers and sellers to interact seamlessly, regardless of which app they use.

Key Objectives of the ONDC Initiative

- **Promote Open Networks:** ONDC **shifts** e-commerce from a platform-centric model to an open-network model. This open setup **allows** buyers and sellers to transact regardless of the specific application they use.
- **Enable Interoperability:** The network **connects** diverse platforms, logistics providers, and payment gateways seamlessly. This interoperability **democratizes** digital commerce for small retailers and local Kirana stores.
- **Break Market Monopolies:** It directly **curbs** the digital dominance of giant e-commerce aggregates. By providing equal access, it **fosters** a level playing field for all market participants.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1814143>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/open-network-for-digital-commerce-ondc>

Q55. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is *not* correct ?

- (a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
- (b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
- (c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
- (d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Digital Rupee is a **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** issued directly by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. Therefore, the **liability lies entirely with the central bank (RBI)**, not commercial banks.
- **UPI Liability:** UPI transactions route fiat money through commercial bank accounts. The **liability for bank deposits lies with the respective commercial banks**.

Statement (a) is Correct: UPI operates as an instant overlay **payment system** for commercial bank money. Digital Rupee serves as a **legal tender** digital equivalent of physical paper currency.

Statement (b) is Correct: UPI transfers require interbank **settlement behind the scenes**. Digital Rupee transfers directly between digital wallets, achieving **instant finality without bank settlement**.

Statement (c) is Correct: Commercial banks record all UPI transactions on **bank statements**. Digital Rupee transactions move anonymously from wallet to wallet, bypassing standard **commercial bank ledgers**.

Sources for Answer:

https://paytm.com/blog/digital_currency/digital-rupee-upi-understanding-key-differences/#:~:text=UPI%20facilitates%20instant%20bank%2Dto,offline%20payments%20and%20sovereign%20assurance.

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/central-bank-digital-currency-31>

Q56. Which of the following statements about Real-World Assets (RWA) Tokenization are correct ?

1. Tokenization is the process of turning real world assets into digital tokens using blockchain technology.
2. Tokenization of real world assets offers 24x7 access, promoting financial inclusion.
3. Tokenization of real world assets will allow the access to high growth investment opportunities for individuals in India.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Correct: Tokenization converts rights to a **physical or financial asset** (like real estate, gold, or bonds) into a **digital token**. Issuers manage and trade these tokens securely using **blockchain technology**.

Statement 2 is Correct: Decentralized networks operate continuously without traditional banking hours. Tokenization provides investors with **24/7 market access**, lowers entry barriers, and drives global **financial inclusion**.

Statement 3 is Correct: Tokenization enables **fractional ownership** of high-value assets. This allows retail individuals in India to invest small amounts into previously inaccessible, **high-growth investment opportunities**.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.npci.org.in/blog/understanding-asset-tokenization-to-unlock-digital-asset-potential>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/aadhaar-access-restrictions-and-welfare-exclusion>

Q57. A bond whose proceeds are used only to finance or refinance a combination of both environmental and social projects is called :

- (a) Green Bond
- (b) Social Bond
- (c) Sustainability Bond
- (d) Sovereign Bond

Answer: C

Explanation:

Sustainability Bonds: Issuers combine **environmental and social benefits** into a single debt instrument. They intentionally align the bond proceeds with both the **Green Bond Principles** and **Social Bond Principles**.

Other Options

- **Green Bonds (a):** Issuers direct these funds exclusively toward **climate mitigation and environmental protection**. Target areas strictly include projects like **renewable energy** and **clean transportation**.
- **Social Bonds (b):** Issuers deploy this capital solely to achieve **positive social outcomes**. These projects directly target specific underserved populations through **affordable housing, education, and healthcare**.
- **Sovereign Bonds (d):** National governments issue these debt securities to manage **national budgets and public debt**. They do not legally restrict the capital to **ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance)** frameworks.

Sources for Answer:

https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/sustainable-bonds_26726c68-en.html

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/green-security-increasing-need-of-climate-related-fund>

Q58. Which of the following statements about M1xchange's role in Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) financing is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

M1xchange has emerged as a galvanising force in financing for Indian MSMEs, fundamentally transforming how micro, small, and medium enterprises access working capital through its innovative Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform. As an RBI-approved digital marketplace, M1xchange has successfully bridged the critical financing gap in the MSME ecosystem.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** M1xchange provides **collateral-free** financing options. It does not demand assets for loans.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The platform actively **facilitates discounting** of unpaid invoices. It resolves short-term cash flow issues.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** M1xchange acts as an **online exchange marketplace**. It never operates as a credit rating agency.

M1xchange's Role

- **Speeds up Cash Flow:** M1xchange **converts trade receivables** into immediate liquid cash. MSMEs receive early payments instead of waiting for long credit periods.
- **Reduces Borrowing Costs:** Multiple financial institutions **bid for invoices** on the digital dashboard. This healthy competition lowers interest rates for small businesses.
- **Eliminates Asset Collateral:** Financiers **evaluate corporate buyers** rather than the weak financial history of small suppliers. MSMEs secure funds without blocking their fixed assets.
- **Simplifies Trade Documentation:** The platform completely **automates bill discounting** procedures. Digital workflows replace slow paper-based bank applications.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.m1xchange.com/how-m1xchange-is-revolutionising-msme-financing-in-india/>

Q59. Which one of the following best describes the 'Crowding Out Effect' in the context of fiscal policy?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

The 'Crowding Out Effect' describes a situation where **high government borrowing reduces private sector investment**.

- **Government Borrows Heavily:** The government **increases its spending** beyond its revenue capacity. It then **absorbs available funds** from the financial market to fund this deficit.
- **Interest Rates Rise:** This massive demand for loans **shrinks the pool** of available money. Banks then **raise loan interest rates** due to the scarcity of loanable capital.

- **Private Costs Increase:** High interest rates **make corporate borrowing expensive**. Private companies **postpone expansion plans** due to these prohibitive funding costs.
- **Private Investment Drops:** The high cost of capital actively **crowds out private investors**. This dynamic **shifts economic control** from private businesses to public sector spending.

Crowding-Out	Crowding-In
1. Government spending reduces private sector activity	1. Government spending stimulates economic activity
2. Decreases private sector investment.	2. Boosts private sector investment.
3. Leads to decreased consumption.	3. Leads to increased consumption.
4. Can be problematic during economic growth.	4. Can help during economic downturns.
5. Negative multiplier effect.	5. Positive multiplier effect.
6. Can lead to economic contraction.	6. Can lead to economic expansion.
7. Decreases aggregate demand.	7. Increases aggregate demand
8. Can increase unemployment.	8. Can lower unemployment
9. Can be harmful in an overheating economy	9. Can be beneficial in a recession.
10. Discourages private sector participation.	10. Encourages private sector participation.

www.economicsonline.co.uk

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/crowdingouteffect.asp>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/fiscal-deficit-15>

Q60. Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Modern technologies like Artificial Intelligence, robotics, and space exploration **use Rare Earth Elements (REEs) extensively** for components like magnets, batteries, and electronic displays.

Statement 2 is incorrect: While China **dominates global REE mining**, the United States and Australia follow as the next largest producers. India has significant **reserves** but currently **contributes a very small share** (less than 1%) to global mining production.

Statement 3 is correct: The Government of India **launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)** in 2025. This mission **aims to secure** the supply chain and **boost domestic production** and recycling of critical minerals.

Statement 4 is incorrect: Rare Earth Elements **consist of a set of 17 metallic elements**, not 13. This group **includes** the 15 lanthanides plus scandium and yttrium.

Sources for Answer:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2120525®=3&lang=2>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-current-affairs/rare-earth-reserves-in-india>

<https://www.iasgyan.in/daily-editorials/national-critical-mineral-mission-challenges-and-opportunities>

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct:

- *Aviation Hull Insurance is a highly specialized commercial insurance policy tailored specifically for the aviation industry to cover physical damage to the asset itself.*
- It works on an "all-risks" basis or specific ground/flight risks to cover the **physical hull of the aircraft**. This structurally encompasses the entire fuselage (the main body), the power plants (jet engines/turboprop systems), and all internal avionics and on-board equipment. Whether the damage happens mid-flight, during taxiing, or while parked on the tarmac, the hull policy pays for the repairs or total loss.

Statement 2 is correct:

- The **Montreal Convention of 1999 (MC99)** replaced the older Warsaw Convention framework to establish a uniform, fairer system for handling international airline liability. India acceded to this treaty, passing the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Act to align national law with it.
- MC99 introduces a **two-tier liability framework** for passenger injury or death:
 1. **Strict Liability (First Tier):** For damages up to a specific limit—currently indexed at **128,821 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** (roughly equivalent to 175,000 USD or ≈1.45 Crore INR)—the airline **cannot exclude or limit its liability**. The victim's family or legal nominee does not need to show proof of negligence or fault to secure this compensation.
 2. **Fault-Based Liability (Second Tier):** For any claim amounts exceeding this SDR limit, the airline can defend itself *only* if it can prove that the damage was not due to its negligence, or was entirely caused by the negligence of a third party.

Source: [International Union of Aerospace Insurers \(IUAL\)](#), [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) MC99 Resource Hub](#)

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Crowdfunding is fundamentally an alternative financing mechanism that leverages internet architecture to pool relatively small individual financial contributions from a large public audience ("the crowd"). It cuts out traditional intermediaries like banks or venture capital firms by operating directly via specialized digital platforms.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** For small businesses, startups, and SMEs, traditional avenues of raising capital (like IPOs or commercial bank loans) involve extensive legal procedures, collateral requirements, high underwriting fees, and rigid compliance auditing. Crowdfunding allows them to sidestep these structural barriers, pitching directly to consumers or micro-investors. This significantly reduces administrative overhead and initial capital costs.

Source: <https://www.crowdfunding.com/>, [UN Innovation Network Platform](#), [SEBI Crowdfunding Regulation Framework](#)

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

Sl. No.	Committee	Objective	Organization under which it was formed
1.	R.N. Malhotra Committee	Comprehensive reforms of Insurance sector in India	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
2.	L.C. Gupta Committee	Preparing a roadmap for the introduction of derivatives trading in India	Securities and Exchange Board of India
3.	Urjit R. Patel Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforming bank lending to the Housing sector	Reserve Bank of India
4.	Y.H. Malegam Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforms in Microfinance sector in India	Reserve Bank of India

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

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

Answer: (d) 2 and 4

Explanation:

- **Row 1 is incorrectly matched:** While the **R.N. Malhotra Committee (1993)** was indeed tasked with comprehensive insurance reforms (recommending the opening of the sector to private players), it was set up by the **Government of India**, not the IRDAI. In fact, the IRDAI itself was created later as a direct result of this committee's recommendations.
- **Row 2 is correctly matched:** SEBI set up the **Dr. L.C. Gupta Committee** in 1996 to design a policy framework for introducing financial derivatives (like options and futures) into Indian stock exchanges.

- **Row 3 is incorrectly matched:** The **Urjit Patel Committee (2014)** was formed by the RBI to **Revise and Strengthen the Monetary Policy Framework** (which led to India adopting flexible inflation targeting and establishing the Monetary Policy Committee). It was not related to housing sector lending.
- **Row 4 is correctly matched:** Following the Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis, the RBI formed the **Y.H. Malegam Committee (2010)** to study issues, microfinance lending practices, interest rate caps, and structural regulations in the microfinance sector.

Source: [Reserve Bank of India Committee Database](#), [SEBI L.C. Gupta Committee Report](#)

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 4

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike commercial banks, NBFCs are legally barred from accepting **demand deposits** (savings or current accounts where money can be withdrawn at any moment). They can only mobilize fixed-term public deposits if specifically permitted by regulators.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Not *all* NBFCs register with the RBI. To avoid dual regulation, specific categories are exempted from RBI registration and managed by specialized regulators instead (e.g., Housing Finance Companies by NHB, Merchant Banking/Venture Capital firms by SEBI, Nidhi Companies by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Chit Funds by State Governments).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** NBFCs **do not form part of the Payment and Settlement System**. Consequently, they cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The **DICGC** insurance cover (which safeguards deposits up to ₹5 Lakh) applies exclusively to commercial and cooperative bank accounts. This safety net **does not extend** to public deposits held with deposit-taking NBFCs.

Source: [RBI Non-Banking Financial Companies FAQs](#), [DICGC Official Insurance Coverage Rules](#)

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Both the Global MPI and India's National MPI utilize the **Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology**. This mathematical approach measures overlapping deprivations at the household level, tracking both the proportion of poor people (incidence) and the average number of deprivations they experience simultaneously (intensity).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India's National MPI, published by NITI Aayog, is strictly aligned with the global model but adds regional contextual metrics. It contains **12 indicators** spread across 3 dimensions (Health, Education, and Standard of Living).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The global MPI designed by UNDP/OPHI includes 10 indicators. NITI Aayog added **two unique indicators** to tailor it to Indian policy priorities: **Maternal Health** (under Health) and **Bank Account ownership** (under Standard of Living). Because Bank Account ownership is entirely unique to India's National MPI and absent from the Global UNDP index, statement 3 is wrong.

Source: [NITI Aayog National MPI Hub](#), [UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index Portal](#)

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The fundamental purpose of genetic medicine (including gene therapy and gene editing) is to treat or prevent a pathology at its molecular source. It operates by introducing a functional copy of a mutated gene to compensate for a non-working one, or by directly repairing/knocking out a faulty segment using molecular tools.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Foreign genetic material cannot easily cross cell membranes on its own due to degradation. Therefore, it requires specialized delivery vectors. **Engineered viral vectors** (like Adeno-Associated Viruses, or AAVs) have their harmful pathogenic sequences removed to safely ferry genes into host cells. Alternatively, non-viral platforms like **lipid nanoparticles (LNPs)** enclose fragile nucleic acids (such as mRNA in recent vaccines) to facilitate transport inside targeted cellular structures.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Genetic therapies are designed with precision. They aim to modify, silence, or insert specific targeted genes involved in a disease. They **do not alter the entire genome sequence** of an organism, which would be lethally disruptive to cell function.

Source: [FDA Cellular & Gene Therapy Regulations](#), [NCBI Gene Therapy Vectors Hub](#)

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** At their computational core, LLMs operate as advanced autoregressive statistical word prediction engines. Given a prompt sequence, they calculate a conditional

probability distribution over their entire vocabulary to determine the next token (word or sub-word) that is most likely to follow sequentially.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Deep learning models are trained using optimization algorithms (such as stochastic gradient descent). During training, the difference between the model's prediction and the actual ground-truth word is computed using a **loss function**. The network adjusts its internal parameters (weights and biases) iteratively via backpropagation to minimize this prediction error.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** LLMs are trained on massive datasets harvested from internet text, literature, and human dialogue. Consequently, they absorb and amplify historical human stereotypes, systemic prejudices, and subjective perspectives present in that raw input. Achieving perfectly unbiased outputs remains a major open research challenge involving extensive post-training alignment techniques (like RLHF).

Source: [Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory](#), [MIT Computer Science & AI Lab \(CSAIL\)](#)

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Answer: c

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Stealth aircraft (like the F-22 or B-2) are designed with flat, sharply angled geometric surfaces to minimize their **Radar Cross-Section (RCS)** by deflecting incoming radio signals away from the emitter. Additionally, they use specialized coatings containing **Radar-Absorbing Materials (RAM)** (such as iron ball paint or carbon nanotube composites) that convert incoming electromagnetic wave energy into harmless heat.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Conventional stealth designs are optimized primarily to evade high-frequency tracking radars (such as X-band, Ku-band). However, they can be countered and detected using **low-frequency radar networks** (such as VHF and UHF bands). When the radar

wavelength matches the scale of the aircraft's structural features (like the tail or wing edges), a resonant physical scattering occurs, rendering the stealth design visible.

- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT:** Stealth objects utilize metamaterials to suppress or absorb electromagnetic radiation. Coating objects with materials intended to increase scattering would reflect more signals, which defeats the entire purpose of stealth technology by making the object easier to detect.

Source: [IEEE Xplore Radar Absorbing Materials](#), [Defense Technical Information Center \(DTIC\)](#)

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only.

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Black boxes do not rely on visible light pulses for underwater recovery because light attenuates rapidly and cannot penetrate deep, murky ocean depths. Instead, they are equipped with an **Underwater Locator Beacon (ULB)**. When submerged in water, an acoustic sensor triggers the beacon to emit automated **ultrasonic acoustic pulses ("pings")** at a frequency of 37.5 kHz that can travel miles through water to hydrophones. (Additionally, black boxes are painted bright orange for visual spotting on land, not black).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The term "Black Box" refers to two separate mandatory survival recording instruments combined: the **Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR)**, which logs pilot conversations and cockpit ambient noise, and the **Flight Data Recorder (FDR)**, which monitors parameters like altitude, airspeed, and mechanical settings.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To survive high-g impacts (3400 g decelerations) and deep sea pressure, the crash-survivable memory units (CSMUs) are heavily armored. The internal solid-state memory chips are encased inside thick protective housings forged from high-tensile **stainless steel or titanium**, further insulated with thermal barriers to survive intense post-crash jet fuel fires.

Source: [ICAO Flight Data Protection Codes](#)

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The process described—splitting hydrogen from natural gas (methane) via Steam Methane Reforming (SMR) and trapping the byproduct carbon emissions using Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)—defines **Blue Hydrogen**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Green Hydrogen** is produced through the process of electrolysis, where an electric current splits water (H₂O) into hydrogen and oxygen. Crucially, the electricity powering the electrolyzer must come entirely from **renewable energy sources** (like solar or wind), ensuring zero carbon dioxide emissions throughout its production cycle.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** India's **National Green Hydrogen Mission** outlines several specific targets to be met by 2030. These include developing a green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum, adding about 125 GW of renewable energy capacity, and achieving an abatement of nearly **50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions** by 2030.

Source: [Cabinet approves National Green Hydrogen Mission](https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage)<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage>

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Correct Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **IN-SPACE** is a single-window, autonomous nodal agency operating under the Department of Space (DoS). It was created specifically to promote, authorize, and supervise space activities by Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs) and private startups in India, allowing them access to ISRO's infrastructure.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The space startup **Agnikul Cosmos** achieved a major milestone by successfully launching its *Agnibaan SOrTeD* rocket. This vehicle was powered by the **Agnilet engine**, which is recognized as the world's first single-piece, **3D-printed rocket engine** launched into flight.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** **Skyroot Aerospace** gained prominence for developing the *Vikram-S* rocket (India's first privately developed rocket) and its *Dhruva Space* counterparts, focusing primarily on solid and cryogenic propulsion configurations for their custom lightweight *Vikram* launch vehicles. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (**GSLV**) is entirely an indigenous heavy-lift launch system developed, owned, and operated by **ISRO**, utilizing standard liquid fuels (UH25 and Nitrogen Tetroxide) managed by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2022161®=3&lang=2>,
<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/economy/economic-survey-2024-indian-space-sector-sees-increase-in-private-participation-300-indian-entities-file-applications>

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Drone swarms rely on robust, multi-mile tactical communications. They typically operate within standard microwave frequencies, such as the **UHF, L, S, and C bands (1 GHz to 8 GHz)**. The Terahertz (0.1 THz to 10 THz) band is experimental, highly susceptible to atmospheric attenuation (blocked easily by rain, fog, or dust), and lacks the operational range required to maintain connection with a distant ground command center.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The defining feature of a true drone swarm is its decentralized, autonomous network architecture (often styled as an **ad-hoc mesh network**). Drones constantly transmit data directly to **one another** to coordinate flight formations, re-allocate tasks, and avoid mid-air collisions without needing individual input from the ground station.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **GPS Spoofing** is an electronic warfare countermeasure where a defense system transmits false, altered geographical coordinates to the incoming drones. By overpowering the real satellite signals, spoofing tricks the drones' internal navigation systems, causing them to drift off course, crash, or misidentify their intended targets.

Source: [https://www.dronefederation.in/media-hub/swarm-drone-technology-potential-and-threats, DRDO Electronic Warfare Countermeasures](https://www.dronefederation.in/media-hub/swarm-drone-technology-potential-and-threats,DRDO Electronic Warfare Countermeasures)

73. Which of the following statements with regard to Genome India Project is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **GenomeIndia Project** is an independent, national initiative launched decades after the global Human Genome Project (which concluded in 2003). While inspired by global genomic mapping breakthroughs, GenomeIndia is completely distinct and

specifically designed to address the historic underrepresentation of South Asian genetics in international biomedical databases.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The project is entirely funded and supported by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, operating through a collaboration of over 20 leading Indian academic and research institutions led by the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at IISc, Bengaluru.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The core mission of the project is to map the genetic architecture of India's diverse population. It successfully completed the whole-genome sequencing of **10,000 healthy Indian individuals** representing distinct structural language groups, castes, and tribal populations, creating a comprehensive reference database to develop personalized medicine and identify disease-causing genetic mutations unique to South Asia.

Source: <https://genomeindia.in/>, <https://www.genome.gov/human-genome-project>

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**, approved by the Union Cabinet, targets the seeding, nurturing, and scaling up of scientific and industrial R&D in Quantum Technology. One of its primary hardware milestones over its eight-year timeline is to design and develop intermediate-scale quantum computers possessing **50 to 1000 physical qubits** across various platforms (like superconducting and photonic implementations).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To build a decentralized research ecosystem, the mission sets up **four prominent Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs)** hosted at premier academic and national R&D institutions. These hubs focus on four distinct verticals:
 1. Quantum Computing
 2. Quantum Communication
 3. Quantum Sensing & Metrology

4. Quantum Materials & Devices

Source: <https://dst.gov.in/national-quantum-mission-nqm>,
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2111953®=3&lang=2>

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

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Correct Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)** is a flagship initiative launched under the nodal jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**, Government of India. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is not the lead executing agency.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Matsya-6000** is an indigenous crewed deep-ocean submergence vehicle developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT). It is structurally designed with a titanium alloy personnel sphere engineered to safely transport **three personnel** to an operational depth of 6,000 meters under extreme hydrostatic pressures to study hydrothermal vents and benthic biodiversity.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Samudrayaan** is the official title of the specific project encompassing India's first crewed deep-ocean exploration mission, directly placing it as a vital operational arm under the broader Deep Ocean Mission framework.

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelId=155043&ModuleId=3®=3&lang=2>,
<https://www.psa.gov.in/mission/national-quantum-mission/26>

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (c) Accountability

Elaborate Explanation:

- **Why Accountability fits best:** In public administration and ethics, **accountability** represents the institutional and moral obligation of a public official to answer for their actions, secure transparency, and enforce statutory standards without succumbing to external collusive pressures.
- **Analyzing Mr. X's action:** By refusing to look the other way in the face of political or corporate pressure, calling out the contractor's malpractices, reporting to a formal anti-corruption/vigilance body, and prioritizing public safety over vested financial interests, Mr. X acted as a custodian of public trust. This is the definition of maintaining systemic and subjective accountability.
- **Why other options are incorrect:** * *Esprit de corps* refers to team spirit and harmony within an organization, which is irrelevant here.
 - *Equity* involves fairness and impartiality in distribution/treatment.
 - *Delegation* is the operational assignment of authority downward to subordinates.

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

As a responsible Government official, you are tasked with resolving the situation through mediation, ensuring a sustainable outcome that balances environmental needs, tribal rights, and urban public health.

Consider the following statements with reference to the above:

1. A successful conflict resolution process must begin with acknowledging the cultural concerns of the protesting tribal community before discussing technical alternatives.
2. The Government should move ahead with the project without delay to address urban health concerns, which outweigh the sentiments of a small group.
3. Creating a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform—including tribal leaders, environmental experts, and municipal representatives—to build mutual understanding and help de-escalate tensions.

4. Conducting an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and sharing findings transparently with both sides to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

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

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

Correct Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only

Elaborate Administrative Breakdown:

This question presents a classic public administration dilemma involving a conflict between **utilitarian majoritarian needs** (urban public health) and **minority rights** (tribal identity, cultural preservation, and land rights).

- **Statement 1 is highly effective:** In complex community mediation, building trust is the paramount first step. Failing to validate historical or cultural grievances makes the affected group feel marginalized, entirely shutting down subsequent technical negotiations. Acknowledgment does not mean immediate surrender of the project; it establishes a baseline of institutional empathy.
- **Statement 2 is flawed and counterproductive:** Moving forward forcefully ignores the legal and moral principles of tribal welfare and administrative fairness. In democratic governance, the utilitarian principle ("the greatest happiness of the greatest number") cannot be used as a blunt tool to run over the core fundamental/cultural identity rights of a distinct minority group. Doing so guarantees prolonged social unrest and legal challenges.
- **Statement 3 is highly effective:** Establishing a structured multi-stakeholder negotiation platform is the standard administrative tool to de-escalate a flashpoint. It transitions the conflict from aggressive public standoffs (road blockades) into a regulated, consultative forum.
- **Statement 4 is highly effective:** An independent **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** introduces objective, scientific, and empirical data into an emotionally charged conflict. Transparently sharing these findings ensures that any final decision—whether it involves adding strict environmental safeguards or relocating the facility to an alternative site—is rooted in evidence rather than administrative arbitrariness.

78. Ms. X is a mid-level civil service official working in the urban development department of a major city. Recently, she was involved in approving a contract for a public infrastructure project—a new community park. During the approval process, she received a piece of confidential information indicating that one of the shortlisted contractors had a history of poor workmanship and allegations of corruption in other cities, though nothing had been legally proven. The Head of the Department,

Mr. Y, advised her not to disclose this information to the project committee or the public because it could delay the project and damage the city's reputation. However, Ms. X believed that withholding such information compromised transparency and public trust.

What amongst the following should Ms. X do now?

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

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: (b) 3 only

Elaborate Ethical Breakdown:

This case study highlights the delicate balance a civil servant must strike between **accountability/transparency** and **procedural propriety/fairness**.

- **Why Action 1 is ethically incorrect:** The information Ms. X possesses consists of *allegations* that have **not been legally proven**. Publicly leaking confidential administrative data based on unverified information violates civil services conduct rules, opens the government up to severe defamation lawsuits, and infringes upon the contractor's right to natural justice (the presumption of innocence until proven guilty).
- **Why Action 2 is ethically incorrect:** Ms. X cannot unilaterally demand the removal of a bidder based on unverified rumors or unproven external allegations. Shortlisting procedures are governed by rigid legal and statutory criteria. Removing a contractor arbitrarily without a formal inquiry or legal blacklisting order would violate fair bidding laws and invite litigation.
- **Why Action 3 is the ideal course of action:** Proposing a **limited disclosure to an oversight or internal vigilance committee** is the most balanced approach. It honors the core principles of administrative ethics:
 1. It ensures Ms. X does not become complicit in hiding potential red flags, thereby upholding her personal integrity and commitment to **public trust**.
 2. It keeps the information confidential from the general public for the time being, preventing premature reputational damage based on unproven charges.
 3. It allows a dedicated, competent authority to conduct a swift, objective verification of the contractor's background, ensuring **procedural fairness** and protecting the project from future legal gridlock.

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (d) The view of only 'Y' is correct.

Elaborate Explanation:

This question tests the exact literal definition of "Law" as explicitly laid down in **Article 13(3)(a)** of the Constitution of India.

Let's look at the constitutional text of Article 13(3)(a):

*"Law' includes any Ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, **custom or usage** having in the territory of India the force of law."*

- **Evaluating 'X's view:** 'X' is right that the definition is comprehensive and takes in ordinances, orders, rules and regulations. But 'X' was not convinced that custom or usage is covered, and on that point 'X' is wrong. The conclusion has to be judged on 'X's position taken as a whole, so 'X' cannot be held correct.
- **Evaluating 'Y's view:** 'Y' points out that it *also* includes any "custom or usage" that holds the legal force of law in India. This is also completely correct.
- **Conclusion:** Article 13(3)(a) expressly includes custom or usage having the force of law in India. 'Y' is therefore correct, while 'X', by rejecting that inclusion, is not. Accordingly, **the view of only 'Y' is correct**, which is the position adopted in the official UPSC answer key.

80. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India :

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

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

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

Correct Answer: (b) There is no correct statement.

Elaborate Explanation:

This question tests your knowledge of the often-overlooked concluding articles of the Indian Constitution found in **Part XXII (Short Title, Commencement, Authoritative Text in Hindi and Repeals)**. Because all three statements claim that these provisions *do not exist*, let's disprove them one by one using the actual text of the Constitution:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: Article 393** explicitly handles the short title. It states: "*This Constitution may be called the **Constitution of India**.*" Thus, there is an article that specifies the official name.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Article 395** explicitly deals with repeals. It states: "*The **Indian Independence Act, 1947**, and the **Government of India Act, 1935**, together with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act... are hereby **repealed**.*" Thus, there is an article that handles these specific repeals.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect: Article 394** explicitly outlines the commencement of the framework. It mentions that while certain articles (like 5, 6, 7, 60, 324, etc.) came into force immediately on 26th November 1949, the remaining provisions: "*...shall come into force on the **twenty-sixth day of January, 1950**, which day is referred to in this Constitution as the **commencement of this Constitution**.*" Thus, the date is explicitly mentioned in the text.

Since Articles 393, 395, and 394 explicitly cover the content of statements 1, 2, and 3 respectively, all three statements are factually wrong. Therefore, **there is no correct statement**.

Source: Laxmikanth - 11th Edition

Q81. Which of the following statements with regard to the persons with disabilities in India is/are correct ?

1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, an Act passed by the Parliament of India in 2018, mandates reservation in education and employment, places a legal duty on Governments to ensure accessibility and non-discrimination.

2. The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan focuses on achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across three key domains — built infrastructure, transport systems and information and communication technology.
3. The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) is a public sector organisation set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a not-for-profit company to promote entrepreneurship among Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Parliament of India enacted the landmark Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act in 2016, not in 2018. While the substantive details mentioned in the statement—such as mandating reservation in education (5%) and employment (4%), along with strict legal guidelines for accessibility and non-discrimination—are perfectly accurate, the incorrect year makes the statement false.

Statement 2 is correct: The **Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan** (Accessible India Campaign), launched on December 3, 2015, is a nationwide flagship campaign designed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). Its precise focus is achieving universal accessibility across the exact three domains mentioned: the built environment, transportation infrastructure, and information and communication technology (ICT) ecosystems.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) operates under the aegis of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**, not the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. While it is a public sector, not-for-profit Section 8 company dedicated to fostering entrepreneurship and self-employment among Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the administrative ministry listed is factually incorrect.

Q82. Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India :

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

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Provisions regarding the administration of Tribal Areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram are actually detailed in the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution of India, not the Fifth Schedule. The Fifth Schedule deals with the administration of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states other than these four.

Statement 2 is correct: Under Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, members of Scheduled Tribes residing in specific areas (like the North-Eastern states and specified Union Territories) are exempt from paying income tax on income earned within those areas or from dividend/interest income.

Statement 3 is correct: Article 243D of the Constitution of India mandates the reservation of seats in Panchayats for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Furthermore, it specifies that at least one-third of the total seats reserved for SCs and STs must be allocated to women belonging to those respective categories

Q83. Consider the following statements in respect of questions asked by the Members in the Parliament of India :

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

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Starred questions are those to which a member desires an oral answer in the House, not unstarred questions.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Unstarred questions are those to which a member desires a written answer, not starred questions.

Statement 3 is correct: Since unstarred questions receive a written reply laid on the table of the House, **no supplementary questions** can be asked on them. Supplementary questions can only follow oral answers given to starred questions

Q84. Consider the following statements about the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the Parliament of India :

1. Although members of this Committee are elected from both Houses of Parliament, the Chairperson of this Committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. Twenty members are elected by the Rajya Sabha and ten members by the Lok Sabha.

3. No Minister, except for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, is eligible to be a member of this Committee.
4. Members are elected for a fixed term of two years from the date they enter their office.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** from among the members of the Committee, not by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Committee consists of 30 members, but the distribution is **20 members from the Lok Sabha** and **10 members from the Rajya Sabha**—the opposite of what was stated.

Statement 3 is incorrect: A **Minister is not eligible** for election to the Committee. There is no exception for the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The term of office for members of the Committee does not exceed **one year**, rather than two years

Q85. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India :

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: Launched in August 2025, Mission Sudarshan Chakra functions as both a "shield and a sword" to strengthen India's Air Defence, Ballistic Missile Defence, and offensive capabilities.

Statement 2 is correct: Focused on strategic autonomy, the mission utilizes indigenous AI and Big Data technologies for rapid and precise defense against threats like drone swarms and hypersonic missiles.

Statement 3 is correct: A key aim is to establish a nationwide security shield over public spaces and population centers by 2035.

Q86. Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries :

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: While 'Maitri Setu' is indeed built over the Feni River, the statement swaps the countries of the respective towns. The 1.9-kilometre bridge actually connects **Sabroom in Tripura (India)** with **Ramgarh (Bangladesh)**.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Jhulaghat suspension bridge spans the Kali (Mahakali) River and connects **India (Uttarakhand) with Nepal**, not Myanmar. It serves as a vital cross-border pedestrian link.

Statement 3 is correct: The Mechi bridge successfully spans the trans-boundary Mechi River to link the **Panitanki Bypass in West Bengal (India)** with **Kakarvitta in Nepal**. It serves as the terminal connection for Asian Highway 02 (AH02)

Q87. Which of the following statements about a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: Under Section 173(1) of the BNSS, a Zero FIR can be lodged at any police station irrespective of its territorial jurisdiction, but this applies **exclusively to cognizable offences**. It does not apply to non-cognizable offences, which are dealt with under Section 174 and require a Magistrate's order for police action.

Statement 2 is correct: Section 173(3) of the BNSS introduced a new framework for conducting a **preliminary enquiry**. For cognizable offences punishable with an imprisonment of 3 years or more but less than 7 years, the Officer-in-Charge may initiate a preliminary enquiry to check for a *prima facie* case. However, this requires the **prior permission of a competent authority** (an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police) and must be concluded within 14 days.

Statement 3 is incorrect: It is **not obligatory** for the informant to furnish information electronically. Section 173(1) expressly permits information regarding a cognizable offence to be given either **orally, in writing, or via electronic communication**. If the information is given electronically (e-FIR), it must be signed by the informant within three days to be formally recorded

Q88. With reference to the organisations under the Government of India, consider the following details :

Sl. No.	Organisation	Function	Controlling Union Ministry
1	Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)	To coordinate between various law enforcement agencies	Ministry of Home Affairs
2	Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	To investigate complex corporate frauds	Ministry of Finance
3	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Row 1 is incorrectly matched: The **Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)** serves as the nodal agency for gathering economic intelligence and coordination. However, it functions under the **Ministry of Finance** (Department of Revenue), not the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Row 2 is incorrectly matched: The **Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)** is a multi-disciplinary agency established to investigate serious and complex corporate frauds. It functions under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, not the Ministry of Finance.

Row 3 is correctly matched: The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has the stated motto/vision to "uphold the Constitution of India and law of the land... preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy". It functions under the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**(specifically the Department of Personnel and Training)

Q89. Which of the following international conventions have not been ratified by India ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: Question DROPPED by UPSC — marked 'X' in the official provisional key (Series D, Q.89). No option is treated as correct and the question is excluded from scoring (99 of 100 questions counted).

Explanation:

1. Employment Policy Convention (ILO Convention No. 122): Ratified. India ratified this convention on November 17, 1998.

2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (ILO Convention No. 105): Ratified. India ratified this fundamental ILO convention on June 12, 2000.

3. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: Not Ratified. India is not a party to this UN convention. It manages migration dynamics primarily through the Emigration Act of 1983 and specific bilateral agreements.

4. Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War: Not Ratified. While India ratified the original Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) in 1950, it has famously **refused to ratify** the 1977 Additional Protocols (Protocols I and II), which are often the intended focus in this specific grouping.

5. Convention on Reduction of Statelessness: Not Ratified. India has not ratified the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (nor the 1951 Refugee Convention) due to strategic sovereignty and national security policies

Q90. Consider the following statements with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi :

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

Answer: d

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The Summit's intellectual framework was actually anchored in three foundational "Sutras" (guiding principles) known as **People, Planet, and Progress**. The statement incorrectly lists "Planning" instead of "Planet".

Statement 2 is Incorrect: While the Summit did emphasize democratizing AI resources, it acknowledged the "Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI" as a **voluntary and non-binding** framework, rather than a binding one. A key feature of the Declaration was its reliance on "soft-law" mechanisms that respect national laws without rigid mandates.

Statement 3 is Correct: The **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact** was indeed structured around seven "Chakras" (Pillars). These pillars included:

1. **Access for Social Empowerment**
2. **AI for Science**
3. **Secure and Trusted AI**
4. Democratizing AI Resources
5. Economic Growth and Social Good
6. Human Capital
7. Resilience, Innovation, and Efficiency

Q91. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project: This is a major connectivity initiative between India and **Myanmar**, a prominent member of ASEAN. It is a cornerstone of India's **Act East Policy** intended to connect the eastern Indian seaport of Kolkata with the Sittwe Port in Myanmar.

2. IMT Trilateral Highway: This is a flagship land-connectivity project designed to link **India, Myanmar, and Thailand**. Spanning approximately 1,360 km, it connects Moreh in Manipur

(India) with Mae Sot in Thailand via Myanmar, making it an essential component of ASEAN-India infrastructure collaboration.

3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line: This cross-border project connects the state of Tripura in India to Akhaura in **Bangladesh**. While it is a critical project under India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, **Bangladesh is not a member of ASEAN**. It is instead part of South Asian regional cooperation frameworks such as SAARC and BIMSTEC

Q92. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists :

List I (Project Supported by India)

List II (Country)

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| A. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project | 1. Maldives |
| B. Restoration of Stor Palace | 2. Afghanistan |
| C. District Hospital at Dickoya | 3. Bhutan |
| D. Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies | 4. Sri Lanka |

Code :

A B C D

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

A. Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project — 3. Bhutan

A 720 MW run-of-river power plant developed jointly by India and Bhutan.

B. Restoration of Stor Palace — 2. Afghanistan

A historic restoration project in Kabul, funded by India and completed in 2016.

C. District Hospital at Dickoya — 4. Sri Lanka

A 150-bed multi-specialty hospital built with Indian grant assistance to serve the local plantation community.

D. Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies — 1. Maldives

An law enforcement training academy established with Indian support in the Maldives

Q93. Which of the following items of defence hardware is/are manufactured in India ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets: These are advanced multirole air superiority fighters of Russian origin that are manufactured under license in India by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** at its Nashik facility.

T-90 MK-III Tanks: The T-90 (codenamed "Bhishma" in India) is a third-generation main battle tank. While it is a Russian design, India indigenously manufactures variants like the MK-III and Bhishma under license at the **Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF)** in Avadi, Chennai.

Akula Class Submarine: These are nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) designed and built in Russia. India does not manufacture them; instead, the Indian Navy has **leased** them from Russia (such as the *INS Chakra*) to bridge strategic gaps while developing its own indigenous nuclear submarine programs

Q94. Consider the following statements about platforms for multilateral co-operation :

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

Statement 1 is Incorrect: The **Colombo Process** is a Regional Consultative Process (RCP) for Asian labor-sending countries. While it operates by consensus, it is a **non-binding** platform. It focuses on sharing best practices and technical cooperation regarding overseas employment rather than making binding legal decisions.

Statement 2 is Correct: The [Abu Dhabi Dialogue \(ADD\)](#) is a **voluntary, non-binding** consultative process. It serves as a bridge between Asian countries of labor origin and destination (primarily Gulf countries) to cooperate on contractual labor mobility and worker protection.

Statement 3 is Correct: The Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) was created following a proposal by former UN Secretary-General **Kofi Annan** in 2006. It is an informal, state-led, and **voluntary** forum whose outcomes are non-binding.

Q95. Consider the following UN organisations/agencies :

1. World Food Programme
2. United Nations Children's Fund

3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
4. International Labour Organisation

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): Awarded **twice**, first in **1954** for its work resettling European refugees after World War II, and again in **1981** for its global efforts assisting refugees in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

World Food Programme (WFP): Awarded **once** in **2020** for its efforts to combat hunger and prevent the use of food as a weapon of war.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): Awarded **once** in **1965** for its global humanitarian aid to children and promotion of brotherhood among nations.

International Labour Organisation (ILO): Awarded **once** in **1969** for its work in establishing international legislation to protect workers' rights and improve social justice

Q96. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists :

List I (UN Peacekeeping Operation) List II (Period of Operation)

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A. UNMIL | 1. 2007–2010 |
| B. MINURCAT | 2. 2002–2005 |
| C. MINUSTAH | 3. 2003–2018 |
| D. UNMISSET | 4. 2004–2017 |

Code :

A B C D

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

A. UNMIL (United Nations Mission in Liberia): 2003–2018 (Match 3). Established in September 2003 to monitor the ceasefire agreement following the Second Liberian Civil War, it completed its mandate in March 2018.

B. MINURCAT (United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad): 2007–2010 (Match 1). This mission was authorized in September 2007 to protect refugees and displaced persons fleeing the Darfur crisis and concluded on December 31, 2010.

C. MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti): 2004–2017 (Match 4).

Established in June 2004 following political unrest in Haiti, it was officially dissolved in October 2017.

D. UNMISSET (United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor): 2002–2005 (Match 2).

Established to provide assistance to the newly independent East Timor, its mandate ran from May 2002 to May 2005.

Q97. Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists :

List I (BIMSTEC Centre/Establishment) List II (Location)

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| A. BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory | 1. NOIDA |
| B. BIMSTEC Energy Centre | 2. Bengaluru |
| C. BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate | 3. Colombo |
| D. BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility | 4. Thimphu |

Code :

A B C D

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

BIMSTEC Centre / Establishment	Location	Purpose / Background
Cultural Industries Observatory	Thimphu, Bhutan	Serves as an information repository for cultural industries to foster closer people-to-people ties. Established via an MoU signed during the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit.
Energy Centre	Bengaluru, India	Located at the Central Power Research Institute (CPRI) to coordinate regional power grid interconnection and enhance collective energy security.
Centre for Weather and Climate	NOIDA, India	Housed within the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) to collaborate on advanced weather prediction, data modeling, and early disaster warning.
Technology Transfer Facility	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Officially formed during the 5th BIMSTEC Summit to enable seamless technology transfer, capacity building, and knowledge sharing among member nations.

Q98. Which one of the following pairs is not correctly matched ?

Indian Army Corps Headquarters

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| (a) 3 Corps | Dimapur |
| (b) 4 Corps | Tezpur |
| (c) 14 Corps | Leh |
| (d) 33 Corps | Srinagar |

Answer: d

Explanation:

The correct headquarters for each corps are as follows:

- **3 Corps (Spear Corps):** Headquartered at **Dimapur**, Nagaland.
- **4 Corps (Gajraj Corps):** Headquartered at **Tezpur**, Assam.
- **14 Corps (Fire and Fury Corps):** Headquartered at **Leh**, Ladakh.
- **33 Corps (Trishakti Corps):** Headquartered at **Sukna**, near Siliguri in West Bengal.

Q99. Which of the following statements with respect to the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is/are correct ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
The revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs for implementation from **1st April 2022 to 31st March 2026**. This period is co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission cycle.
- **Statement 2 is correct.**
The main objectives of RGSA are:
 - Capacity building of PRIs
 - Strengthening grassroots governance
 - Aligning Panchayats with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.**
RGSA is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS)** with a fund-sharing pattern and is **not fully funded by the Central Government**.

Funding Pattern:

1. **60:40** → Most States
2. **90:10** → Northeastern and Himalayan States
3. **100% Central Funding** → Union Territories without legislatures (in certain cases, not uniformly for all UTs)

Q100. Which of the following countries are members of the European Union ?

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

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

The European Union (EU) currently has 27 member states. Poland and Germany are part of the bloc, while Belarus and Switzerland are not:

- **2. Poland:** Poland officially joined the European Union on May 1, 2004, during one of the EU's largest eastward enlargements.
- **3. Germany:** Germany is one of the inner six founding nations of the European Economic Community (established in 1957), which later evolved into the EU.

Why the other options are incorrect

- **1. Belarus:** Belarus is not an EU member state. It maintains close political and economic integration with Russia.
- **4. Switzerland:** Switzerland is not a member of the EU. The country heavily values its political neutrality. Instead of joining, it maintains its relationship with the EU through a series of complex bilateral agreements