

Apti Plus Academy for Civil Services Pvt. Ltd.

Jaydev Vihar, Bhubaneswar

(GS FULL LENGTH 9)
OPSC PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2024
TEST- 41

Time Allowed: 2Hrs

Maximum Marks: 200

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Immediately after the commencement of the examination, you should check that this booklet does not have any unprinted or torn or missing pages or items, etc. If so, get it replaced by a complete test booklet.
2. You have to enter your Roll Number on the Test Booklet in the Box provided alongside. Do NOT write anything else on the Test Booklet.
3. This Test Booklet contains 100 items (Questions). Each item is printed in English. Each item comprises four responses (answers). You will select the response which you want to mark on the Answer Sheet. In case you feel that there is more than one correct response with you consider the best. In any case, choose ONLY ONE response for each item.
4. You have to mark all your responses ONLY on the separate Answer Sheet provided. See direction in the answer sheet.
5. All items carry equal marks. Attempt all items. Your total marks will depend only on the number of correct responses marked by you in the answer sheet. For every incorrect response 1/3rd of the allotted marks will be deducted.
6. Before you proceed to mark in the Answer sheet the response to various items in the Test booklet, you have to Fill in some particulars in the answer sheets as per instruction sent to you with your Admission Certificate.
7. After you have completed Filling in all responses on the answer sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over to Invigilator only the answer sheet. You are permitted to take away with you the Test Booklet.
8. Sheet for rough work are appended in the Test Booklet at the end.

DO NOT OPEN THIS BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

Q 1. Match the following in relation to

Convention/Protocol	Objective
A. Vienna Convention	I. Fair use of genetic resources
B. Basel Convention	II. Safe handling of living modified organisms
C. Nagoya Protocol	III. Controlling the transboundary movement of hazardous waste
D. Cartagena Protocol	IV. Protecting the ozone layer

international conventions/protocols and their objective:

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) IV III I II
- (b) IV III II I
- (c) IV I III II
- (d) IV III I II

Q 2. The heads of states summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held in which of the following places?

- (a) Kunming
- (b) Tianjin
- (c) Wuhan
- (d) Guangzhou

Q 3. Consider the following statements about the pardoning powers of the President:

- 1. The pardoning of the President is independent of the judiciary.
- 2. The President can exercise this power only with the advice of the cabinet.
- 3. Remission implies temporary stay of the execution of a sentence.
- 4. Reprieve implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 4. Which of the following statement are correct about the high courts?

- 1. The President can transfer the judges of high courts only after consulting the Chief Justice of India.

- 2. The President can remove a judge of a high court judge only after an address by the Parliament.
- 3. The removal motion of high court judges requires simple majority in each House of the Parliament.
- 4. Acting judges of high courts hold office till they attain the age of 65 years.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 5. Match the following Conference of Parties (COPs) under the UNFCCC with their venues:

Conference of Parties (COP)	Venues
A. COP 15	I. Marrakech
B. COP 16	II. Doha
C. COP 18	III. Copenhagen
D. COP 22	IV. Cancun

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) IV III II I
- (b) III IV I II
- (c) III IV II I
- (d) IV III I II

Q 6. Match the following ocean currents with their location:

Ocean Current	Location
A. Agulhas Current	I. South Pacific Ocean
B. Benguela Current	II. South Atlantic Ocean
C. Labrador Current	III. North Atlantic Ocean
D. Humboldt Current	IV. Southwest Indian Ocean

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) II IV III I
- (b) III I IV I
- (c) IV II III I
- (d) I III II IV

Q 7. Which of the following cities will host the World Badminton Championships in August 2026?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Lucknow

Q 8. Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which of the following states?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Q 9. Consider the following statements with respect to Public Accounts Committee (PAC):

1. The committee was first set up in 1921 under the Government of India Act of 1919.
2. It consists of an equal number of members from both Houses of the Parliament.
3. The Chairman of the committee is selected from the ruling party only.
4. A minister cannot be elected as a member of this committee.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 10. Which of the following statements are incorrect about the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)?

1. The commission consists of a chairperson and four other members.
2. The chairperson and members hold office for a term of five years.
3. The chairperson and members are eligible for reappointment after retirement.
4. The chairperson and members are removed on the ground of incapacity only.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 11. Match the following planets of the solar system and the facts associated with them:

Planets	Facts
A. Uranus	I. Known as 'Earth's twin'
B. Neptune	II. Has three rings
C. Saturn	III. Resembles a faint bluish-green disc

D. Venus	IV. Result of a mathematical calculation
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Codes:

- A B C D
- (a) IV III II I
- (b) II III IV I
- (c) II I IV III
- (d) III IV II I

Q 12. What are Blue dragons that have been in news recently?

- (a) Seal slug
- (b) Dragonfly
- (c) Jellyfish
- (d) Sea anemones

Q 13. Which of the following cities has launched the Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan recently?

- (a) Bhubaneswar
- (b) Ranchi
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Chennai

Q 14. Which of the following wildlife sanctuaries in Odisha is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian pangolins in the world?

- (a) Baisipalli Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) Simlipal Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

Q 15. Match the following sites of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) and their findings:

IVC Sites	Findings
A. Mohenjodaro	I. Dockyard
B. Kalibangan	II. Barley
C. Banawali	III. Great bath
D. Lothal	IV. Beadmaking factory

Codes:

- A B C D
- (a) III IV II I
- (b) IV III I II
- (c) II I III IV
- (d) I II IV III

Q 16. Which of the following statements were the terms of Indian Councils Act of 1861?

1. It sought to introduce representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process.

2. It restored the legislative powers of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.
3. It increased the additional members in the Central and provincial legislative councils.
4. It empowered the legislative councils to discuss the budget.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 17. Consider the following statements in respect of the Zonal Councils:

1. The North-Eastern Zonal Council was set up under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
2. Recommendations of the Zonal Councils are binding on its members.
3. The Union Home Minister acts as the chairperson of five zonal councils only.
4. Each Chief Minister acts as the Vice-Chairperson the Zonal Council for a term of one year.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 18. Consider the following statement about the Constituent Assembly:

1. The idea of a Constituent Assembly was first given by M. N. Roy in 1934.
2. The British principally accepted the demand for a Constituent Assembly in 'August Offer'.
3. The Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee was chaired by H. C. Mukherjee.
4. The Constituent Assembly ratified India's Commonwealth membership in May 1949.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 19. Rivers Brahmani and Baitarani flow through which of the following sites?

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Chilika Lagoon
- (c) Gahirmatha Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary

Q 20. Which of the following acts/reforms introduced bicameralism for the first time in India?

- (a) Charter Act, 1853
- (b) Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
- (c) Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919
- (d) Indian Councils Act, 1861

Q 21. Sindhi was added to the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution by which of the following amendment acts?

- (a) 96th Amendment Act, 2003
- (b) 71st Amendment Act, 1992
- (c) 92nd Amendment Act, 2003
- (d) 21st Amendment Act, 1967

Q 22. Which of the following statements are incorrect with respect to the election of the Vice-President of India?

1. The Electoral College includes the elected members and excludes the nominated members of the Parliament.
2. The Electoral College includes the members of the state legislative assemblies.
3. The election is held in accordance with proportional representation by means of single transferrable vote.
4. A person should have completed 35 years of age to contest in the election.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 23. Consider the following statements about the Fundamental Duties:

1. The Fundamental Duties were added to the Constitution based on the recommendation of the Sardar Swaran Singh Committee.
2. The Swaran Singh Committee did not favour imposition of penalty for not observing these duties.
3. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 upholds the Fundamental Duty enshrined in Article 51A (b).
4. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 upholds the Fundamental Duty enshrined in Article 51A (g)

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3

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

Q 24. Which of the following are Compulsory Provisions under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992?

1. Organisation of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages.
2. Giving representation to members of Parliament and state legislatures.
3. Providing reservation of seats to backward classes.
4. Granting financial powers to the panchayats.
5. Indirect election to the post of chairperson at the intermediate and district levels.
6. Reservation of seats for SCs and STs in panchayats at all three levels.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 5 and 6
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 3, 5 and 6
- (d) 2, 4 and 5

Q 25. Which of the following personalities called the Preamble to the Indian Constitution the 'horoscope of our sovereign democratic republic'?

- (a) Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer
- (b) K M Munshi
- (c) M Hidayatullah
- (d) N A Palkhivala

Q 26. Consider the following statements with respect to the Mamata Yojana launched by the Odisha Government:

1. Pregnant and lactating women of 20 years of age or above are eligible of this scheme.
2. The scheme is applicable for the first two live-births only.
3. It does not include the employees of government and public sector undertakings.
4. The first two live birth norm shall be applicable on all communities.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 27. Consider the following statements about the Ganga Dynasty:

1. Odisha temple architecture reached its zenith during this dynasty.
2. Bhanudeva IV was the last ruler of this dynasty.
3. Jayadeva flourished during the reign of Rajaraja II.
4. The capital of Ganga dynasty was known as Kalinganagara

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 28. Which of the following statements are correct about State Public Service Commission (SPSC)?

1. Members of a SPSC can be removed by the President only.
2. The Constitution of India specifies the strength of a State Public Service Commission.
3. The chairperson and members of the Commission hold office for six year or until they attain the age of 65 years.
4. State legislature determines the conditions of service of the chairperson and members of the Commission.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 29. Consider the following statements in respect of the lapsing of bills in the Parliament:

1. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha does not lapse.
2. A bill reserved for the joint sitting of both the Houses does not lapse.
3. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse.
4. A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the President lapses.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 30. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Kyoto Protocol?

1. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted on 11th December, 1997 and entered into force in 2005.
2. The Protocol provided for binding emission reduction targets for developed country parties.
3. It established a flexible market mechanism for onshore emission reduction.
4. The Clean Development Mechanism under the protocol enables emission reduction projects in developing countries.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 31. Which of the following statements are correct about the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)?

1. It is an international intergovernmental treaty concluded under the aegis of UNEP.
2. It is the only global convention for the conservation of migratory species.
3. Migratory species threatened with extinction are listed in Appendix I of the Convention.
4. India has signed the 'Raptor MoU' under the CMS.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 32. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Secure Himalaya project?

1. The project was launched by MoEFCC in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).
2. It seeks to conserve snow leopards by protecting their habitats and improving the Himalayan ecology.
3. The project covers Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim only.
4. The project does not prioritise the mitigation of human-wildlife conflicts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 33. Which of the following districts in Odisha has received the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024?

- (a) Sundargarh
- (b) Mayurbhanj
- (c) Koraput
- (d) Cuttack

Q 34. Consider the following statements with respect to economic planning in India:

1. The National Planning Committee was set up in October 1938 under the initiative of Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. The Bombay Plan put emphasis on both agrarian restructuring and rapid industrialisation.
3. The People's Plan was based on the ideas of democratic socialism.
4. Visvesvaraya Plan put more emphasis on heavy industrialisation than democratic capitalism.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 35. Consider the following statements with respect to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

1. It aims at providing finance to infrastructure projects in the Asia region only.
2. India is one of the founding members of the bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q 36. What is the maximum amount of loan MSMEs can avail under the Kishor category of the MUDRA Bank?

- (a) ₹10 lakh
- (b) ₹50,000
- (c) ₹5 lakh
- (d) ₹7 lakh

Q 37. Consider the following statements with respect to Odisha's role in the freedom struggle:

1. The decision to launch individual civil disobedience movement was taken at the Ramgarh Session of the Indian National Congress.

2. Laxman Naik became a martyr in Odisha during the Quit India Movement.
3. In 1931, the Odisha State People's Conference was organised at Balasore to enquire into people's grievances.
4. The Swaraj Sevak Sangh was set up in Bhuvaneshwar to work on the programmes of Non-Cooperation Movement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q 38. Which of the following statements are correct about Biosphere Reserves?

1. Biosphere reserves are recognised under UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB).
2. Core zones of biosphere reserves must be strictly free from human intervention.
3. Human settlements are allowed in buffer zones of biosphere reserves.
4. Transition zones of biosphere reserves can be used for fishing and grazing.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 39. Consider the following statements about the Forest Rights Act, 2006:

1. The nodal agency for the implementation of the Act is Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
2. The Act defines 'minor forest produce' to include all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.
3. The rights conferred under the Act cannot be inherited.
4. Gram Sabha is the competent authority for determining the extent of individual and community forest rights.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 40. Consider the following statements:

1. Photochemical smog results from the interaction of sunlight with certain chemicals in the air.
2. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is one of the primary components of photochemical smog.
3. Ground-level ozone is formed due to interaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q 41. Which of the following statements are correct about phytoplanktons?

1. Phytoplanktons are microscopic plant organisms that live in salty environments only.
2. All phytoplanktons contain chlorophyll pigments for photosynthesis.
3. Phytoplanktons are present through the lighted regions of all seas and oceans.
4. The total biomass of phytoplanktons is less than that of total plants on land.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 42. Which of the following are reserve money?

1. RBI's net credit to the government
2. RBI's net credit to the banks
3. Net forex reserve with the RBI
4. Government's currency liabilities to the public
5. Net non-monetary liabilities of the RBI

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 43. The Samrudha Krushak Yojana, launched by the Odisha government provides a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of to farmers.

- (a) ₹2900 per quintal
- (b) ₹3500 per quintal
- (c) ₹3100 per quintal
- (d) ₹3000 per quintal

Q 44. The Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network (B-MAAN) initiative will include a cadet programme for tribal girls. Which of the following states has launched this initiative?

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Telangana

Q 45. This soil is formed due to deposition of iron and has low water holding capacity. It also covers the largest area of Odisha. Which of the following soil types has been talked about here?

- (a) Laterite Soil
- (b) Red Soil
- (c) Deltaic Alluvial Soil
- (d) Red and Yellow Soil

Q 46. This lake in Odisha looks has a horse-shoe shape. It is located at the foothills of the Saranda hills and lies on the left bank of the Mahanadi River. The lake talked about here is:

- (a) Pata Lake
- (b) Sara Lake
- (c) Tampara Lake
- (d) Ansupa Lake

Q 47. Match the following terms from the Sangam age and their meaning:

Sangam Terms	Meaning
A. Enadi	I. Captains of the army
B. Vallalas	II. Peasants
C. Kadaisiyars	III. Lowest caste
D. Pulayans	IV. Low caste artisans

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) I II III IV
- (b) II III IV I
- (c) IV I II III
- (d) III II IV I

Q 48. Consider the following statements:

1. Bottleneck inflation results from a drastic fall in supply and demand at the same time.
2. Skewflation takes place due to price rise in a small group of commodities over a period of time.

Select the incorrect answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

Q 49. Consider the following statements:

1. Effective revenue deficit is revenue deficit minus payment to interest liabilities in a particular year.
2. Primary deficit is fiscal deficit excluding grants for the creation of capital assets.

Select the incorrect answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

Q 50. Consider the following statements about the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):

1. The Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are real-estate financing companies regulated by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).
2. REITs are allowed to invest in commercial real-estate assets through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) only.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

Q 51. Which of the following is an erosional landform formed by glaciers?

- (a) Cirque
- (b) Moraines
- (c) Eskers
- (d) Drumlins

Q 52. The Gandhisagar dam has been constructed on which of following tributaries of the Ganga?

- (a) Chambal
- (b) Ramganga
- (c) Gandak
- (d) Ghaghara

Q 54. Which of the following types of forests display a parkland landscape with open stretches of grasses?

- (a) Tropical moist deciduous forests

- (b) Montane forests
- (c) Tropical evergreen forests
- (d) Tropical dry deciduous forests

Q 55. It is an important raw material for smelting of iron ore. Deposits are mainly associated with Dharwar system. Madhya Pradesh and Odisha are the leading producers. Which of the following minerals has been described here?

- (a) Manganese
- (b) Bauxite
- (c) Mica
- (d) None of the above

Q 56. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)?

- 1. It allows banks to borrow overnight from the RBI at an interest rate lower than the repo rate.
- 2. It is not called an interest rate but considered to be a discount on the dated government securities.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

Q 57. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

- 1. It provides universal banking facilities with at least one basic bank account for every household.
- 2. Beneficiaries will receive a RuPay Debit Card with inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹2 lakh.
- 3. There is a life insurance cover of ₹50,000 for those who opened their bank accounts between 2014 and 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 58. Which of the following statements are correct about public private partnership (PPP) models?

- 1. Under the BOT-Annuity model, the private player manages the road projects without collecting toll.

- 2. Under the EPC model, project cost is fully covered by government only.
- 3. Under the HAM model, the private player constructs the road and collects toll at the same time.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

Q 59. Consider the following statements about sovereign gold bonds:

- 1. These are issued to resident Indian and foreign entities in both demat and paper formats.
- 2. KYC norms are applicable but exemption from capital gains tax is not available.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 60. Consider the following statements about the Price Stabilisation Fund:

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme for price control of perishable agri-horticultural commodities.
- 2. The cost is to be primarily borne by the central government.
- 3. Currently, the scheme covers only two crops viz, onion and potato.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 61. Sarala Dasa, a prominent Oriya poet, lived under which of the following dynasties?

- (a) Gajapati Dyansty
- (b) Bhoi Dynasty
- (c) Karrani Dyansty
- (d) Ganga Dynasty

Q 62. Who among the following was appointed the Governor of Odisha by Shah Jahan as in 1628?

- (a) Khan-i-Duran
- (b) Muhammad Baqar Khan
- (c) Murshid Quli Khan
- (d) Zaman Teharani

Q 63. This ancient name of present-day Odisha was found during Gupta period. It is generally associated with modern day Kalahandi and Jeypore region. Which of the following ancient names of Odisha has been described here?

- (a) Utkala
- (b) Oddiyana
- (c) Mahakantara
- (d) Trikalinga

Q 64. Match the following official in the Mughal administration with their functions:

Officials	Function
A. Mir Bakshi	I. In charge of imperial household
B. Barids	II. Intelligence officers
C. Waqia-Navis	III. News reporters
D. Mir Saman	IV. Head of military department

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) III IV II I
- (b) IV II III I
- (c) IV III II I
- (d) I IV II III

Q 65. Match the following Pre-Congress associations with their founders:

Pre-Congress Associations	Founders
A. East India Association	I. Surendranath Banerjee
B. Indian League	II. Sisir Kumar Ghosh
C. Indian Association of Calcutta	III. Dadabhai Naoroji
D. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha	IV. Mahadev Govind Ranade

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) II III I IV
- (b) III I II IV
- (c) III II I IV
- (d) I II III IV

Q 66. Consider the following statements about the Extended Fund Facility provided by the International Monetary Fund:

1. Borrowing funds from this facility does not require any condition.
2. A country can borrow unlimited amount of funds from this facility.

Which of the statements give above is/are correct?

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

Q 67. Which of the following statements are correct in respect to the Treaty of Allahabad signed after the Battle of Buxar?

1. Shah Alam II, then Mughal Emperor, granted the diwani of Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha to the East India Company.
2. Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula gave Balwant Singh, zamindar of Banaras, full possession of his estate.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 68. Consider the following statements about relations of British India with neighbouring countries:

1. The Treaty of Sagauli was signed in 1816 between the Gorkhas of Nepal and the East India Company.
2. The Treaty of Yandabo was signed in 1826 to conclude the First Burma War (1824-26).
3. The Younghusband Mission was sent to Tibet by Viceroy Lord Curzon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

Q 69. Consider the following statements about the evolution of civil services in colonial India:

1. Cornwallis' reforms for civil services were motivated by a desire to curb corrupt practices among the officials of the East India Company.
2. The Aitchison Committee sought to achieve a parity in number of Indian and British civil servants.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 70. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct answer:

Statement-I: Regions located around the 'eye' of a tropical cyclone experience maximum wind velocity.

Statement-II: The 'eye wall' is a region of tropical cyclones that experience strong spiralling ascent of air.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II does not correctly explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is wrong
- (d) Statement-I is wrong but Statement-II is correct

Q 71. Which of the following literary works makes the earliest reference to Kalinga?

- (a) Ramayana
- (b) Kapil Samhita
- (c) Puranas
- (d) Mahabharata

Q 72. He/She was a freedom fighter from Odisha who established Satyabadi School during Swadeshi Movement and started a Newspaper Samaj. He/She also served as a member of the Odisha Legislative Council from 1917-1920. Which of the following personalities has been described here?

- (a) Madhusudan Das
- (b) Gopabandhu Das
- (c) Krushna Chandra Deo
- (d) Rama Devi

Q 73. Which of the following women freedom fighters from Odisha wrote a play named Mandira Prabesha?

- (a) Sita Devi Khadanga
- (b) Sarla Devi
- (c) Malati Devi
- (d) None of the above

Q 74. Who among the following has been appointed as a member of the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC)?

- (a) Manoj Kumar Mohanty
- (b) Vir Vikram Yadav

- (c) Nikhil Pavan Kalyan
- (d) Shovana Mohanty

Q 75. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct answer:

Statement-I: The pulse cultivation in India experiences fluctuation from year to year.

Statement-II: Pulses are grown as rainfed crops in the dryland areas of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II does not correctly explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is wrong
- (d) Statement-I is wrong but Statement-II is correct

Q 76. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct answer:

Statement-I: Tropical dry deciduous forests are found in the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats.

Statement-II: The eastern slopes of the Western Ghats receive between 100-200 cm rainfall.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II does not correctly explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is wrong
- (d) Statement-I is wrong but Statement-II is correct

Q 77. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct answer:

Statement-I: India's iron and steel industry is concentrated in the northeastern part of peninsular plateau.

Statement-II: The availability of high-grade iron ore is the most essential factor for the growth of iron and steel industry in this region.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II does not correctly explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is wrong
- (d) Statement-I is wrong but Statement-II is correct

Q 78. Who among the following has authored the book 'A Various World: People, Place, Perspectives'?

- (a) Dr. Sanjukta Maharana
- (b) Ashok Kumar Bal
- (c) Santosh K. Singh
- (d) Uttama Kirti Patel

Q 79. The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted approval for two indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at which of the following nuclear power stations?

- (a) Kalpakkam
- (b) Kudankulam
- (c) Kakrapar
- (d) Tarapore

Q 80. What is the objective of the Solar Eruption Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS) rocket, recently launched by NASA?

- (a) To observe the Sun's chromosphere
- (b) To study the origin of solar storms
- (c) To find clues about the sunspots
- (d) To observe the Sun's photosphere

Q 81. Match the following reform movements/organisations with their founders:

Reform Movements/Organisations	Founders
A. Seva Sadan	I. Behramji M. Malabari
B. Dev Samaj	II. Shiv Narayan Agnihotri
C. Dhrama Sabha	III. Radhakanta Deb
D. Radhaswami Movement	IV. Shiv Dayal Sahab

Codes:

A B C D

- (a) I II III IV

- (b) II I IV III
- (c) III IV II I
- (d) IV III I II

Q 82. Which of the following factors are responsible for the onset of southwest monsoon in India?

- Formation of a high-pressure belt in the northwestern parts of India.
- Formation of a low-pressure belt over the Indian Ocean.
- Arrival of westerly jet streams in north India, south of the Himalayas.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None of the above

Q 83. Consider the following statements about the Brahmaputra River:

- The river is known as Siang before it joins Lohit after entering Arunachal Pradesh.
- Most of its tributaries are short and bring a very small quantity of sediments.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q 84. Consider the following statements about air masses:

- Air masses are characterized by large horizontal variation in temperature and moisture.
- Air masses are classified in terms of temperature and moisture.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 85. Read the following statements carefully and choose the correct answer:

Statement-I: Shield volcanoes are characterized by the eruption of more viscous lavas.

Statement-II: The primary component of the lavas erupted by shield volcanoes is basalt.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I
(b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II does not correctly explain Statement-I
(c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is wrong
(d) Statement-I is wrong but Statement-II is correct

Q 86. Which of the following statements are correct about Antimatter?

1. An antimatter has different mass compared to its corresponding particle.
2. An antimatter has same electric charge of its corresponding particle.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 87. Which of the following organisations has launched SAKSKAM-3000?

- (a) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)
(b) National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELT)
(c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
(d) Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)

Q 88. Which of the following Ministries has recently launched DIGIPIN which is an open-source, geo-coded addressing system?

- (a) Ministry of Communications
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(c) Ministry of Finance
(d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q 89. Match the following Governor-Generals with the events associated with them:

Governor-Generals	Events
A. Lord Chelmsford	I. Formation of Congress
B. Lord Dufferin	II. Jalianwallabagh Massacre

C. Lord Irwin	III. Arrival of Simon Commission
D. Lord Linlithgow	IV. Quit India Movement

Codes:

- A B C D**
(a) II I III IV
(b) I II III IV
(c) III I IV II
(d) IV II III I

Q 90. Tayfun Block-4 is a hypersonic ballistic missile unveiled by which of the following countries?

- (a) China
(b) Turkey
(c) Azarbaijan
(d) Iran

Q 91. Which of the following organisations developed INS Nistar, a diving support vessel under Indian Navy?

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
(b) Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
(c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
(d) Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)

Q 92. The Maputo Protocol seeks to promote women's rights in which of the following regions?

- (a) Polynesia
(b) Africa
(c) South-East Asia
(d) Central America

Q 93. Consider the following statements about Malaria disease:

1. It is caused by the bite of female Anopheles mosquitoes and transmitted by Plasmodium parasites.
2. The disease is prevalent in tropical and temperate regions alike.
3. The parasite first enters red blood cells and then infects the liver.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 only
(d) None of the above

Q 94. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the AI for India 2.0 Programme?

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
2. The program offers online training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) at a minimal cost.
3. The content is available in all the 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 95. Consider the following statements about liquid biogas:

1. Liquid biogas has low methane content compared to compressed biogas.
2. The storage and transport of liquid biogas is costly compared to compressed biogas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 96. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to ASEAN?

1. It was founded in Jakarta in 1967 to promote socio-economic development in Southeast Asia.
2. The motto of the organisation is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
3. Its headquarters is located in Jakarta.
4. Indonesia is India's largest trading partner in ASEAN.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q 97. Which of the following countries are members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)?

1. Russia
2. Kazakhstan
3. Belarus

4. Armenia
5. Kyrgyzstan

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Q 98. Consider the following statements with respect to Vithalbhai Patel:

1. He supported Mahatma Gandhi's decision to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement after the Chauri Chaura incident.
2. He joined with C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru to form the Swaraj Party in 1923.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 99. Consider the following statements with respect to the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA):

1. The CGDA heads the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) under the Ministry of Defence.
2. The CGDA operates under the Department of Defence Production under the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q 100. Consider the following statements about the ATAGS:

1. It has been developed by DRDO in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems and Bharat Forge Ltd.
2. It is controlled by a combination of electric and hydraulic drive systems.

Which of the following statements given above is/are correct?

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



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1. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Vienna Convention:** The Vienna Convention was adopted in 1985 and entered into force in 1988. It acts as an international framework to protect the ozone layer but it does not impose legally binding reduction goals. It contains the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Both the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol are the most widely ratified treaties with 197 parties.
- **Basel Convention:** The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movement of hazardous waste and their disposal. It was adopted in 1989. Wastes are to be identified and disposed under the provisions of national laws. Annex I of the Convention lists those wastes which are classified as hazardous and subject to control. Annex II identifies those wastes which require special consideration.
- **Nagoya Protocol:** The Nagoya Protocol emphasizes the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Protocol provides a transparent legal mechanism for the effective implementation of the objectives of the CBD.
- **Cartagena Protocol:** The Cartagena Protocol ensures an adequate level of protection in the field of safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biodiversity. It is an additional agreement to the CBD.

2. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Option (b) is correct:** The heads of states summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was recently held in Tianjin, China. The summit was marked by unprecedented camaraderie between the Indian PM Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. At the summit, both PM Modi and President Putin reaffirmed their support for strengthening the "special and privileged strategic partnership" between the two countries. Besides, they also stressed the need to expedite a ceasefire in Ukraine. Moreover, the 'Tianjin Declaration' was adopted by all members, calling for an end to cross-border terrorism.
- **Additional Information:** The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization set up in 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Formerly the Shanghai Five, the organization was renamed in 2001. It is the world's largest regional organisation by geography and population, covering about 80 percent of the Eurasian landmass and 40% of the world population. India and Pakistan became SCO members in 2017. The Council of Heads of State is the supreme decision-making body, meeting annually.

3. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** Article 72 of the Indian Constitution enshrines the pardoning powers of the President. The President can grant pardons in cases of offence against a Union law, sentence is by a court martial and it is a sentence of death. The pardoning power of the President is independent of the Judiciary. The President can exercise this power only on the advice of the Union cabinet.
- **Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect:** The President's pardoning power includes-pardon, commutation, remission, respite and reprieve. Pardon removes both the sentence and the conviction. Commutation denotes the substitution of one form of punishment for a lighter form. Remission implies reducing the period of sentence without changing its character. Respite means awarding a lesser sentence in place of one originally awarded. Reprieve implies a stay of the execution of a sentence for a temporary period.

4. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The President can transfer the judges of a high court to another high court after consulting the Chief Justice of India. On transfer, they are entitled to receive salary and compensatory allowance as determined by the Parliament.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A judge of a high court can be removed by a Presidential order. The president can issue the removal order only after an address by the Parliament in the same session for such removal.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The removal motion requires special majority in each House of Parliament. The grounds for removal are proved misbehaviour and incapacity. The process of removal is regulated by the Judges Enquiry Act, 1968.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The President can appoint duly qualified persons as acting judges of a high court for a period less than two years. The acting judge cannot hold office after attaining the age of 62 years.

5. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Copenhagen Summit (COP 15):** The summit adopted Copenhagen Accord which is a non-binding agreement. The Accord states that stiff emission cuts are necessary to hold global temperature rise. Under the Accord, developed countries agreed to set GHG reduction targets by 2020. Developing countries agreed to implement national strategies to slow down the growth their emissions.
- **Cancun Summit (COP 16):** At COP 16, parties established a Green Climate Fund that will support projects, programs and initiatives in developing countries. The Adaptation Fund was set up to finance adaptation projects in developing countries. The Adaptation Fund is managed by the Adaptation Fund Board.
- **Doha Summit (COP 18):** Parties agreed to work towards a universal climate change agreement by 2015 covering all countries which will come into effect from 2020. The Summit made an amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, a binding agreement under which developed countries make commitments to cut down GHG emissions.

Marrakech Conference (COP 22): Parties began discussions on global stocktake. They decided that the Green Climate Fund would serve the Paris Agreement

6. Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Agulhas Current:** Agulhas current is a warm current flowing in the southwest part of the Indian Ocean. It flows along the east coast of Africa before turning east to flow towards Australia. It is the largest and strongest western boundary current in the world.
- **Benguela Current:** Benguela current is a cold current flowing in the South Atlantic Ocean along the west coast of southern Africa. It forms the eastern portion of the South Atlantic Ocean gyre.
- **Labrador Current:** Labrador current is a cold current flowing in the North Atlantic Ocean along the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland. It originates in the Arctic Ocean and eventually merges with the Gulf Stream which is a warm ocean current.
- **Humboldt Current:** Humboldt is a cold current flowing in the South Pacific Ocean along the coast of Peru. It plays a vital role in region's climate and natural vegetation.

7. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** New Delhi will host the World Badminton Championship in August 2026. The announcement was made during the closing ceremony of the World championships in Paris in which R. Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty won the doubles bronze, their second in the championship.
- **Additional Information:** So far, India has won 15 medals in World Badminton Championships and five of these have been by P.V. Sindhu. Saina Nehwal also won two bronzes. K. Srikanth claimed

silver in 2021 while bronze was clinched by Sai Praneeth, Lakshya Sen and H.S. Pranoy in recent times. Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa won the women's doubles bronze in 2011.

8. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Madhya Pradesh, along the banks of the Chambal River. It serves as a crucial habitat for many species including leopard, sambar deer, chinkaras, dholes (wild dogs), muggers etc. The predominant forest type is mixed-deciduous. The sanctuary also serves as a popular destination for the birdwatchers.
- **Additional Information:** Recently, Madhya Pradesh forest officials have proposed a plan to populate the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary with cheetahs. Officials are planning to relocate two male cheetahs-Prabhash and Pavak from Kuno. These two male cheetahs were brought from South Africa's Waterburg Biosphere Reserve to Kuno in February 2023.

9. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect:** The Public Accounts Committee was set up in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919. Currently, it has 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha). The members are elected by the Parliament every year according to the principle of proportional representation by means of single transferrable vote.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The chairman of this committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members. Until 1966-67, the chairman belonged to the ruling party. However, since 1967 a convention has developed whereby the chairman is selected invariably from the opposition.
Statement 4 is correct: A minister cannot be elected as a member of this committee. The committee examines the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) which are laid before the Parliament by the President.

10. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NHRC is a statutory body, established by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. The Commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairperson and four members. The chairperson should be a retired Chief Justice of India and other members should be serving or retired judges of the Supreme Court, a serving or retired chief justice of a high court and two persons having knowledge or practical experience with respect to human rights.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The chairperson and members hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 70 years whichever is earlier. The chairperson and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee comprising the PM as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of Opposition of both the Houses of the Parliament and the Central Home Minister.
- **Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect:** The Chairperson and members are not eligible for further employment under the Central or a state government after retirement. Additionally, the President can also remove the President or any other member on the grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. In these cases, the President has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court.

11. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Uranus:** It is the seventh planet in our solar system, not known to the astronomers until the late eighteenth century when it was first seen as a faint bluish-green disc through a very powerful telescope. It orbits around the Sun in a clockwise direction from east to west with five satellites revolving around it.
- **Neptune:** Neptune was discovered through mathematical calculations along with Pluto. It closely resembles Uranus, except that it has only two known satellites and is probably much colder.

- **Saturn:** Saturn has three rings around it and nine satellites. It is the second largest planet in the solar system in terms of size. It takes 29.5 years to complete its orbit around the Sun.
- **Venus:** It is the second closest planet to the Sun after Mercury. It is often known as Earth's twin because of close proximity in size, mass and density.

12. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Blue dragons (*Glaucus atlanticus*) are a small type of sea slug that live on the ocean surface, floating upside down. They have the ability to camouflage themselves with the sea's blue colour as a defensive strategy. Primarily feeding on jellyfish, Blue dragons use their venom as a potential weapon against their predators. A sting from these sea slugs causes redness, swelling, nausea and vomiting. Blue dragons primarily occur in the warm tropical waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
- **Additional Information:** Several beaches in Spain have been closed after a tiny species of sea slug called Blue dragon began to wash ashore in droves. This has ruined the summer vacation season in Spain, leading to economic losses. Blue dragons are rarely seen in the Mediterranean Sea. However, the recent arrival is linked to rising sea-surface temperature as the Mediterranean Sea is one of the fastest-warming water bodies.

13. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Bhuvaneshwar, in collaboration with environment think tank International Forum for Environment, Sustainability & Technology (iFOREST) has launched the Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan. Developed by iFOREST in collaboration with the Singapore-ETH Centre (SEC), the plan provides a roadmap to address rising temperature, humidity, the Urban Heat Island Effect and the growing demand for air conditioners.
- **Additional Information:** The Integrated Heat and Cooling Action Plan (ICHAP) report highlights that Bhuvaneshwar could face a sevenfold rise in cooling electricity demand by 2050, with a normal heat day expected to feel hotter than today. The report also illustrates a sharp rise in household ownership of air conditioners, rising from six percent to fifteen percent between 2021 and 2023, a 73 percent annual growth rate.

14. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Located in Nayagarh district, it came into existence in 1981. The sanctuary is situated in the Eastern highlands with vegetation primarily being moist deciduous. Important flora of this sanctuary includes mixed deciduous, dry deciduous, and moist Peninsular sal forests. Significant fauna are elephants, tigers, leopards, python and king cobra.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Located in Mayurbhanj district, it came into existence in 1979. Important flora are sal forests, semi-evergreen forests and tropical moist deciduous forests. Important fauna are tigers, elephants, panthers, gaurs, pangolins, antelopes etc.
- **Option (c) is correct:** Located in Khurda district, it came into existence in 1979. It is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian pangolin in the world. It has been globally recognised for its highest collection of white tigers in the world. Besides white tigers, Asiatic lion, Indian crocodiles, lion-tailed macaque, Nilgiri langur are also found.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Located in Nuapada district, it came into existence in 1988. It has eleven beautiful waterfalls and seasonal streams. Important fauna are swamp deer, wild water buffalo, tiger, leopard, hyena, nilgai etc. This is an ideal sanctuary for Barasingha. It also forms a migration link for wild buffaloes across two Indian states i.e Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

15. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Mohenjodaro:** Mohenjodaro was excavated by R.D.Banerjee in 1922. It is situated on the banks of river Indus in the Larkana district of Pakistan. Important excavations of this site include great bath, granary, bronze dancing girl, pashupati seal, steatite statue of bearded man, a piece of woven cloth.
- **Kalibangan:** This site is located in Rajasthan on the banks of Ghaggar river. Here, craft-making flourished as a beadmaking factory has been excavated. Other notable finds are fire alter, camel bones and wooden plough.
- **Banawali:** The Indus people produced wheat, barley, peas etc. They produced two types of wheat and barley. A good quantity of barley has been discovered here. In addition to this, Indus Valley people produced sesamum and mustard.
- **Lothal:** The Harappans traded extensively with Mesopotamia and Egypt. The Mesopotamian records refer to the Harappan regions as Meluha. The Mesopotamian texts also speak of two intermediate trading stations at Dilmun and Makan. Lothal had a large dockyard which was used for external trade.

16.Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indian Councils Act of 1861 made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. In 1862, three Indians were nominated to the Viceroy's legislative council-the Raja of Benaras, The Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Indian Councils Act of 1861 restored the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies which was done by the Charter Act of 1833. This grant of legislative devolution resulted into almost complete autonomy to the provinces in 1937.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Indian Councils Act of 1892 increased the number of additional non-official members in the Central and provincial legislative councils but maintained the official majority in them.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Indian Councils Act of 1892 increased the functions of legislative councils and gave them the power of discussing the budget and ask questions to the executive.

17.Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. The Act divided the country into five zones-Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern. In addition, a separate North-Eastern Council was set up by the North-Eastern Councils Act of 1971.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Zonal Councils seek to promote cooperation and coordination among the States, Union Territories and the Centre. They are only deliberative and advisory bodies. Their recommendation is not binding on the members.
- **Statements 3 and 4 are correct:** The Union Home Minister acts as the chairperson of five zonal councils, except the North-Eastern Council. Additionally, each Chief Minister acts as Vice-Chairperson of the council by rotation for a period of one year.

18.Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 and 2 are correct:** The idea of a Constituent Assembly was first given by M. N. Roy in 1934. In 1935, the Indian National Congress (INC), for the first time, officially demanded a Constituent Assembly to frame the Constitution of India. The British, in principle, accepted the demand for a Constituent Assembly in August Offer in 1940.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee was chaired by J. B. Kripalani. H. C. Mukherjee headed the Minorities Sub-Committee.

- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Constituent Assembly ratified India's Commonwealth membership in May 1949. It adopted the national flag on July 22, 1947, the national anthem on January 24, 1950, the national song on January 24, 1950, elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India on January 24, 1950.

19. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Rivers Brahmani, Baitarani and Dhamra flow through the mangrove forests of Bhitarkanika. It is the second largest mangrove forest in India after Sundarbans in West Bengal. It was designated as a Ramsar Site by the UNESCO in 2002. Important fauna are leopard, striped hyena, chital, deer, mongoose etc.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Located on the East coast of India, it was designated as a Ramsar Site in 1981. It is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia and the largest wintering ground for migratory water-fowls on the Indian sub-continent. Important fauna are mangroves, phytoplankton, sea grass etc.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Located in the Kendrapara district of Odisha, it came into existence in 1997. This is the world's largest nesting beach of Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. Important fauna are wild boar, barking deer, jungle fowl, sambar, four-horned antelope etc. Important flora are bel, tendu, palas, sal, teak, bamboo etc.
- **Option (d) are incorrect:** Located in Angul district of Odisha, it came into existence in 1976. The Satkosia Gorge is an extended part of Mahanadi River. Important flora are mixed deciduous forests, sal and riverine forests. Important fauna are gharials, black bear, elephant, musk deer etc.

20. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** The Charter Act of 1853 for the first time separated the legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's council. The Governor-General's legislative council came to be known as the Indian Legislative Council. The act introduced an open competition system for the recruitment of civil servants. It also introduced local representation in the Indian Legislative Council.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** The Morley-Minto Reforms, also known as Indian Councils Act of 1909, provided for the first time for the association of Indians with the executive councils of the Viceroy and Governor. Satyendra Prasad Sinha was the first Indian to join the Viceroy's executive council as a law member. The act introduced a system of communal representation for the Muslims. Hence, Lord Minto came to be known as the father of communal electorate.
- **Option (c) is correct:** The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, also known as Government of India Act of 1919, introduced bicameralism and direct elections for the first time in India. The Indian Legislative Council was replaced by a bicameral legislature consisting of an Upper House and a Lower House. The act further divided provincial subjects into two parts-transferred and reserved. It also provided for the establishment of a public service commission.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** The Indian Councils Act of 1861 made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. It restored the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It also recognised the 'portfolio system', introduced by Lord Canning in 1859 and empowered the Viceroy to issue ordinances.

21. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** Sindhi was added to the Eighth Schedule by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967. Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992. Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003. Oriya was renamed as Odia by the 96th Amendment Act of 2011.

- **Additional Information:** The Eighth Schedule comprises the languages recognised by the Indian Constitution. Originally, it had 14 languages but presently there are 22 languages. These are: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.

22. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect:** The Vice-President of India is elected by an electoral college consisting of both the nominated and elected members of the Parliament (In case of President, only elected members). However, it does not include the members of the state legislative assemblies (In case of President, only elected members of state legislative assemblies are allowed).
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The election is held in accordance with proportional representation by means of single transferrable vote and voting is by secret ballot.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** To be eligible for election as the Vice-President, a person should be a citizen of India, should have completed 35 years, should be qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha and should not hold any office of profit.

23. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 is correct:** Originally, the Indian Constitution did not contain the Fundamental Rights. These were added by the 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 on the recommendations of Sardar Swaran Singh Committee. The amendment added Part IVA to the Constitution containing Article 51A. These duties were inspired by the Constitution of erstwhile USSR.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Certain recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee were not accepted. These include imposition of penalty or punishment for non-observance of these duties, no judicial review of this penal provision and paying taxes as one of the duties.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 prevents disrespect to the Constitution of India, the National Flag and the National Anthem. It thus upholds the Fundamental Duty enshrined in Article 51A (a) i.e to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals, the national flag and the national anthem. Article 51A(b) encourages to cherish the noble ideals of the freedom struggle.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 prohibits trade in rare and endangered species. It thus upholds the Fundamental Right enshrined in Article 51A (g) i.e to protect the natural environment including forests, rivers, lakes and wildlife.

24. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 introduced Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O. In addition, the Act also introduced a new Eleventh Schedule containing 29 functional items.
- **Compulsory Provisions:** Organisation of Gram Sabha in a village or group of villages. Establishment of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels. Direct elections to all seats in panchayats at all three levels. Indirect election to the post of chairperson at the intermediate and district levels. 21 years to be the minimum age for contesting election to the panchayats. Reservation of seats to SCs, STs and women in panchayats at all three levels. Five-year tenure of panchayats at all levels. Establishment of State Election Commission and State Finance Commission.
- **Voluntary Provisions:** Representation of members of Parliament and state legislatures in the panchayats. Providing reservation of seats for backward classes in panchayats. Granting powers and authority to the panchayats to enable them to function as self-governing institutions.

Devolution of powers and responsibilities upon the panchayats. Granting financial powers to panchayats.

25. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** The Preamble embodies the fundamental values enshrined in the Constitution. In the world of Sir Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer, a member of the Constituent Assembly, 'The Preamble to our Constitution expressed what we had thought or dreamt so long.'
- **Option (b) is correct:** According to K M Munshi, a member of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, the Preamble is the 'horoscope of our sovereign democratic republic.'
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** M Hidayatullah, a former Chief Justice of India, observed, 'Preamble resembles the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, but is more than a declaration. It is the soul of our constitution, which lays down the pattern of our political society.'
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** N A Palkhivala, an eminent jurist and constitutional expert, called the Preamble as the 'identity card of the Constitution.'

26. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect:** Pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above are eligible for the scheme. The first two live birth norm shall be relaxed for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) who belong to 13 communities.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** The Mamata Yojana is applicable on the first two live births only. Moreover, it does not cover all government or public sector undertakings employees and their wives.

27. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** During Ganga rule Odishan temple architecture reached its zenith with the construction of the famous Sun temple at Konark by Narasimhadeva I. Jagannath temple was built by Anangabhimadeva III during the Ganga dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Important rulers of Ganga Dynasty were Chodagangadeva (1077-1147 AD), Rajaraja II (1170-1190 AD), Anangabhimadeva III (1211-1238 AD) and Narsimhadeva I (1238-1264 AD). Bhanudeva IV (1414-1435 AD) was the last Ganga king. He was betrayed by his minister when he went on to campaigns against the Reddis Kapilesvara Routroya.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect and 4 is correct:** The Ganga dynasty was a Hindu power on the Indian sub-continent. They are also known as Eastern Gangas. They ruled the whole of the modern-day Indian state of Odisha. The founder of this dynasty was Kamarnava. Their capital was known by Kalinganagara. The rule of the Ganga Dynasty is considered the golden era. The great Sanskrit poet Jayadeva, author of the Gita Govinda, flourished under the reign of Lakshmanasena, the last Sena king of Bengal (c. 1178-c. 1205), not Rajaraja II. While Jayadeva was a contemporary of Rajaraja II, he was not a court poet of the Chola ruler.

28. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 315 to 323 in Part XIV of the Indian Constitution deal with State Public Service Commissions. A State Public Service Commission consists of a chairperson and other members appointed by the governor. Although the chairman and members of SPSC are appointed by the governor, they can be removed by the President only.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Constitution of India does not specify the strength of SPSC. Further, no qualification has been prescribed for its membership except that one-half of the members of the commission should be persons who have held office for at least ten years either under the government of India or the government of a state.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Chairperson and members hold office for a term of six years or till they attain the age of 62 years whichever is earlier. However, they can resign from their office after writing to the governor.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Constitution authorises the governor to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and members of the commission, not the state legislature.

29. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses. A bill notified for a joint sitting of both Houses does not lapse. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse. A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the President does not lapse.
- **Additional information:** A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse. Pending bills and assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

30. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kyoto Protocol was adopted on 11th December, 1997 in Kyoto, Japan and entered into force on 16th February, 2005. It commits industrialized countries to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions based on the principles of the convention.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations as part of 'common but differentiated responsibilities'. It provided for binding emission reduction targets for developed country parties.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Protocol established a flexible market mechanism for onshore emission reduction. The flexible market mechanism includes Joint Implementation, Clean Development Mechanism and Emission Trading.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The Clean Development Mechanism allows a country with a emission-reduction commitment under the Kyoto Protocol to implement an emission reduction project in developing countries. It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind.

31. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The CMS Convention, also known as the Bonn Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty concluded under the aegis of UNEP. It aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** CMS is the only global convention specializing in the conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes. It cooperates with a number of international organizations, NGOs, the media and corporate sector.
- **Sector 3 is correct:** Appendix I of the convention lists migratory species threatened with extinction. Migratory species that would benefit from international cooperation are listed in Appendix II.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** India has signed the 'Raptor MoU' which is a non-binding agreement under Article IV of the CMS. The 'Raptor MoU' covers 76 species of birds of prey, out of which 46 species, including vultures, falcons, owls and hawks occur in India.

32. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect:** The Secure Himalaya project was launched by MoEFCC in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). It focuses strengthening the protected area network, landscape-level approach for wildlife conservation, control of

poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, mitigation of human-wildlife conflict and management of tourism in wildlife areas.

- **Statement 2 and 3 are correct:** The project intends to conserve the snow leopards by protecting their habitats and improving the Himalayan ecosystem. It covers Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

33. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** Tribal-dominated Koraput district from Odisha was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2024 under the category of 'holistic development of districts'. The award was presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to collector-cum-district magistrate Keerthi Vasani V.
- **Additional Information:** The award recognised Koraput's outstanding performance in implementing social welfare and development schemes aimed at last-mile delivery. According to the collector, effective implementation of programs like Har Ghar Jal Yojana, PM Awas Yojana (Urban and Rural), Mission Indradhanush, PM SVANidhi, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Kisan Credit Card Scheme etc led to the award.

34. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Planning Committee (NPC) was set up in October 1938 under the initiative of Subhash C. Bose. It was chaired by J.L. Nehru. The committee sought to work out concrete programs for development encompassing all major areas of the economy. The work of the committee was disrupted with the advent of the Second World War and in the wake of the Quit India Movement.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This plan was proposed by a group of India's leading capitalists in 1944-45 including Purshottamdas Thakurdas, J.R.D. Tata, G.D. Birla and others. The Bombay Plan gave significant emphasis to both agrarian restructuring and rapid industrialization, though with different targets: it aimed to double the output of the agricultural sector and achieve a five-fold growth in the industrial sector over 15 years, demonstrating a dual focus on developing both pillars of the economy.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It was formulated by M.N. Roy in 1945, the Chairman of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of Indian Trade Union. The plan was based on Marxist socialism and advocated the need of providing the people with the 'basic necessities of life.'
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Visvesvaraya Plan was the first blueprint of economic planning in India. It was proposed by M. Visvesvaraya who wrote the book 'The Planned Economy of India' in 1934. It put equal emphasis on democratic capitalism and industrialisation, targeting to double national income in one decade.

35. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was officially launched in 2014 by China with 21 Asian nations as the founding members. It aims at providing finance to infrastructure projects in the Asia region. It operates in the same manner as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India is one of the founding members of the bank and is believed to benefit maximum from it. It is presently the largest borrower of the bank. It holds 8.6794 per cent of the shares.

36. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** Under the MUDRA Bank, MSMEs can avail up to ₹10 lakh loan through refinance route (through public and private sector banks, NBFCs, MFIs, RRBs, District Banks etc). The products designed under it are categorized into Shishu (loan up to ₹50,000), Kishor (₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh) and Tarun (₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh).
- **Additional Information:** The MUDRA Bank was launched by the Government of India in April 2015 as part of the Prime Minister Mudra Yojana (PMMY). There is no fixed interest rate under this scheme. Interest rates on loans vary according to risk involved. There is no general subsidy offered on interest rates.

37. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In March, 1940 the Ramgarh session of the Indian National Congress was held, in which the decision to launch Individual Civil Disobedience Movement was taken. On 27th September, 1940, the Utkal Pradesh Congress Committee appointed HK Mahtab as the General Director of the Individual Civil Disobedience Movement in Odisha. The movement formally started on 1st December, 1940.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Quit India Movement began in August 1942. Odisha played its full part in the revolution with widespread popular risings in remote rural areas. Laxman Naik became a martyr in Odisha during this movement.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In 1931, the Odisha State's People's Conference was organised at Cuttack under the presidentship of Bhubananda Das. This organisation preceded to enquire into the people's grievances in the states.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The students of Odisha established Swaraj Sevak Sangh at Cuttack for working out the programmes of Non-Cooperation Movement. In the Non-Cooperation Movement, many young men of Odisha left schools and colleges. Some eminent lawyers gave up their legal profession, men like Gopabandhu Choudhury, Lingaraj Mishra, Surendra Nath Das and Muhammad Hanif resigned from government jobs and Pandit Nilakantha Das gave up their teaching assignments in prestigious Calcutta University to serve in a national school.

38. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Biosphere Reserves are internationally designated by UNESCO for natural and cultural landscapes extending over vast areas of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems. These are sites established by countries and recognised under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The cores zones of biosphere reserves should be absolutely undisturbed. They must contain suitable habitats higher order predators, numerous plant and animal species. The core zone is free from all human pressures.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Buffer zone adjoins core areas. Activities like limited recreation, tourism, fishing and grazing are allowed here. Research and educational activities can also be encouraged in these zones.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The transition zone is the outermost part of biosphere reserves which may be used for settlements, crop lands, managed forests and intensive recreation

39. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for the recognition of forest rights of forest dwelling tribal communities. Nodal agency of the Act is MoTA.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The provides a definition of minor forest produce which includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin such as bamboo, honey, wax, medicinal plants etc.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The rights under this Act shall be inheritable but not alienable or transferrable and shall be registered in the name of both the spouses for married persons and in the name of single head for unmarried persons and in the absence of a direct heir, the right shall pass to next kin.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** Under the Act, Gram Sabha is the nodal authority for determining the nature and extent of individual and community forest rights.

40. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect:** Photochemical smog is a term used to describe air pollution that results from the interaction of sunlight with certain chemicals in the atmosphere. One of the primary components of photochemical smog is ozone.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Stratospheric ozone protects the earth from harmful UV radiation while ground-level ozone is hazardous to human health. It is formed from an interaction of nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight.

41. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Phytoplanktons are microscopic plant organisms that live in aquatic environments both salty and fresh. Some of them are bacteria, some are protists and most are single-celled animals. Common types include cyanobacteria, diatoms, dinoflagellates, green algae and coccolithophores.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** All phytoplanktons contain chlorophyll pigment to capture sunlight and use photosynthesis to turn it into chemical energy. They consume carbon dioxide, and release oxygen.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Phytoplanktons are present throughout the lighted regions of all the seas and oceans including the polar regions.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The total biomass of phytoplanktons is many times greater than that of the total plants on land and they serve as the pasture grounds in the aquatic environment.

42. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** The reserve money for the economy or the government includes RBI's net credit to the government, RBI's net credit to the banks, net forex reserve with the RBI, government's current liabilities to the public and net non-monetary liabilities of the RBI.
- **Additional Information:** The RBI is required to maintain a reserve requirement of ₹200 crores in gold and foreign currency with itself, of which ₹115 crores should be in gold. Against this reserve, the RBI is empowered to issue currency to any extent. This is being followed since 1957 and is known as the Minimum Reserve System (MRS).

43. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** The Samrudha Krushak Yojana is a major agriculture initiative launched by the Government of Odisha to uplift the financial condition of farmers by ensuring better procurement prices for paddy. The scheme offers an enhanced MSP of ₹3100 per quintal for paddy.
- **Additional Information:** A total budget of ₹5,000 crore has been allocated for this scheme. The procurement amount is transferred directly to the bank accounts of farmers, reducing delays and eliminating corruption. It also provides 80-85% subsidy on modern farming equipment such as tractors, harvesters and irrigation systems to promote sustainable and high-yield farming. Besides, the procurement process will be digitally monitored to prevent leakage.

44. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** The Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network (B-MAAN) initiative which will facilitate a cadet programme for tribal girls has been launched by the government of Odisha. For this purpose, the government is developing 14 unused airstrips in the state into airports. In districts that do not have an airport, the government is working to establish a total of 15 heliports.
- **Additional Information:** The government of Odisha has also signed an agreement with Air Works, India's leading aviation MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) service provider. The government has already signed a pact with Biju Patnaik International Airport authorities to set up the MRO.

45. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Laterite soil is formed in hot and wet tropical areas. It is rich in aluminium, manganese and iron. It is well-developed on the Eastern Ghats in Odisha. The soil is highly permeable and is poor in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and calcium. It is generally acidic in nature.
- **Option (b) is correct:** Red soil is formed due to the deposits of iron of the upper Dharwar series. It is characterized by coarse texture and single grained to weakly granular structured surface soil. The soil is highly porous with low water holding capacity. It covers the largest area of Odisha.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Deltaic and alluvial soil is granular in nature. Its texture varies from coarse sand to clay, depending upon the geomorphology of flood plain and the type of alluvium carried by river water. These soils are fertile but has low nitrogen and phosphorus is also found.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Red and yellow soils are found in undulating and rolling terrains which differ in depth, texture and colour. These soils cover the second largest area in Odisha. Crops grown on this soil are rice, finger millet, sugarcane, potato, brinjal and tomato.

46. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Pata lake is a freshwater lake which lies in Ganjam district of Odisha. It is about 4 km long and 500 m wide. It is one of the main tourist attraction sites of Odisha.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Sara lake is a freshwater lake. The lake near Puri district. It is 5 km long and 3 km wide.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Tampara lake is a freshwater lake, located in Ganjam district of Odisha. It is 4 km long and 0.5 km wide.
- **Option (d) is correct:** Ansupa lake is a freshwater lake which looks like a horse-shoe shape, situated at the foot of the Saranda hills. It lies on the left bank of the Mahanadi river. The lake was formed due to the meander shifting of the Mahanadi. It is directly linked with the Mahanadi river by a channel known as Kabula Nalla.

47. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Sangam texts do not mention kshatriyas and vasihiyas as regular varnas. Captains of the army were known as endais. Civil and military officers were held by the vallalas or rich peasants. They had marriage relations with arasars or the ruling caste. Agricultural operations were generally carried out by women of the lowest class called kadaisiyars. Pylayans were low caste artisans who made rope charpayis and animal skins as mats.
- **Additional Information:** The Sangam age ranged from around 3rd century BC to 3rd century AD in south India in the area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra. Named after the Sangam assemblies which were held under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai. These assemblies witnessed the coming together of eminent scholars. Notable works of Sangam

literature include Tolkappiyam, Ettutogai, Pattuppattu, Pathinenkilkanakku, and two epics-Silappadikaram and Manimegalai.

48. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Bottleneck takes place when the supply falls drastically and the demand remains at the same level. This happens due to supply-side hurdles, hazardous or mismanagement which is also known as 'structural inflation'.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Skewflation is a new term to denote a type of inflation when there is price rise in a small group of commodities over a period of time. For example, rise in food prices in India in late 2009 and early 2010 even though the prices of non-food items remained stable.

49. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Effective revenue deficit is a new term introduced in the Union Budget 2011-12. Revenue deficit is the difference between revenue receipts and revenue expenditures. Effective revenue deficit is revenue deficit minus revenue expenditures for the creation of capital assets. Grants for centrally sponsored programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is one of the components of effective revenue deficit.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Fiscal deficit is the difference between total expenditures and total receipts of the government. Primary deficit is fiscal deficit excluding the interest liabilities for a particular year. It was introduced in 1997-98. It shows fiscal deficit for a year in which the economy does not need to meet any interest payments of different loans and liabilities.

50. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** REITs are companies that own, operate and finance income-generate real-estate across a range of sectors. These are regulated by SEBI along with Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). REIT may raise fund from any type of investors, resident or foreign.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** REITs are allowed to invest in commercial real-estate assets either directly or through SPVs. In SPVs, a REIT must hold a controlling interest of at least 50 percent and will have to hold at least 80 percent of their assets directly in properties.

51. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Cirques are erosional landforms formed by glaciers. These are found at the heads of glacial valleys. They are deep, long and wide basins with very steep and vertically dropping walls. When the glacier disappears, water is deposited within the cirques forming a cirque or tarn lakes.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Moraines are depositional landforms of glacial till. Terminal moraines are long ridges of debris deposited at the end of the glaciers. Lateral moraines form along the sides parallel to the glacial valleys. The moraine in the centre of the glacial valley flanked by lateral moraines is called medial moraines.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Eskers are sinuous ridges formed due to accumulation of water beneath the glacier. Very coarse materials like boulders are carried into this water and settle in the valley of ice beneath the glacier. After the ice melts these boulders can be found as eskers.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Drumlins are smooth oval shaped ridge like features composed mainly of glacial till with some masses of gravel and sand. One end of the drumlins facing the glacier called the stoss and the other end is called tail. Drumlins form due to dumping of rock debris beneath heavily loaded ice through fissures in the glacier.

52. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Chambal rises near Mhow in the Malwa plateau of Madhya Pradesh. It flows upwards of Kota in Rajasthan where the Gandhisagar dam has been constructed. The Chambal is famous for its badland topography called the Chambal ravines.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** The Ramganga rises in the Garhwal hills near Garisain. It changes its course to the southwest direction after crossing the Shiwalik and enters into the plains of Uttar Pradesh. Finally, it joins the Ganga near Kannuj.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** The Gandak comprises two streams namely Kaligandak and Trishulganga. It rises in the Nepal Himalayas between the Dhaulagiri and Mount Everest and drains the central part of Nepal. It enters the Ganga plain in Champaran district of Bihar and joins the Ganga at Sonpur near Patna.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** The Ghaghara originates in the glaciers of Mapchachungo. Its important tributaries are Tila, Seti and Beri. The river Sarda (Kali Ganga) joins it in the plain before it finally meets the Ganga at Chhapra.

53. Answer: B**Explanation:**

India's first AI-enabled nature experience center is coming up at Betla National Park in Jharkhand. It will use AI, Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), and immersive sound to simulate real jungle life for visitors. This initiative aims to enhance the visitor experience and promote conservation education.

54. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Tropical deciduous forests are the most widespread forests in India. Also known as monsoon forests, they spread over regions which receive rainfall between 70-200 cm. Tropical moist deciduous forests are more prevalent in regions which record rainfall between 100-200 cm. These are found along the foothills of Himalayas, eastern slopes of Western Ghats and Odisha. Teak, sal, shisham, hurra, mahua, amia, semul, kusum and sandalwood are the main species of these forests.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Montane forests are found in mountainous areas where the decrease in temperature with increasing altitude leads to a corresponding change in natural vegetation. Important species include deodar, chir pine, blue pine, chinar and walnut. These forests are more prevalent in the Himalayan ranges. The higher reaches of the Himalayas have open grasslands that are used as pasture lands by tribes like Gujjars, Bakarwals, Bhotiyas and Gaddis. This also known as transhumance.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Tropical evergreen forests are found in the western slopes of the Western Ghats, hills of northeastern region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are found in warm and humid areas with an annual precipitation of over 200 cm and mean annual temperature above 22°C. These are well stratified with trees having no definite time to shed trees. Species found in these forests include rosewood, mahogany, aini, ebony etc.
- **Option (d) is correct:** Dry deciduous forests cover vast areas of the country where rainfall ranges between 70-100 cm. These forests are found in rainier areas of the Peninsula and the plain of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Tendu, palas, amaltas, bel, khair, axlewood etc are the common trees of these forests.

55. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Manganese is an important raw material for smelting of iron ore. It is also used for manufacturing ferro alloys. Manganese deposits are found in almost all geographical formations. But, it is primarily associated with Dharwar system. Madhya Pradesh and Odisha are the leading

producers of manganese. Major mines in Odisha are Bonai, Kendujhar, Sundergarh, Koraput, Kalahandi and Bolangir.

- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Bauxite is a non-ferrous mineral that is used in manufacturing of aluminium. It is mainly found in tertiary deposits and is associated with laterite rocks occurring on the plateau or hill ranges of peninsular India. Odisha happens to be the largest producer of Bauxite. Kalahandi and Sambalpur are the leading producers.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Mica is primarily used in the electrical and electronic industries. It can be split into very thin sheets which are tough and flexible. Leading producers are Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal and Rajasthan.

56. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) was announced by the RBI in its monetary policy 2011-12. Under this scheme, banks can borrow overnight up to 1 percent of their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) at an interest rate of 1 percent higher than the repo rate. It has been introduced as a penal rate of interest.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Repo rate is the rate the RBI charges on the banks for short-term borrowing. It is not called an interest rate but considered to be a discount on the dated securities.

57. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The PMJDY was launched on 28 August, 2014 which provides universal access to banking services with at least one basic banking account for every household. It also provides for financial literacy, access to credit and insurance.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect:** Beneficiaries will receive a RuPay Debit Card having inbuilt accident insurance cover of ₹1 lakh. Additionally, there is a life insurance cover of ₹30,000 for those who opened their bank accounts for the first time between 15 August 2014 and 26 January 2015. The Yojana also entered the Guinness World Records for opening the most bank accounts.

58. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under the BOT-Annuity model, government shares the project cost with the private player. The private player maintains and operates the road without any responsibility of collecting toll on the traffic. The private player is offered a fixed amount of money annually.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the EPC mode, project cost is fully covered by government only. The private player designs, constructs and hands over the road to the government which looks after maintenance, operation and toll collection.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Hybrid Annuity Model is a mix of BOT-Annuity and EPC models. The private player is responsible for constructing the road and handing over to the government. Major risks are covered by the government-land acquisition, clearance, operation, toll collection etc.

59. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Sovereign gold bonds are issued by the RBI on behalf of the GoI in rupee and denominated in grams of gold and restricted for sale to resident Indian entities both in demat and paper format. The minimum and maximum investment limits are two grams and 500 grams of gold per person per fiscal respectively.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** KYC norms are same as that of gold. Exemption from capital gains tax is also available. Redemption is made in the rupee value equivalent to the price of gold at the of maturity.

60. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Government of India launched the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) in 2015 as a central sector scheme to support market interventions for price control of perishable agricultural commodities.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The cost is to be borne between the centre and the states in equal ratio (in case of north-eastern states, the respective share will be 75:25).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Fund commenced with only two crops viz. onion and potato. But currently, it covers tomato, onion and potato as well.
- **Additional Information:** Recently, the Union government has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) in PM AASHA to serve the farmers and consumers more efficiently. PM AASHA will now have the components of Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilization Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (POPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).

61. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Gajapati dynasty was a medieval Hindu dynasty that ruled over Kalinga from 1434-1541 AD. The founder of this dynasty was Kapilendra Deva. This dynasty witnessed the invasions of Krishnadevaraya and Quli Qutb Shah. Gajapati kings were patrons of literature and poetry. During this time, due to the contributions of Sarala Dasa, a poet of 15th century, the literary works produced came to be known as the literature of Sarala Yuga.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** The Bhoi dynasty was founded by Govinda Vidhyadhara in 1541, after the killing of Kkharua Deva, last ruler of Gajapati dynasty. This period saw the destruction of many Hindu temples including the Sun temple and the Jagannath temple and downfall of Oriya literature.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** The founder of Karrani dynasty was Sulaiman Khan Karrani who was the first to establish Muslim rule in Odisha. He transferred his capital from Gaur to Tandah. Kalapahar, a Hindu general of Sulaiman Khan, was responsible for large scale destruction of temples.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Also known as Eastern Gangas, the founder of Ganga dynasty was Kamarnava. Their capital was known by Kalinganagara. Vaishnavism received royal patronage. Besides, Odisha temple architecture reached its zenith under this dynasty, thanks to the construction of the Sun temple at Konark by Narasimhadeva I. Great poet Jayadeva flourished during the reign of Rajaraja II. Jagannath temple was built by Anangabhimadeva III during the Ganga dynasty.

62. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Khan-i-Duran was appointed the Governor of Odisha by Aurangzeb. In 1659, when Aurangzeb ascended the throne, several chieftains in Odisha declared themselves independent. Khan-i-Duran defeated several rebel chieftains and also defeated Mukundradeva I, the then king of Khurda.
- **Option (b) is correct and (d) is incorrect:** In 1628 when Shah Jahan became the Mughal emperor, he appointed Muhammad Baqar Khan, as the Governor of Odisha. After 1645, Zaman Teharani was appointed as the Governor of Odisha. During Shah Jahan's rule, the administration was seated at Cuttack.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Murshid Quli Khan was assigned with the charge of Naib Subadar and Faujdar of Odisha and finally in 1703 he was given the independent charge as Subadar of Odisha. During this time, Odisha passed into the hands of the Naib Nazims of Bengal.

63. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** According to Mahabharata, Utkala was a part of Kalinga. It is believed that Karna conquered the kingdom of Utkala. Utkala included northern part of Kalinga.

- **Options (b) and (d) are incorrect:** Oddiyana was the name of Odisha mentioned in Buddhist texts. Trikalanga was found on copper plates in Sonepur. It literally means three Kalingas and referred to the three states of Kalinga, South Kosala and Kongoda.
- **Option (c) is correct:** Mahakantara was the found during Gupta period. It is usually identified with modern day Kalahandi and Jeypore region.
- **Additional Information:** According to Puranas and Mahabharata, Kalinga was named after the prince Kalinga who was the son of king Bali and queen Sudesna. Other names for ancient Odisha include Odra, Kamala Mandala, Kongoda, Odivissa, Tosali. Tosali was name for a city including subdivision of Kalinga during Ashoka' reign. The capital of Tosali has been placed in modern day Dhauli..

64. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Mir Bakshi:** Mir Bakshi was the head of the military department under the Mughals. He was considered to be the head of the nobility. He recommended for the appointment and promotion of the mansabs to the emperor. He was also the head of the intelligence and information agencies of the empire.
- **Barids and Waqia-Navis:** Barids and Waqia-Navis were intelligence officers and news reporters respectively under the Mughal empire, posted to all parts of the empire. The reports were presented to the emperor through Mir Bakshi.
- **Mir Saman:** He was in charge of the imperial household, maintenance of court etiquette, control of the royal bodyguard. Only nobles who enjoyed the complete confidence of the emperor were appointed to this post.

65. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **East India Association:** The East India Association was organised by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1866 in London to discuss Indian issues and influence public opinion in England.
- **Indian League:** Indian League was begun by Sisir Kumar Ghosh in 1875 to promote nationalism among the people and encourage political education.
- **Indian Association of Calcutta:** Also known as the Indian National Association, the Indian Association of Calcutta superseded the Indian League and was founded in 1876 by Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose. It was the most important pre-Congress association. It protested against the reduction of age limit in 1877 for civil service candidates.
- **Poona Sarvajanik Sabha:** The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha was founded in 1867 by Mahadeo Govind Ranade and others with the goal of serving as a bridge between the government and the people.

66. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Extended Fund Facility (EEF) is a service provided by the IMF to its member countries which authorises them to raise foreign exchange from it to fulfil their BoP crisis but on the conditions of structural reforms in the economy.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** There is no limit on the amount of foreign exchange a country can raise from this facility. This is the first agreement of its kind. India had signed this agreement with the IMF in the financial year 1981-82.

67. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Following the Battle of Buxar (1764), Robert Clive concluded the Treaty of Allahabad in August 1765 with the Nawab of Awadh and the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam II. Shah Alam II agreed to reside at Allahabad to be ceded to him by the Nawab of Awadh. He also issued a

farman granting the diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha to the East India Company in lieu of an annual payment of ₹26 lakh.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula agreed to surrender Allahabad and Kara to Emperor Shah Alam II, pay ₹50 lakh to the Company as war indemnity and give Balwant Singh, Zamindar of Banaras, full possession of his estate.

68. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Treaty of Yandabo was entered into in 1816 with the Gorkhas of Nepal by the English East India Company. According to this treaty, Nepal accepted a British resident, ceded the districts of Garhwal and Kumaon, abandoned claims to Terai and withdrew from Sikkim.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Treaty of Yandabo (1826) concluded the First Burma War (1824-26) which resulted as an outcome of the Burmese occupation of Arakan and Manipur, and threat to Assam and the Brahmaputra Valley. According to this treaty, a British resident was accepted at Ava and a Burmese envoy was posted at Calcutta.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Younghusband Mission was sent to Tibet by Viceroy Lord Curzon to establish friendly and commercial ties. The Treaty of Lhasa was signed in 1904.

69. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The civil service was introduced in India by the East India Company in order to regulate its commercial affairs. Lord Cornwallis was a pioneer in this regard as he sought to introduce an organised civil services. This was motivated by his desire to check corruption among the Company officials. The major reforms introduced by Cornwallis include raising the civil servant's salary, strict enforcement of rules against private trade, enforcing promotions through seniority etc.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Lee Commission was set up in 1924 was set up for civil services reforms. It recommended that the Secretary of State should continue to recruit the ICS, the Irrigation Branch of the Service of Engineers, the Indian Forest Service etc, establishment of a Public Service Commission (as laid down in the Government of India Act 1919) and recruitment to ICS on basis of 50:50 parity between the Europeans and the Indians to be reached in next 15 years.
- **Additional Information:** The Aitchison Committee on Public Services was set up in 1886 by Lord Dufferin. It recommended dropping the terms 'covenanted' and 'uncovenanted', classification of civil service into Imperial Indian Civil Service, Provincial Civil Service and Subordinate Civil Service, raising the age limit to 23 years.

70. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement (I) is correct:** The 'eye' of a tropical cyclone is a region of calm with descending air. Regions around the 'eye' experience maximum wind velocity and torrential rainfall. Wind velocity here reaches as high as 250 km per hour. From the eye wall, rain bands may radiate and cumulonimbus and cumulus clouds may drift into the outer region.
- **Statement (II) is correct:** The eye wall region of tropical cyclones experiences strong spirally ascent of air to greater heights reaching the tropopause. This contributes to the greater velocity of wind in this region. Hence, Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I.
- **Additional Information:** Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over tropical oceans and move over to coastal areas accompanied by large-scale destruction. The conditions favourable for formation of tropical cyclones are- sea surface temperature higher than 27°C, presence of Coriolis force, small variations in the vertical wind speed, a pre-existing weak low-pressure area and upper air divergence.

71. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** The Ramayana refers to Kalinganagara, situated to the west of river Gomati and also refers to the Gandhamardan and Utkala which are associated with Mekala and Dasarna regions.
- **Options (b) and (c) are incorrect:** The Kapil Samhita and Prachi Mahatmya are considered to be important sources of Odisha's history. Puranas like Vayu Purana, Matsya Purana, Bhagavata, Harivamsa Purana, Vishnu Purana etc give information about Kalinga and Utkala and their legendary kings. But they are not the earliest references.
- **Option (d) is correct:** The Mahabharat makes the earliest reference to Kalinga and Odra. It mentions about these lands and about its sacred river Baitarani and Goddess Viraja.

72. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Madhusudan Das was born on 28th April, 1848 in Cuttack. Commonly known as Madhu Barrister and the Grand Old Man of Odisha, he formed the Utkal Union Conference. He was also credited for introducing Odisha Tenancy Bill. He passed away on 4th February, 1939.
- **Option (b) is correct:** Born on 9th October, 1877 in Puri, Gopabandhu Das accelerated the activities of National Congress in Odisha. He established Satyabadi School during Swadeshi Movement and started a Newspaper Samaj. He authored various books like Bandira Atmakatha, Dharmapada, Go Mahatmaya etc. He remained a member of the Odisha Legislative Council from 1917-20. He died on 17th June, 1928.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Krushna Chandra Narayan Deo was born on 26th April, 1892 in Paralakhemundi. He is regarded as one of the makers of modern Odisha. He went to London for the First Round Table Conference. He died on 25th May, 1974.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Born on 3rd December, 1899, Rama Devi was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. She led multiple organisations like All India Charkha Association, All India Women's Association and All India Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust. She passed away on 22nd July, 1985.

73. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Sita Devi Khadanga was an Odia dramatist, novelist, poet and translator. Her writings are mostly set in rural Odisha while depicting social problems of the 20th century. She wrote a play named Mandira Prabesha which was based on the Harijan Movement of Gandhiji.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Sarala Devi was the first lady in Odisha to have brought the message of Non-Cooperation to the state. She collected money for Tilak Swaraj Fund. She also participated in Civil Disobedience Movement and Salt Satyagraha at Balasore. She was the first lady in Odisha to go to jail by the order of court.
- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Malati Devi took part actively in the Salt Satyagraha at Balasore district. She attended the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress. She was selected as one of Individual Satyagrahis for Individual Civil Disobedience Movement. She was arrested during Quit India Movement.

74. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** Retired IAS officer Manoj Kumar Mohanty, former Additional Secretary to the Government in the General Administration & Public Grievance Department, has been appointed as a member of the Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC). The appointment has been made under Clause (1) of Article 316 of the Constitution of India, read with Regulation 5 of the Odisha Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 1952.
- **Option (b) is incorrect:** Vir Vikram Yadav, a 1996 batch IAS officer from Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

(MoEFCC). He previously served as the Food and Supplies Secretary plus Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannatha Temple Administration.

- **Option (c) is incorrect:** The 2012-batch IAS officer Nikhil Pavan Kalyan has been appointed as the Director of Census Operations for the state of Odisha by the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** Shovana Mohanty has been appointed as the chairperson of Odisha State Commission for Women. This was made under the provisions of the Odisha State Commission for Women Act, 1993, for a term of five years.

75. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement (I) is correct:** Being rich sources of protein, pulses are an important component of vegetarian diet India. These are primarily leguminous crops which increased soil fertility through nitrogen fixation. However, the yield of pulses is low and fluctuates from year to year.
- **Statement (II) is correct:** Pulses occupy around 11 percent of the total cropped areas in India. They are mainly grown as rainfed crops in the dryland regions of Deccan, central plateaus and northwestern parts of India. Being rainfed crops, their yield heavily depends on the amount of rainfall. But, since rainfall is unpredictable in these regions, the yield of pulses remains low and fluctuates every year. Hence, Statement-II correctly explains Statement-I.

76. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement-I is incorrect:** Tropical deciduous forests are the most widespread forests in India. They are also called the monsoon forests. In the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, moist deciduous forests are found.
- **Statement-II is correct:** The Moist deciduous forests are more pronounced in the regions which record rainfall between 100-200 cm. These forests are found in the northeastern states along the foothills of the Himalayas, eastern slopes of the Western Ghats and Odisha. Teak, sal, shisham, hurra, mahua etc are important species.

77. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Statement-I is correct:** India has the largest reserve of iron ore in Asia which has played an important role in the development of iron and steel industry in the country. Two main types of iron ore found in India are haematite and magnetite. The important centres of iron and steel industry are concentrated in the northeastern part of peninsular plateau such as Jharkhand (TISCO), Odisha (Rourkela), Chhattisgarh (Bhilai) and West Bengal (Durgapur).
Statement-II is incorrect: The northeastern part of peninsular plateau is rich in coal reserves. The most important Gondwana coal fields of India are located in the Damodar Valley which lie in Jharkhand-West Bengal coal belt. Important coal fields in the region are Raniganj, Jharia, Bokaro and Giridih. Besides, high-grade coking coal, abundant amounts of limestone and manganese are also found in close proximity. Moreover, the region also benefits from cheap labour from the surrounding areas, ample water resources and a well-developed transport network.

78. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is incorrect:** Dr. Sanjukta Maharana has written the book 'Abolishing Child Labour and Pro-active Government Initiatives' drawing attention to one of the most pressing social issues of present times. The book is expected to serve as a guide to policymakers to advocate measures to eliminate child labour.
- **Option (b) is correct:** The book 'A Various World: People, Places, Perspectives' has been launched at the prestigious Kalinga Literary Festival in association with Penguin Random House India. Authored

by Ashok Kuma Bal, the book explores a profound journey through diverse human experiences, shedding light on powerful narratives of people, places and perspectives.

- **Option (c) is incorrect:** Santosh K. Singh's book 'Deras: Culture, Diversity and Politics' is a scholarly work on the syncretic world of South Asian religious traditions which tend to merge with differing elements while still retaining individual characteristics.
- **Option (d) is incorrect:** 'Shape of an Apostrophe', written by Uttama Kirti Patel reveals the intricacies of family life behind closed doors. It explores motherhood, obedience, rebellion and the surprising persistence of love.

79. Answer: C**Explanation:**

- **Option (c) is correct:** The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has granted an operation license for two indigenously developed 700 Mwe Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station, Gujarat. These are KAPS-3 and KAPS-4 which were commissioned in 2023 and 2024 respectively, marking a significant moment for India's power capabilities.
- **Additional Information:** AERB is India's premier regulatory authority responsible for nuclear energy development. It was constituted by a Presidential order in November 1983, under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962. AERB Board comprises six members, two of whom are full-time members, including the chairman. It is responsible to the Atomic Energy Commission, established in 1954 and works directly under the Prime Minister.

80. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Option (a) is correct:** NASA has launched a sounding rocket called the Solar EruptionN Integral Field Spectrograph (SNIFS) mission from New Mexico. It will observe the Sun's chromosphere to find clues about solar corona heating. Chromosphere is a region of the Sun lying between the photosphere and the corona. It will target magnetically active regions in the chromosphere and the Transition Region.
- **Additional Information:** The SNIFS mission will use the first-ever solar ultraviolet integral field spectrograph, combining an imager and a spectrograph to capture 3D data in real-time. The study will improve space weather forecast, protect satellites and power grids from solar flares and enhance global disaster preparedness.

81. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Seva Sadan:** Founded by Behramji M. Malabari in 1908, it campaigned against child marriage and widow remarriage among Hindus. It was due to the efforts of Malabari that the Age of Consent Act was enacted. It also provided education to homeless women along with medical and welfare services. Behramji edited the newspaper Indian Spectator.
- **Dev Samaj:** Founded in 1887 at Lahore by Shiv Narayan Agnihotri, it emphasized on the eternity of the soul, the supremacy of guru and the need for good action. Its teachings were compiled in a book 'Deva Shastra'. Agnihotri spoke against child marriage.
- **Dharma Sabha:** Radhakanta Deb founded this sabha in 1830. It was an orthodox society that stood for the preservation of the status quo, opposing the abolition of sati. However, it favoured the promotion of western education, even for girls.
- **Radhaswami Movement:** It was founded by Tulsi Ram in 1861, a banker from Agra, also known as Shiv Dayal Saheb. It believed in one supreme being, supremacy of the guru, a company of pious people and simple social life. They considered all religions to be true.

82. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** The onset of monsoon in India is largely driven by the differential heating of land and sea during the summer months. One of the primary factors for the onset of Indian monsoon is the formation of an intense low-pressure belt in northwestern parts of India during the heating of ITCZ as the sun shines vertically over it. Simultaneously, a high-pressure belt prevails over the Indian Ocean thanks to the differential heating of the ocean. But, it is ultimately the arrival of easterly jet streams which bring moisture-laden monsoon winds to India. Easterly jet streams arrive only after the withdrawal of the westerly jet streams over the north Indian plain.

Additional Information: The southwest monsoon sets in over Kerala by 1st June and moves swiftly to reach Mumbai and Kolkata between 10th and 13th June. By mid-July, southwest monsoon covers the entire subcontinent.

83. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Brahmaputra originates in the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake. In Tibet, it is known as Tsangpo which means purifier. It emerges as a turbulent river in the Central Himalayas near Namcha Barwa. The river emerges from the Himalayan foothills under the name of Siang or Dihang. This is before it joins its major left bank tributary Lohit in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Brahmaputra is well-known for its floods due to recurrent channel shifting and erosion of river banks. This happens as most of Brahmaputra's tributaries are large and bring huge quantity of sediments due to heavy rainfall in its catchment area.

84. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** An air mass is characterized by distinctive characteristics in terms of temperature and humidity. However, they have little horizontal variation in temperature and moisture. When air masses remain over a homogeneous area for a sufficiently long time, it acquires the characteristics of the area. The homogeneous surface, over which air masses form, are known as source regions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The air masses are classified according to source regions, not in terms of temperature and moisture. Types of air masses are Maritime Tropical, Continental Tropical, Maritime Polar, Continental Polar and Continental Arctic. Tropical air masses are warm and polar air masses are cold.

85. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement (I) is incorrect:** Shield volcanoes are the largest of all volcanoes on the earth. A famous example is the Hawaiian volcanoes. A primary feature of shield volcanoes is the eruption of more fluid lavas. As a result, these volcanoes are not steep.
- **Statement (II) is correct:** The lava erupted by shield volcanoes is made of basalt which contributes to its fluidity. Due to this, shield volcanoes are not very explosive. They become explosive only when water gets into the vent. The upcoming lava comes out in the form of a fountain and develops into a cinder cone.

86. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect:** Antimatter has the same mass compared to their corresponding particles. They have opposite electric charge to their corresponding particle. When a particle meets its antiparticle, they mutually annihilate, converting the entire mass into pure energy in the form of photons.
- **Additional Information:** Antimatter consists of antiparticles which are nearly identical to their corresponding matter particles but carry an opposite electric charge and other reversed quantum

numbers. They are naturally produced in some high-energy astrophysical phenomena like lightning strikes, cosmic rays interacting with Earth's atmosphere and certain radioactive decays.

87. Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has launched SAKSHAM 3000, a high-capacity 25.6 Tbps switch router. It is an advanced networking device designed to be the foundation of modern, high-speed digital networks. Features include ultra-low latency, flexible speeds, and a modular OS, making it a versatile and future-ready platform for telecom operators and large enterprises. This development is a step towards achieving the Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **Additional Information:** C-DOT is an autonomous telecom R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications.

88. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Department of Posts, under the Ministry of Communications, has launched two digital platforms: Know Your DIGIPIN and Know Your PIN Code, to transform the addressing system, and make it more precise and digitally accessible.
- **Additional Information:** The Digital Postal Index Number (DIGIPIN) is an open-source, geo-coded addressing system. Unlike traditional addresses that depend on street names or landmarks, DIGIPIN uses a 10-character alphanumeric code to pinpoint a specific 4x4 metre location anywhere in India, including rural areas, forests or even oceans.

89. Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Lord Chelmsford (1916-1921):** Important events during his term are Lucknow Session of INC (1916) which saw the unification of the Moderates and the Extremists, Lucknow Pact (1916) between the Congress and the Muslim League, Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919), Jalianwallabagh massacre (1919), Satyagrahas in Champaran (1917), Kheda (1918), Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918), Rowlatt Act.
- **Lord Dufferin (1884-1888):** Important event during his time was the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885. Dufferin called the Congress a 'factory of sedition'.
- **Lord Irwin (1926-1931):** The Simon Commission arrived in 1927 during his tenure. It was during his time that Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged. Besides, His regime witnessed the Salt Satyagraha and the launch of Civil Disobedience Movement by Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Lord Linlithgow (1936-1944):** First provincial elections were held under the Government of India Act, 1935 during Linlithgow's tenure. The Congress won a whooping victory in these elections and formed government in 1937. It was Linlithgow's regime which took the decision to involve India in the Second World War in 1939. Other notable events were the arrival of Cripps Mission and the launch of Quit India Movement in 1942.

90. Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Option (b) is correct:** Tayfun Block-4 is a hypersonic ballistic missile developed by Roketsan, a Turkish defense company. It is Turkey's longest-range missile with hypersonic reaching as high as Mach 5. The maximum range of the missile is up to 800 km. It is guided by GPS, GLONASS and Inertial Navigation System (INS).
- **Additional Information:** The missile allows maximum errors of 5 metres per shot. It uses fragmentation type of warhead. It uses solid composite fuel that enables high speed, advanced maneuverability, quick strike capability. It will be primarily be used to strike strategic assets including air defense systems, command centres, infrastructure etc.

91. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** INS Nistar is India's first indigenously built Diving Support Vessel (DSV), developed by Hindustan Shipyard Limited to support submarine rescue, deep-sea diving, and underwater operations. It has 80% indigenous content and is named after the Soviet-origin INS Nistar which was acquired by the Indian Navy from the erstwhile USSR in 1969.
- **Additional Information:** INS Nistar supports Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) and uses Dynamic Positioning System (DPS) for precision in underwater tasks. It also contains a helipad and a 15-ton subsea crane.

92. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Option (b) is correct:** The Maputo Protocol was adopted by the African Union (AU) in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003. It came into force in November 2005. Officially called the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples's Rights of Women in Africa, it seeks to protect women's rights in the African continent.
- **Additional Information:** The protocol prioritizes women's access to sexual and reproductive health. Thanks to the protocol, many African countries have made positive efforts for the empowerment of women. For example, in Rwanda over 60% parliamentary seat are held by women. The protocol also aligns with Goal 3 of SDG i.e Good Health and Well-being.

93. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Malaria is a disease caused by Plasmodium parasite, transmitted by infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. Symptoms include fever, chills, fatigue, and headache.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The disease is prevalent in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide including sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and South America.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** After a mosquito bite, malaria parasites first infect the liver, then multiply and enter red blood cells. Treatments include various drugs like chloroquine and artemisinin.

94. Answer: c) 1 only**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The AI for India 2.0 Programme was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (NMSDE) on the World Youth Skills' Day on July 15, 2023. Recently, the Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in the Rajya Sabha, has highlighted the significance of the programme.
- **Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect:** The programme offers free training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). The content is available in nine Indian languages including Hindi, Telugu and Kannada, not all the 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule.

95. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Biogas is composed of hydrocarbons which are flammable and generates heat and energy if burned. Methane is the primary component of biogas. Liquid biogas is the liquefied form of biogas. It is produced by purifying liquefying purified biogas through cooling at very low temperature. Liquid biogas has low methane content compared to compressed biogas which contains more than 90% methane.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The storage and transport of liquefied biogas is cheap compared to compressed biogas which requires high-pressure cylinders to be stored and transported. Moreover, liquid biogas reduces emissions. It is suitable for regions with cold storage and long-distance transport requirements.

96. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statements 2 and 3 are correct:** The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”. Decisions are taken unanimously where all ten member states must agree for a decision to pass. The headquarters of this organisation is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- **Statements 1 and 4 are incorrect:** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a 10-state regional organization in Southeast Asia. It was founded in Bangkok in 1967 to promote economic, social, cultural development and regional peace and stability. Singapore is India's largest trading partner in ASEAN and also the largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India.

97. Answer: D**Explanation:**

- **Option (d) is correct:** The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) was formed as a customs union/ trade bloc in 2014. It works as a single market with free movement of goods, services, capital and people among members. Its five members are Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Its main bodies include a Supreme Council of Heads of State, an Economic Commission based in Moscow and a Court in Minsk.
- **Additional Information:** Recently, India and the EAEU has signed a Term of Reference (ToR) on August 20, 2025 in Moscow to start formal Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. The FTA will expand Indian market access, diversify exports and help small businesses.

98. Answer: B**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Born in 1873 in Nadiad, Gujarat, Vithalbhai Patel was the older brother of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In 1925, he became the first Indian Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly. When Mahatma Gandhi withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement after the Chauri Chaura incident in February 1922, Vithalbhai severely opposed it.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Vithalbhai Patel joined C. R. Das, Motilal Nehru and Subhas Bose to form the Swaraj Party in 1923 to contest legislative elections. By 1925, Swaraj Party was the largest group in the Central Legislative Assembly and in several provincial councils.

99. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Defence Accounts Department is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) who serves as the Principal Accounting Officer for the Ministry of Defence.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The CGDA operated under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance but functions in close coordination with the Ministry of Defence.
Additional Information: Recently, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the Defence Accounts Department's role in boosting Armed Forces' operational readiness and financial health at the 2025 Controllers' Conference in New Delhi.

100. Answer: A**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) is a 155mm/52 calibre indigenous artillery gun system developed by DRDO in collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems and Bharat Forge Ltd. It has been developed under the 'Make in India' initiative to develop a modern, mobile, long-range artillery platform for the Indian Army.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The artillery can fire upto a maximum range of 48 km. It includes three firing modes-burst, intense and sustained. It is driven by a fully electric drive system, replacing the hydraulics.