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Syllabus through
45+ Years
Solved PYQs**

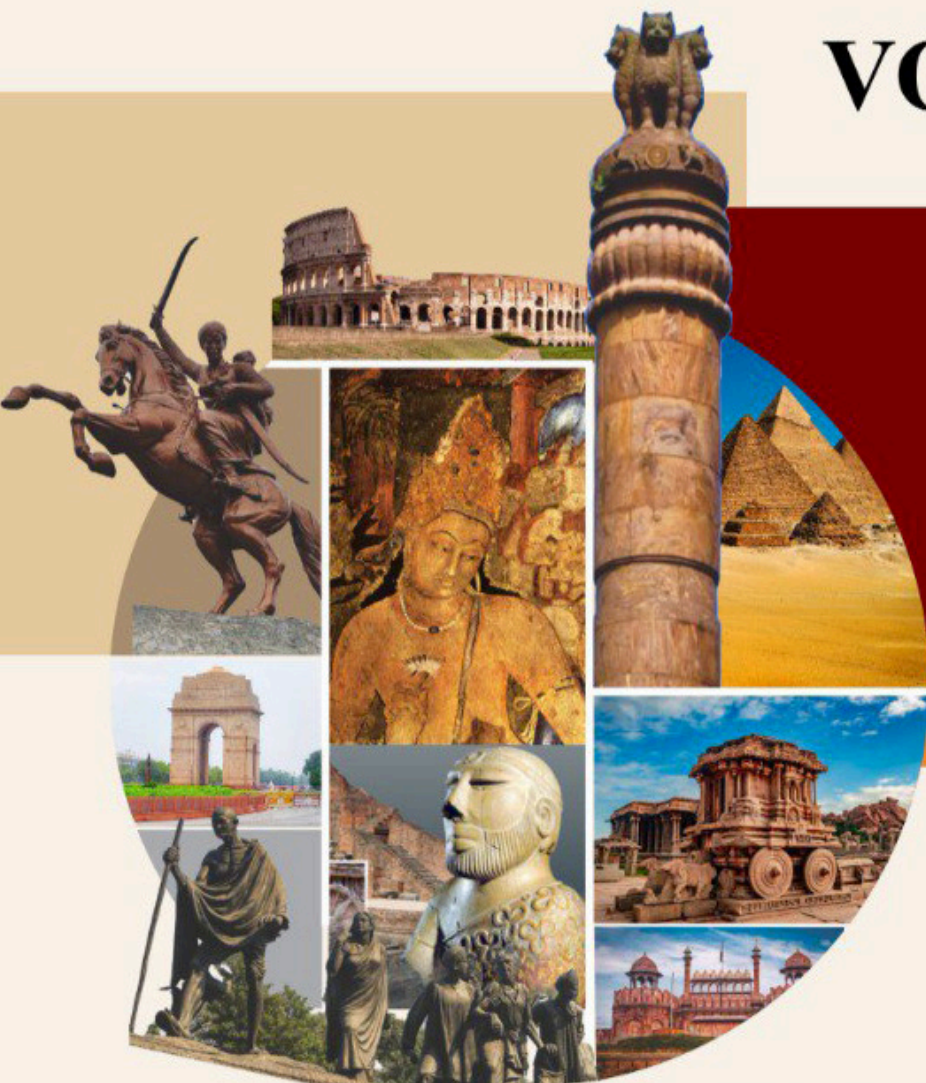


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SR. NO.	SECTIONS	PAGE NO
VOLUME - I		
1.	Ancient History	01
2.	Medieval History	99
3.	Art And Culture	188
4.	Modern History	296
VOLUME - II		
5.	Indian Polity	01
6.	Economics	247
VOLUME - III		
7.	Geography	01
8.	Environment	240
9.	Science & Technology	353

“In order to become the 1% you must
do what the other 99% won't. ”

- Anonymous

ALL THE BEST...

ANCIENT HISTORY

1979

1. **The sculpture with the three faces of Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh known as Trimurti appears in**

- (a) Ajanta caves
- (b) Ellora caves
- (c) Kalva caves
- (d) Elephanta caves

Explanation : (D)

- The sculpture of Trimurti, which depicts the three faces of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh, is located in the Elephanta Caves.
- The Elephanta Caves are a group of seven caves that are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The caves are primarily dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and contain rock-cut stone sculptures that blend Hindu and Buddhist ideas and iconography.
- The Trimurti is a large stone sculpture located in the first cave of the Elephanta Caves. It is considered the most important sculpture in the caves and is described as a “masterpiece of Gupta-Chalukyan art”. The sculpture is located at the back of the cave, facing the entrance, and is also known as Maheshmurti or Trimurti Sadashiva.
- **The sculpture represents three aspects of Shiva:** the Creator, the Preserver, and the Destroyer. The left half of the sculpture represents Aghora or Bhairava, the central full face represents Taptapurusha or Mahadeva, and the right half represents Vamadeva or Uma.

2. **The worship of idols started in India in**

- (a) Pre-Aryan period
- (b) Gupta period
- (c) Maurya period
- (d) Kushan period

Explanation : (B)

- In Hinduism, idol worship became a common feature during the Gupta period.

The early Aryans only practiced nature worship and elaborate rituals.

- Some say that idol worship is a central part of the ancient period and plays an important role in Hinduism. Others say that idol worship is just one way for prayer and meditation.
- The pre-Aryan period in India is the time before the arrival of the Aryans, which is estimated to have been around 4,000 years ago. The pre-Aryan period includes the Indus Valley Civilization, which was the first urban civilization on the subcontinent.

The pre-Aryan period is divided into several stages based on human development:

1. **Paleolithic Period:** (300,000 BC–8,000 BC), Old Stone Age
2. **Mesolithic Period:** (8,000–4,000 BC), Late Stone Age
3. **Neolithic Period:** (4,000–1,800 BC), New Stone Age
4. **Copper and Bronze Age:** (1,800–1,000 BC)

The pre-Aryan period includes at least three different ethnic types:

1. **Austro-Asians:** The earliest people related to Australian aborigines
2. **Dravidians:** The people that the Aryans encountered
3. **Aryans:** The Caucasian steppe people who came to India around 4,000 years ago

The Maurya Empire :

- It was a powerful empire that ruled over the Indian subcontinent from 321–185 BC. The empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya in 322 BC and lasted until 185 BC. The empire included parts of present-day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan, as well as parts of Iran and Myanmar.

- The Maurya Empire was a centralized monarchy with a vast bureaucracy. Chandragupta Maurya established a single currency, a network of regional governors and administrators, and a civil service to provide security and justice for merchants, farmers, and traders.
- The Maurya Empire was a time of economic prosperity and cultural development. Mauryan art and architecture promoted the spread of Buddhism, and many structures were built for religious purposes. The sculptures of the Mauryan Age are considered some of the finest art in India.

The Kushan Empire :

- It was a powerful political force in the Eurasian-African world from the 1st century BCE to the 3rd century CE. The Kushan Empire was a significant power alongside the Roman Empire, the Parthian Empire, and the Han Empire.
- The Kushans were nomadic people who lived in the Central Asian steppes. In the early 1st century CE, they established a powerful empire that stretched from modern-day Afghanistan to northern India.

The Kushan Empire was administered from two capitals:

- 1) Purushapura (modern-day Peshawar in Pakistan) and 2) Mathura in Northern India.
- The Kushans were originally foreign invaders, but they became completely Indianized in their ways and culture. The Kushan Empire controlled large parts of the Silk Route, which led to the spread of Buddhism into China, Korea, and Japan. The Kushan Empire is less recognized in current world historiography.
-
3. Which of the following throws light on Harappan Culture?
- (a) Archaeological excavations
 - (b) The script on copper sheets
 - (c) Rock edicts
 - (d) All of the above

Explanation : (A)

- The mere fact that during Harappa there was no well developed script (except a few pictographic symbols) eliminates option (B) and (C).
- Archaeological excavations provide important information about the Harappan culture.
- Archaeological excavations in the 19th and 20th centuries have provided data about the Harappan culture's technology, art, trade, transportation, writing, and religion.
- The first thing found in Harappa was a stone seal with a unicorn picture and some words on it. More seals with different animals and writing have been found in the area.
- The Seals of Pashupati Mahadeva may shed light on the religion of the Harappan age. The seal shows a seated figure of a Yogi, probably Shiva Pashupati, surrounded by four animals.

What is Harappan Civilization?

- The Harappan Civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization, was a Bronze Age civilization that lasted from 3300–1300 BCE. It was the earliest known urban culture in the Indian subcontinent and was located in modern-day India and Pakistan.

The Harappan Civilization made many technological advances, including:

1. Standardized weights and measures
 2. Seal carving
 3. Metallurgy with copper, bronze, lead, and tin
 4. Fire-baked bricks
- The Harappan Civilization is also known for its highly developed urban planning.
 - Houses were one or two-storeyed and had separate bathing areas, wells, and proper drainage systems.
 - The Harappan Civilization is considered a Bronze Age civilization because many objects have been found that are made up of copper based alloys.

- The Harappan Civilization declined around 1900–1500 BCE, coinciding with a wave of migration of the Aryan people from the north. Physical evidence suggests climate change caused flooding, drought, and famine.
- The cities were abandoned, and the people moved south by around 1500–600 BCE. The civilization had already fallen by the time Cyrus II (the Great, r. c. 550–530 BCE) invaded India in 530 BCE.
- The Harappan Civilization was first discovered in 1921–1922 when Sir John Hubert Marshall led an expedition that discovered the ancient city of Harappa.

4. The name Pahalavi Dynasty in Iran is derived from the

- (a) Language
- (b) King
- (c) Religion
- (d) River

Explanation : (A)

- The name of the Pahlavi dynasty in Iran comes from the language.
- The Pahlavi dynasty ruled Iran from 1925 to 1979. The dynasty's founder, Reza Shah Pahlavi, chose the name to strengthen his nationalist credentials. The Pahlavi language was spoken in the pre-Islamic Sasanian Empire.
- Reza Shah Pahlavi was born Reza Khan in 1878. His ancestors were chiefs of a clan named Pahlevan, which comes from the ancient Persian language Pahlavi. In 1919, he chose the last name Pahlavi for himself. In 1925, he deposed the Qajar dynasty and declared himself king, adopting the dynastic name of Pahlavi.

1980

5. At which place Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon ?

- (a) Sarnath
- (b) Lumbini

- (c) Bodh Gaya
- (d) Vaishali

Explanation : (A)

- Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath, a village near the city of Benares in Uttar Pradesh, India. The event is known as Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana, which translates to “turning of the wheel of law”.
- Sarnath is located 10 kilometers northeast of Varanasi, near the confluence of the Ganges and Varuna rivers. The deer park in Sarnath is where the Buddha first taught the Dhamma. The park is still there today.
- Sarnath is one of the four places of pilgrimage for Buddhists and an important religious place for Jainism.

Lumbini :

- It is a sacred area in the Terai plains of southern Nepal. It is the birthplace of the Buddha, according to Buddhist tradition, in 623 B.C.

The site includes:

1. Shakya Tank
 2. Maya Devi Temple
 3. Inscription on the pillar erected by the Mauryan Emperor Asoka
- The inscription on the pillar, which is in Brahmi, gives evidence that Ashoka, emperor of the Maurya Empire, visited the place in 3rd-century BCE and identified it as the birth-place of the Buddha.

Bodhgaya :

- It is situated west of the Phalgu River, a tributary of the Ganges (Ganga) River. **Bodh Gaya contains one of the holiest of Buddhist sites:** the location where, under the sacred pipal, or Bo tree, Gautama Buddha (Prince Siddhartha) attained enlightenment and became the Buddha.

Vaishali :

- It is a Buddhist pilgrimage site and the birthplace of Lord Mahavira. It is also known as the land of Ambapali, a great Indian courtesan.

- Vaishali is mentioned in the Ramayana and Buddhist literature. It is said that the Buddha visited Vaishali three times, spent a long time there, and delivered his last sermon. After the Buddha's death, Vaishali hosted the Second Buddhist Council.
- Vaishali is also home to the Buddha Relic Stupa, a popular site for Buddhists that enshrines the Buddha's holy ashes.

6. Who is regarded as the greatest law giver of ancient India ?

- (a) Megasthenese
- (b) Panini
- (c) Manu
- (d) Kautilya

Explanation : (C)

- Manu is considered the greatest law giver of ancient India.
- The Manu-smriti is a text attributed to Manu, the legendary first man and lawgiver. The text is believed to date back to around 100 CE. It is considered the most authoritative book of the Hindu code Dharmashastra.
- The Manu-smriti prescribes dharma to Hindus, which is a set of obligations for each member of the four social classes and four stages of life.
- It is also believed to have had a significant impact on the development of Indian society and culture.

Megasthenes (c. 350–290 BC):

- He was a Greek historian, diplomat, and ethnographer who wrote extensively about India during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya. He was the first person to describe ancient India, and for that reason he has been called “the father of Indian history”.
- Megasthenes' book, Indica, was lost over time, but it has been reconstructed to a certain extent using literary sources from later authors.

The contents of the reconstructed text include:

Geography, History, Fauna, Economy, Food and clothing, Society, Philosophy, Administration.

- Megasthenes visited Pataliputra sometime during the reign of Chandragupta Maurya, and he appears to have passed through the Punjab region in north-western India. He provides a detailed account of the rivers in this area.

Panini (520 BC - 460 BC) :

- He was a Sanskrit grammarian, logician, and philologist in ancient India. He is considered the founder of Sanskrit and its literature.
- Panini is credited with creating a scientific theory of phonetics, phonology, and morphology. He also developed the structure of Sanskrit using almost 4,000 sutras, or rules expressed as aphorisms. The structure of the language remained largely unchanged for the next two thousand years.
- Panini is also known for writing the ancient text Ashtadhyayi, which means “Eight Chapters”. The text was written more than 2,000 years ago and set the standard for how Sanskrit was to be written and spoken.
- Ashtadhyayi contains a grammar problem that has been called Sanskrit's biggest puzzle. The problem is that two or more grammar rules can apply at the same time.

Kautilya :

- He is also known as Chanakya or Vishnugupta, was a statesman, philosopher, and advisor to the Indian king Chandragupta Maurya (c. 317-293 B.C.E.).
- Kautilya was a professor of Political Science at the Gurukul (university) of Takshashila (now in Afghanistan) and later became the Prime Minister of the Mauryan Empire.
- Kautilya is credited with writing the treatise on statecraft called the Arthashastra, which translates to “science of politics”. The Arthashastra is a 15-chapter treatise that helps a king in “the acquisition and protection of the earth”.

Kautilya's philosophy of war included:

1. Warfare as a science
 2. Attacking weakness
 3. Using violence
- Kautilya is sometimes referred to as the Indian Machiavelli because of his shrewd techniques and policies.

7. Idol worship was started in

- (a) Gupta period
- (b) Vedic period
- (c) Epic period
- (d) Maurya period

Explanation : (C)

- Idol worship began in the Epic period. It is considered a central part of ancient times and plays an important role in Hinduism.

The Gupta period :

- It was a time of cultural and scientific advancements in India from 300–600 CE. The Gupta Empire was a Hindu empire that existed from the early 4th century to the early 6th century CE. During its peak, from 319–467 CE, the empire covered much of the Indian subcontinent.
- The Gupta period is known as the “Golden Age” of India because of its emphasis on classical Indian art and literature, and its advances in science.

The period saw:

1. Advances in poetry, prose, and drama
 2. Important discoveries in mathematics and astronomy
 3. Some of the most impressive examples of deified Buddhas
 4. Prolific production of Hindu and Jain sacred imagery
- The Gupta Empire was founded by Maharaja Sri Gupta and expanded through conquest and political alliances until 395 CE.

- The capital of the Gupta dynasty was Pataliputra, an ancient city now known as Patna. The city's central location made it easy for the empire to trade and expand.
- The Gupta dynasty was defeated by the invading White Huns, also known as the Hephthalites. Although the dynasty was not completely destroyed, the White Huns caused considerable damage to the empire, leading to its decline.

The Vedic Age :

- It is the period between 1500 BC and 600 BC, and is named after the Vedas, which were composed during this time. The Vedas are the primary source of information about this era.

The Vedic Age is divided into two periods:

1. Early Vedic Period or Rig Vedic Society: (1500 BC - 1000 BC)
2. Later Vedic Civilization or Painted Grey Ware Phase: (1000 BC - 600 BC)

- The Vedic Age began with the Aryans, who were foreigners who migrated to the Indus Valley and Ganges Plain. The Aryans spoke Sanskrit and lived semi-nomadic.
- The Vedic literature has evolved over many centuries and was passed down through generations by word of mouth.
- The earliest surviving manuscript is from the 11th century. **The Vedic literature is divided into four Vedas:** Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, Atharva veda.
- The Vedic civilization was patriarchal, with the family as the fundamental unit of society.
- The Vedic Aryans humanized many natural forces such as earth, fire, wind, rain, and thunder into gods to worship them.

The Mauryan Empire :

- It was a powerful political and military empire in ancient India that lasted from 322 BCE to 185 BCE. It was the first pan-Indian empire, covering most of India and parts of modern-day Iran.

MEDIEVAL HISTORY

1979

1. Among the following who was the proponent of the 'Bhakti Cult' from West Bengal?

- (a) Chaitanya Prabhu
- (b) Ramanujacharyulu
- (c) Ramanand
- (d) Kabir

Explanation : (A)

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486–1534) :

- He was a Bengal-based saint and spiritual leader who popularized the Bhakti movement in Bengal. He was a devotee of Lord Krishna and popularized Vaishnava Bhakti by preaching the Bhagavad Gita and Bhagavata Purana.
- Chaitanya's mode of worshipping Krishna with bhajan-kirtan and dance had a profound effect on Vaishnavism in Bengal.
- The Bhakti movement was a religious movement in India that began in the 7th to 10th centuries CE. The movement focused on devotion to God and sought to reform religion across all levels of society. The word "Bhakti" is Sanskrit for "devotion".

The movement had several characteristics, including:

1. Monotheistic ideas
 2. Opposition to idol worship
 3. Emphasis on self-surrender
 4. Emphasis on the role of Gurus
 5. Promotion of universal fraternity
 6. Opposition to rituals, holy places, and rest periods
- The Bhakti cult is characterized by the attitude of the soul towards the Supreme Being.
 - The movement cut across distinctions of high and low birth, the learned and the unlettered, and opened the gateway of spiritual realization to one and all.

- The main Bhakti cults are those of Shiva, Vishnu, and Shakti.
- The movement became popular because it didn't discriminate among worshippers or devotees.
- The Bhakti movement began in South India by Alvaras and Nayanars. Alvaras are the devotees of Lord Vishnu and Nayanars are devotees of Lord Shiva. These devotees traveled to various places singing hymns in praise of their Gods.

Ramanuja (1077 – 1157) :

- He is also known as Ramanujacharya, was an Indian Hindu philosopher, guru and a social reformer.
- He is noted to be one of the most important exponents of the Sri Vaishnavism tradition within Hinduism.
- His philosophical foundations for devotionalism were influential to the Bhakti movement.

Ramananda (1400–1470) :

- He was a North Indian Brahman (priest), vedanta teacher, and poet saint. He was also known as Ramadatta or Ramanand.
- Ramananda was a part of the bhakti movement, a Sanskrit word that means "devotion". He is credited with reviving the Ramanandi sect and is considered a founder of the Bhakti tradition. Hindu tradition recognizes him as the founder of the Ramanandi Sampradaya, the largest monastic Hindu renunciant community today.
- Ramananda's teachings were similar to those of Ramanujacharya, and he followed Ramanujacharya's Vishishtadvaita philosophy. He taught in Hindi, condemned the caste system, and allowed people from all castes to join his sect.

Kabir (1398–1518 CE) :

- He was a prominent Indian poet, saint, and social reformer during the 15th and

16th centuries. His writings influenced the Bhakti movement and are included in Sikhism's scripture Guru Granth Sahib. Kabir's verses are also found in the Satguru Granth Sahib of Saint Garib Das and the Kabir Sagar of Dharamdas.

- Kabir was a proponent of the Bhakti Movement, which sought to coordinate religions by offering a universal path for all people. He is also known for his ideas about social equality and a casteless society based on rationality. Kabir's poetry and dohas have been analyzed to understand how his works have impacted India's social and cultural domain.
- Kabir is revered by Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs. He was born in 1440 in Varanasi, India and died in 1518 in Maghar.
- Kabir is said to have been raised in a Muslim weaving family known as Julahas, who lived in or around the city of Benares (Varanasi).

2. Which of the following Muslim rulers enforced price control system?

- (a) Alauddin Khilji
- (b) Mohd. Tughlaq
- (c) Iltutmish
- (d) Balban

Explanation : (A)

- **Alauddin Khalji (1296–1316)** was the first Muslim ruler to introduce price controls in India. He set prices for a variety of goods, including animals, cloth, grains, and slaves.
- To implement the price control system, Alauddin appointed a market inspector called Shahna-i-Mandi. The inspector's job was to ensure that prices were not higher than the prescribed rates and to check the quality and quantity of the commodities sold in the market.
- Alauddin also set up three markets in Delhi to control prices. He fixed the prices of the commodities and reduced their rates so that his soldiers could live comfortably.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq (1290 - 1351) :

- He was the second sultan of the Tughlaq

dynasty and the 18th ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. He ruled from 1325 to 1351 and was the eldest son of Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq, the founder of the dynasty. Tughlaq is known for his wild policy swings, which left his subjects impoverished.

Some of his policies included:

1. **Trade and commerce:** Tughlaq attempted to implement a new coinage policy, which caused a complete upheaval of trade and commerce.
2. **Capital shift:** He moved the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad, also known as Devagiri, in the Deccan area of India.
3. **Taxes:** He raised taxes in the Doab region to fill the empty treasury.

Tughlaq also annexed several kingdoms into his territory and defeated the Mongols who attacked the Delhi sultanate. He was known for his support of Sufi saints and followed a policy of religious tolerance and patronage.

Tughlaq died on March 20, 1351 while trying to chase and punish people for rebellion and their refusal to pay taxes in Sindh (now in Pakistan).

Iltutmish (1211 - 1236) :

He was the third and greatest Delhi sultan of the Mamluk dynasty, or Slave dynasty. He is considered the founder of the Delhi Sultanate because he was the first Muslim ruler to rule from the city.

Iltutmish's achievements include:

1. Strengthening and expanding the Muslim empire in northern India
2. Moving the capital from Lahore to Delhi
3. Completing the Qutub Minar
4. Introducing administrative reforms such as the Iqtadari system, the establishment of an army, the introduction of coins, and the formation of Chalisa Dal
5. Carrying out expeditions on the Rajput states to extend his empire

- Iltutmish was also known as Altamsh and Shams-al-Dīn Iltutmish. He was a Turkic slave born in Central Asia who was sold into slavery and eventually became a slave to Qutb al-Dīn Aibak. He married Aibak's daughter and succeeded him in 1211.
- Iltutmish died in April 1236 and was buried in a tomb he had built for himself in Delhi.

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (1216-1287) :

- He was a Sultan of the Mamluk (Slave) dynasty of Delhi. He ruled from 1266 to 1287 AD. Balban was known for his authoritarian rule, but also for flourishing architecture and culture. He built many Sufi shrines and invited many Sufi saints to Delhi.
- Balban was a famous and one of the most powerful sultans of the Delhi Sultanate of India. His real name was Ulugh Khan and his famous titles were Nabāb-e-Khudā (Acolyte of God), Jhil-e-Ellāhi (Shadow of God), Khudā-e-Vandgār (Devotee of God).
- Balban was sold as a slave to the then-ruler Iltutmish in 1232 CE, who later released him. He took the throne after the death of Sultan Nasiruddin Mahmud.
- Balban's reign was full of terror among the nobles and public equally. He successfully recaptured Bengal and fought the invasion of the Mongol forces.
- **Balban's main principles of the theory of Kingship were:** Kingship is the vice-regency of God on earth. The king is the shadow of God.

3. "Sufi Sect" originated and developed in

- (a) Christianity
- (b) Islam
- (c) Hinduism
- (d) Zoroastrianism

Explanation : (B)

- The Sufi sect originated and developed in Islam.
- Sufism is a liberal reform movement within Islam that originated in Persia and spread to India in the 11th century. It is also known as Islamic mysticism or asceticism.

- Some say that Sufism has existed as a practice of Muslims since the earliest days of Islam, even predating some sectarian divides.
- Others trace the pre-Islamic roots of Sufism back to the early Christian mystics of Syria and Egypt, to the Essenes, the ancient Pythagorean orders, and the mystery schools of the Egyptians and Zoroastrians.
- The Sufis are a group of Muslim mystics who started a religious reform movement in West Asia.

Their teachings include:

1. There is only one god and all people are his children.
2. Muhammad is considered to be the legitimate Sufi sheikh.

4. "Mansabdars" in Mughal period were

- (a) Landlords and Zamindars
- (b) Officials of the state
- (c) Those who had to give revenue
- (d) Revenue collectors

Explanation : (B)

- Mansabdars were nobles and high-ranking military officials who held positions of power and authority in the Mughal Empire.
- The word "Mansab" is Arabic for "position" or "rank". The Mansabdari system was introduced by Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1571.
- Mansabdars were appointed to all civil and military posts, and could be transferred between the two. They were an integral part of the Mughal bureaucracy, and held important offices such as wazir, bakshi, faujdar, and subadar.
- Mansabdars were responsible for bringing a fixed number of men-at-arms, horses, and elephants to the field. They were rated based on the numbers, which were known as Zats. For example, they might be referred to as Mansabdars of 10, 20, 100, and 1000.
- Mansabdars received their salaries as revenue assignments called Jagirs.

5. The earnings of the kings in the Medieval age were mostly derived from

- (a) Offerings made at the temples
- (b) Land revenue
- (c) Trade
- (d) Industrial production

Explanation : (B)

- The main source of income for medieval kings was land revenue. This was usually one-fifth of the total production, but later increased to one-half.

Other sources of revenue for medieval rulers included:

1. **Taxes:** Taxes on land, trade, and crafts
 2. **Feudal dues:** Payments from nobles and vassals who owned land. In exchange for their land and protection, these people had to give money, crops, animals, or work for the king
 3. **Custom duties:** Taxes on goods that were brought in or taken out of the kingdom
 4. **Pillage:** Going to war and pillaging other lands
 5. **Fees:** Fees charged to their lords
 6. **Shield money:** Some lords paid the king "shield money" instead of going to war
- Kings could also increase their income by managing their estates well and granting market rights to towns. They could also sell special privileges, such as fishing rights.

6. The great philosopher Shankara advocated

- (a) Dvaita
- (b) Advaita
- (c) Hinduism
- (d) Altruism

Explanation : (B)

- The great Indian philosopher Shankara advocated Advaita. Advaita is a Hindu philosophy that states that the soul is identical with God. It is also known as the doctrine of the oneness of the individual

soul and the Supreme God.

- Shankara is considered one of the most influential Indian philosophers from the classical period. He is revered by Advaita Vedānta's teaching tradition and monastic lineages, and continues to influence virtually all contemporary lineages today.
- Shankara is also credited with unifying and establishing the main currents of thought in Hinduism. He established the importance of monastic life as sanctioned in the Upanishads and Brahma Sutra.

Dvaita :

- It is a Sanskrit word that means "duality" or "dualism". It refers to a concept in which two truths or principles are completely separate and independent. Dvaita is a school of Vedānta, one of the six philosophical systems of Indian philosophy.
- Dvaita Vedānta states that god and individual souls are completely separate. For example, Dvaita posits more than one fundamental metaphysical principle to explain the universe or a fundamental distinction between the human souls and the Supreme Being.
- Dvaita is based on the teaching of one of the great saints of India in around 13th century, Sri Madhavacharya. Madhva, also known as Anandatirtha, lived from around 1199 to 1278 and came from the area of modern Karnataka state.

Altruism :

- It is a selfless concern for the welfare of others. It is a core aspect of many religious traditions, including Hinduism.
- Altruism is also a key aspect of many humanitarian and philanthropic causes.

Some examples of altruism include:

1. Helping others without expecting anything in return
2. Forgoing things that may benefit oneself but may cost others
3. Sharing scarce resources
4. Helping others despite knowing the personal risks or costs involved

1979

1. **Ajanta Caves are located in the State of**

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Tamil Nadu
- (d) West Bengal

Explanation : (A)

- The Ajanta Caves are located in the state of Maharashtra, India. The caves are a UNESCO World Heritage site and are known for their Buddhist religious art and sculptures.
- The Ajanta Caves are a group of about 29 Buddhist rock-cut cave temples and monasteries. They are located in a 76 meter high, horseshoe-shaped escarpment that overlooks the Waghora River. The caves are famous for their temple architecture and many delicately drawn murals.
- The Ajanta Caves constitute ancient monasteries (Viharas) and worship-halls (Chaityas) of different Buddhist traditions carved.
- The caves also present paintings depicting the past lives and rebirths of the Buddha, pictorial tales from Aryasura's Jatakamala, and rock-cut sculptures of Buddhist deities.
- Textual records suggest that these caves served as a monsoon retreat for monks, as well as a resting site for merchants and pilgrims in ancient India.
- While vivid colours and mural wall paintings were abundant in Indian history as evidenced by historical records, Caves 1, 2, 16 and 17 of Ajanta form the largest corpus of surviving ancient Indian wall-paintings

2. **Black Pagoda is in**

- (a) Egypt
- (b) Konark
- (c) Madurai
- (d) None of these

Explanation : (B)

- The Black Pagoda, also known as the Sun Temple, is located in Konark, Odisha, India. Konark is a medium-sized town in the Puri district, 65 kilometers from Bhubaneswar, the state capital.
- The Black Pagoda is a 13th-century temple made of black granite by the Ganga dynasty. The temple was built in 1250 CE by King Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty. The name comes from the presiding deity Konarka, which means "Arka (Sun) of kona (corner)".
- European sailors began calling the temple the "Black Pagoda" in 1676 because of its high tower's black appearance. The Puri Temple is known as the "White Pagoda" because of the color of these temples when viewed from a distance from the coast.

3. **Which of the following is a dance- drama?**

- (a) Kathakali
- (b) Bharatnatyam
- (c) Odissi
- (d) Manipuri

Explanation : (A)

- Kathakali is a classical Indian dance-drama. It's a highly stylized form of performance art that combines dance, music, and acting to tell stories from Indian mythology.

Here are some other Indian dance-dramas:

- Bharatanatyam is a classical dance form from Tamil Nadu, India. It is recognized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi and is a way to express South Indian religious themes and spiritual ideas.
- Bharatanatyam has seven styles, or Margam, **in its order of performance:**
 1. Pushpanjali,
 2. Alarippu,
 3. Jatiswaram,
 4. Shabdham,

5. Varnam,
6. Padam,
7. Tillana.

Here's some information about some of these styles:

Varnam :

- A complex part of the Bharatanatyam repertoire, often performed as the centerpiece of a performance. It consists of jathis, pallavi, anupallavi, muktayi swaram, charanam, and chittaswaras. **There are two types of varnam:** taana varnam and pada varnam.

Alarippu :

- The first dance piece that Bharatanatyam dancers learn and perform. The word "Alarippu" is Tamil for "to bloom". The Alarippu is the beginning of a performance, consisting of a set of movements set to a beat. It is often used as a warm-up for the dancer.

Tillana :

- A musical composition that is often used in Bharatanatyam. It is usually performed towards the end of a recital.

Padam :

- Usually slow moving songs with a depth of musical intricacies. Padams may have a protagonist such as a Nayaka, a Nayika, or a Sakhi.
- Bharatanatyam originated in the Natyashastra, an ancient treatise on theater written by the mythic priest Bharata. It was originally a temple dance for women, and is often used to express Hindu religious stories and devotions.

Odissi :

- A dance-drama that finds its inception in the Natya Shastra by Bharatmuni. It expresses themes, stories, and spiritual ideas related particularly to Vaishnavism.

Manipuri :

- A dance-drama with central themes based on the love stories of Lord Krishna and

Radha.

4. Which is not the Indo-Aryan language?

- (a) Gujarati
- (b) Tamil
- (c) Oriya
- (d) Marathi

Explanation : (B)

- Tamil is not an Indo-Aryan language. It is a Dravidian language, like Malayalam, Kannada, Toda, Telugu, Kodagri, and Badaga.
- Indo-Aryan languages are spoken by the largest proportion of India's population, especially in the North, East, and West.

Some examples of Indo-Aryan languages include :

- Urdu, Sindhi, Marathi, Hindi, Bengali, Nepali, Bihari, Pahari, Gujarati.
- The root language of the Indo-Aryan language family is Sanskrit.

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5. Sultanates of Delhi have taken which of the following in their buildings from the ancient architecture?

- (a) Mehrab
- (b) Gumbaj
- (c) Arched openings
- (d) Decoration figures

Explanation : (C)

- The Sultanates of Delhi incorporated arched openings and domes, or gumbaz, from ancient architecture into their buildings. The Delhi Sultanate's architecture also incorporated Indian and Turkish styles, with Islamic elements like arches, domes, and minarets, and Indian elements like chhatris and jharokhas.
- The Sultanates of Delhi avoided decorative figures in their architecture due to Islamic prohibitions against anthropomorphic representations.
- The Sultanates of Delhi's architecture is characterized by the use of red sandstone

and marble. Red sandstone was used for the construction of walls, domes, and minarets, while marble was used for intricate carvings and calligraphy.

Mehrab :

- It is a semicircular niche in a mosque's wall that indicates the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca. Muslims face the qibla, or the direction of the Kaaba, when praying. The wall that contains a mehrab is called the qibla wall.
- A mehrab is often the most decorated part of a mosque, and is often embellished with inscriptions from the Qur'an. It is an architectural and symbolic focal point of religious buildings.

The Gol Gumbaz :

- It is a 17th-century mausoleum in Bijapur, Karnataka, India. It's the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah, the seventh sultan of the Adil Shahi dynasty, who ruled from 1627–1657. The Gol Gumbaz is India's largest dome structure.
- The Gol Gumbaz is made of decorated plasterwork and dark grey basalt. It has a square building with a circular drum over the top that rests a majestic dome. The dome is perfectly hemispherical in shape, allowing an unhindered, clean line of passage to the sound waves.

The Gol Gumbaz has two notable attractions:

1. **Central chamber:** Every sound is echoed seven times in this chamber.
2. **Whispering Gallery:** Even small sounds can be heard clearly in this gallery.

6. Thyagaraja of 18th century was

- (a) The greatest musician who composed his songs in Telugu
- (b) The greatest Kathak dancer
- (c) The greatest playwright of Tamil
- (d) The greatest Sanskrit poet

Explanation : (A)

- Thyagaraja (1767–1847) was a composer and singer of Carnatic music, a form of Indian classical music. He is considered the most prominent figure in the history of southern Indian classical music.
- Tyagaraja is also known as Thyāgayya and Kakarla Thyagabrahmam. He was born in the Tiruvarur village of Tamil Nadu to Kakarla Ramabrahma and Sitamma. He was a devotee of Lord Rama and is said to have mentioned him in many of his Kritis. His collection of songs is known as Tyagopanishad.
- Tyagaraja is said to have composed the music and words for thousands of Kritis. His works are rarely omitted from concerts of southern Indian music. Some of his famous disciples include Mahavaidyanatha Sivan, Patnam Subrahmanya Iyer, and Sarabha Sastrigal.

1981

7. Mahabalipuram temples were built by

- (a) Pallavas
- (b) Cheras
- (c) Cholas
- (d) Pandyas

Explanation : (A)

- The Pallava kings carved the Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram into rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries. The site is a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The temples at Mahabalipuram portray events from the Mahabharata.

They include:

1. Ratha cave temples :

- Built by Pallava king Narasimhavarman I in the 7th and 8th centuries, these monolithic temples are called Ratha (chariot) because they resemble processional chariots.

2. Seven pagodas :

- Built by Pallava kings Narasimhavarman - I, Paramesvarman, and Narasimhavarman II in the 7th and 8th centuries.

MODERN HISTORY

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1. Who said first: "Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it".

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) M.K. Gandhi
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Sardar Patel

Explanation : (A)

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a freedom activist and social reformer, is credited with saying "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it". Tilak was a radical nationalist and social conservative who popularized the concepts of Swaraj, Swadeshi, national education, and boycott.
- Tilak's activism, which appealed to Hindu symbolism and Maratha history, brought him into conflict with the British government. He was tried for sedition three times, and his prosecution only gained him more popularity. He earned the title Lokamanya, which means "Beloved Leader of the People". Tilak died on August 1, 1920 in Mumbai.

2. First Europeans, who started trade with India, were

- (a) The Portuguese
- (b) The British
- (c) The French
- (d) The Dutch

Explanation : (A)

- Portugal was the first European country to try to find a sea route to India. In 1498, Vasco da Gama successfully reached Calicut, India, and was welcomed by the King Zamorin. In 1501, Vasco da Gama returned to India and established a trading center in Cannanore.
- The Portuguese established trading settlements in Calicut, Cochin, and Cannanore. The Portuguese Company

was the first European trading company to establish trade posts in India. They established trading settlements in Cochin, Goa, Daman and Diu, Salsette and Bassein, and Bombay.

- The Portuguese East India Company was established in 1501, when Vasco da Gama set up a trading center in Cannanore. The Portuguese then established factories in Calicut and Cochin.

- The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in India in 1498, followed by the Dutch in 1605, the British in 1612, and the French in 1667. The Danes arrived in 1620.

3. "India Wins Freedom" was written by

- (a) Rajendra Prasad
- (b) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- (c) R.N. Tagore
- (d) J. L Nehru

Explanation : (B)

- Maulana Abul Kalam Azad wrote India Wins Freedom. The book is about Azad's political journey and his perspective on the partition of India. It includes his personal experiences and his ideas on freedom and liberty.
- Azad was president of the All India National Congress twice, serving from 1940–1946. After partition, he became India's Education Minister.
- Azad was born in Mecca in 1888. His narrative was influenced by his Islamic upbringing, liberal ideas, and commitment to the nation.

4. The cause for the immediate precipitation of the Sepoy Mutiny was

- (a) Use of cartridges greased with cow fat
- (b) Doctrine of Lapse
- (c) The disparity between salaries of Native Sepoys and the British Soldiers
- (d) The Spread of Christianity

Explanation : (A)

- The Sepoy Mutiny, also known as the Indian Mutiny, was a revolt by Indian soldiers against their British commanders in 1857–58. The rebellion began in Meerut on May 10, 1857, when sepoys of the British East India Company's army mutinied.
- The rebellion spread to other areas, including Delhi, Kanpur, Agra, and Lucknow. The rebellion was contained in 1858 when the rebels were defeated in Gwalior on June 20.
- The rebellion was a response to the British East India Company's attempts to develop the Indian economy and legal system. In January 1857, rumors began to circulate in the army that cartridges had been greased with animal tallow, which is sacred to Hindus and pigs.
- The process for opening a cartridge was to tear the paper seal with your teeth, which some boys found to be a sin and an attempt to undermine their religions.
- The British granted amnesty to all rebels not involved in murder on November 1, 1858, but did not declare the hostilities to have formally ended until July 8, 1859.
- British Administration records say that about 6,000 British died in the Indian Mutiny, and 800,000 Indians, including those who died during the mutiny, famines, and epidemics.

The Doctrine of Lapse :

- It was a policy that stated that if an Indian ruler died without a male heir, their kingdom would automatically become part of the British Empire. The policy was introduced by Lord Dalhousie, the Governor General of India from 1848 to 1856. The doctrine was also applied in cases where the ruler was judged to be "unfit" to rule.
- The Doctrine of Lapse was one of the methods of the East India Company to expand its territory. The doctrine was also applied by the East India Company in India until 1859. The first state annexed under the doctrine of lapse was Satara in 1848.

- The Doctrine of Lapse is generally regarded as having contributed to the discontent that was a factor in the outbreak of the Indian Mutiny in 1857 and the widespread revolt that followed.

5. The Home Rule movement was launched by

- (a) Annie Besant
- (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi
- (d) Lala Lajpat Rai

Explanation : (B)

- The Indian Home Rule movement was founded by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The movement was part of the Indian independence movement and lasted from 1916–1918. The movement's goal was to gain home rule or dominion status for India under the British Empire.
- The term "home rule" was borrowed from a similar movement in Ireland. The Home Rule League was established in April and September 1916, respectively, by Tilak and Besant. The movement is believed to have set the stage for the independence movement for the educated English speaking upper class Indians.
- The purpose of the advocates of home rule was to encourage people to participate in the freedom movement. Home rule refers to the concept of self-government or autonomy at the local level.

6. Gandhiji's "Champaran Movement" was for

- (a) The security of rights of Harijans
- (b) Civil disobedience movement
- (c) Maintaining the unity of Hindu society
- (d) Solving the problem of the Indigo workers

Explanation : (D)

- The Champaran Satyagraha was a nonviolent resistance campaign led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917. The movement was a protest against the exploitation and

abuse faced by local indigo farmers at the hands of the British colonial authorities and plantation owners.

- The Champaran Satyagraha was the first popular satyagraha movement. It was a peasants uprising, led by Mahatma Gandhi in the Champaran district of Bihar. The farmer's in the region revolted against the British power against the imposed indigo cultivation between 1914 and 1916.
- The movement was started by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917 to look into the problem of the Tinkathia system. Under this system, the tenant farmers were compelled to grow indigo on a specific portion of their landholding. This was typically 3/20th of their land.
- During the Champaran Satyagraha movement, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested on 16th April 1917 on the charges of creating deep unrest and was ordered to evacuate the province.

The Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) :

It was a major mass movement launched in 1930 by Mahatma Gandhi.

The CDM's demands included:

1. Releasing political prisoners
 2. Reducing the rupee-sterling exchange ratio
 3. Reducing agricultural tax by 50%
 4. Eliminating the government's monopoly on salt
 5. Reducing military expenditure and salaries of highest-grade services
- The CDM was withdrawn in 1931 when Gandhi signed the "Gandhi-Irwin" pact.
 - Civil disobedience is a nonviolent action where an individual refuses to obey a law for moral or philosophical reasons. It can be active or passive, direct or indirect. The purpose of civil disobedience is usually to force concessions from the government or occupying power.

Some examples of civil disobedience include:

1. The Boston Tea Party
2. Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March
3. Suffragists' illegal voting
4. Whites-only lunch counter sit-ins
5. Youth climate movement school walkouts

Civil disobedience is also known as passive resistance. It has been a major tactic and philosophy of many social movements, including:

1. Nationalist movements in Africa and India
2. The American civil rights movement
3. Labor movements

7. Gandhiji started Dandi March in 1930

- (a) Against imposition of salt tax laws
- (b) Against the announcement of communal award
- (c) Against atrocities committed on Harijans
- (d) Against all of the above

Explanation : (A)

- Mahatma Gandhi started the Dandi March on March 12, 1930. The march lasted until April 6, 1930.
- The Dandi March, also known as the Salt March and the Dandi Satyagraha, was a nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly. The march was a direct action campaign of tax resistance and protest against injustice.
- The march began at Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad and ended in Dandi, a coastal town in Gujarat. The march was nearly 385 km long and Gandhi was accompanied by 80 satyagrahis.
- Gandhi inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement by picking up a handful of salt in Dandi. He continued his satyagraha against the salt tax for the next two months, encouraging other Indians to break the salt laws.

The Communal Award :

- It was a series of elections announced by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald

on August 16, 1932. It was also known as the MacDonald Award.

- The award was a result of the second round table conference and was based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee.

The key provisions of the award were:

1. Doubling the seats in the provincial legislatures
2. Keeping the separate electorate system, especially for minorities
3. Providing considerable weightage to the Muslims
4. Reserving 3% of the total seats for women

The Communal Award extended the separate electorate to depressed classes and other minorities, including Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. The award favored the minorities over the Hindus, causing consternation and anger from Gandhi.

8. “Khilafat” movement subsided because of the

- (a) Concessions given to Muslims by the British
- (b) Amity achieved between Congress and Muslim League
- (c) Accession of Kamal Pasha on the throne of Turkey
- (d) None of the above

Explanation : (C)

- The Khilafat Movement, which lasted from 1919–1924, lost its momentum when Mustafa Kemal Pasha dethroned the Turkish Sultan in 1922 and declared Turkey a secular republic. The movement collapsed in 1924 when Atatürk abolished the caliphate.
- The Khilafat Movement was a movement by Indian Muslims to pressure the British government to preserve the authority of the Ottoman Sultan as Caliph of Islam. The movement was led by Mohammad Ali and Shaukat Ali, known as the Ali

brothers, along with Mahatma Gandhi. The movement’s goal was to unite the Muslim community under a unified national movement.

9. Who commented “the Cripps Mission was a postdated cheque on a crashing bank”?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- (c) Subhash Chandra Bose
- (d) Sardar Patel

Explanation : (A)

- In 1942, Mahatma Gandhi called the Cripps Mission’s proposal of dominion status a “post-dated cheque drawn on a crashing bank”. The Cripps Mission was a British government proposal to seek Indian cooperation during World War II. From March 22 to April 11, 1942, Stafford Cripps, a member of the War Cabinet, visited India to discuss the British Government’s Draft Declaration on the Constitution of India with Indian leaders.
- The Mission declared that India would be a Dominion and that an elected body would frame its constitution after the war.
- Gandhi’s statement led to the Congress Party stopping talks and demanding self-government in exchange for war support.
- The talks failed, and the British PM, Viceroy, and Commander-in-chief were consistently against Cripps’ efforts.

10. The Lucknow Congress Session of 1916 refers to

- (a) Concession of separate electorates for the Muslims by the Congress Party
- (b) Merger of Muslim League into Congress
- (c) Selection of Muslim leader as the Congress President
- (d) None of the above

Explanation : (A)

- The Lucknow Congress Session of 1916 is known for the Lucknow Pact, which was signed between the Indian National

Congress and the Muslim League in December 1916.

The pact included the following provisions:

1. The Congress agreed to separate electorates for Muslims in provincial council elections.
2. The Congress agreed to give Muslims one-third representation in the state government.
3. The Congress agreed to weightage the favor of Muslims in all provinces except the Punjab and Bengal.

The pact included other reforms, such as:

- i. Self-government in India
 - ii. Abolition of the Indian Council
 - iii. Separation of the executive from the judiciary
 - iv. Salaries of the Secretary of State for Indian Affairs to be paid from British coffers and not the Indian funds
- The 1916 session also led to the readmission of the extremists to the Congress.

11. The aim of the Cripps Mission to India was to

- (a) Appease the Indian public opinion
- (b) Appease the American people
- (c) Decentralise the power to States
- (d) None of the above

Explanation : (A)

- The Cripps Mission was a failed attempt by the British government in 1942 to gain Indian support for their efforts in World War II. The mission was led by Sir Richard Stafford Cripps, a labor minister in Winston Churchill's coalition government. The mission was in India from March 22 to April 11, 1942.

The mission's objectives included:

1. Obtaining Indian cooperation for the British war efforts
2. Securing Indian cooperation and support for the British war

3. Establishing the Indian Union and the status of domination
 4. Appeasing the Indian public opinion
 5. Ensuring India would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth
- The mission also proposed that after the war, a constituent assembly would be convened to create a new constitution. The assembly's members would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies and partly nominated by the princes.

12. The Interim Government at the Centre after independence was formed

- (a) After the visit of Cripps Mission
- (b) Before the visit of Cripps Mission
- (c) After Mountbatten submitted his plan
- (d) Before the visit of the Cabinet Mission

Explanation : (A)

- The Interim Government of India was formed on September 2, 1946, after the Cabinet Mission of Britain visited India in 1946.
- The Cabinet Mission was part of the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, which was an attempt by the British government to address tensions between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League over the future of India.
- The Cripps Mission began in 1942, and colonial authorities made several attempts to form an interim government in India.

The Cripps Mission's proposals included:

1. Setting up an Indian dominion
 2. Forming a Constituent Assembly to frame a new constitution
 3. Allowing any province that was unwilling to join the Indian dominion to form a separate union and have a separate constitution
- The Cabinet Mission's proposals failed because the Congress Party wanted a strong center with minimal powers for the provinces, and the Muslim League wanted strong political safeguards for Muslims.

- The interim government was formed from the newly elected Constituent Assembly on September 2, 1946. The government included the Viceroy and Commander in Chief of Britain, members from the All India Muslim League, and Jawaharlal Nehru as the Head of the Interim Government.

The Mountbatten Plan :

- It is also known as the 3 June Plan, was a proposal to divide British India into India and Pakistan. It was announced on June 3, 1947, and led to the end of British colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent.
- The plan's main purpose was to partition India and quickly transfer responsibility to Indian governments for the divided sections.

The plan included the following principles:

1. Both countries would have the right to make their own constitutions.
 2. Both countries would have autonomy and sovereignty.
 3. Princely states would have the choice to remain independent or join India or Pakistan.
- The Boundary Commission was established to fix the international boundaries between the two countries. The commission was chaired by Sir Cyril Radcliffe and was tasked with demarcating Bengal and Punjab into the two new countries.
 - The Indian Independence Act was passed by the British parliament on July 5, 1947. The act's aim was to transfer power from the British Crown to the newly independent dominions of India and Pakistan.

The Cabinet Mission Plan :

- It was a statement made in 1946 by the British Prime Minister Clement Attlee to discuss the transfer of power from the British to the Indian government. The plan proposed a three-tier administrative structure for British India.

The plan also aimed to:

1. Strengthen India's unity

2. Help India achieve independence
3. Avoid partition

- The plan proposed the formation of a Union of India, comprising both the British India and the Princely States. The Union would remain in charge of only foreign affairs, defense, and communications.

The plan failed due to a conflict :

- of interest between the Hindu and Muslim groups. The Congress opposed the creation of Pakistan as the Cabinet Mission Plan did not guarantee a separate sovereign state for Muslims.

13. Rabindranath Tagore surrendered his title to the British because of

- (a) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (b) Non Cooperation Movement
- (c) Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- (d) Partition of Bengal

Explanation : (C)

- Rabindranath Tagore returned his knighthood in 1919 to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- In 1915, King George V awarded Tagore a knighthood for his contributions to literature, making him the first Indian to receive the honor. On April 13, 1919, General Dyer and his armed troops opened fire on a crowd of thousands gathered at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. Tagore renounced his knighthood in 1919 to condemn the incident.
- Tagore received news of the massacre on May 22, 1919. He attempted to organize a protest meeting in Calcutta before deciding to renounce his knighthood as a symbolic act of protest.

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1. The Constitution 44th Amendment (renumbered as 43rd Amendment)

- (a) Ensures the right to property
- (b) Ensures the press freedom
- (c) Limits the powers of the Government to proclaim internal emergency
- (d) Restores to the High Courts and to the Supreme Court their jurisdiction to consider the validity of any Central or State law

EXPLANATION : (D)

- The Constitution 44th Amendment Restores to the High Courts and to the Supreme Court their jurisdiction to consider the validity of any Central or State law.
- **The 44th Amendment Act of 1978:** It made several changes to the Indian Constitution.

These changes included:

1. **Fundamental rights:** The right to property was removed from the list of fundamental rights.
2. **Emergency declarations :** The words “internal disturbance” were replaced with “armed rebellion”. This means that a national emergency can no longer be declared based on internal disturbance. The 44th Amendment also requires a six-month review of emergency declarations. If there is no new parliamentary approval, the emergency must end after six months.
3. **President’s Rule :** The 44th Amendment put some restrictions on imposing President’s Rule for more than one year.
4. **Basic Structure:** The 44th Amendment ensures that any changes to the basic structure of the Constitution of India can only be made if at least 51% of voters approve them in a referendum.

5. **Parliamentary privileges:** The 44th Amendment made changes to parliamentary privileges.

6. **Judiciary:** The 44th Amendment made changes to the judiciary. For example, it states that every high court has authority over all courts and tribunals in its territory.

• The 44th Amendment also included a new provision in Article 74(1). This provision states that the President can ask the council of ministers to reconsider its advice. The President must then act in accordance with the advice after the reconsideration.

Right to property :

• The 44th amendment to the Indian Constitution removed the Right to Property in 1978. The amendment removed the right to property from the list of fundamental rights and made it a legal right under Article 300A.

• Article 300A states that “no person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law”. This means that no one can take away someone’s property, but it also gives the government the authority to do so if needed.

Freedom of the press in India :

• It is protected by the Indian Constitution. Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution includes freedom of the press within its freedom of speech and expression.

• Freedom of the press is the principle that communication and expression through media should be considered a right. It includes freedom of publication, circulation, and rights against pre-censorship. This means journalists can voice criticism of the government or the country.

• However, freedom of the press is subject to restrictions. **These restrictions include:**

EXPLANATION : (B)

- The Supreme Court of India is the final authority to inquire into and decide disputes related to the election of the President or Vice-President of India. The Supreme Court's decision is final.
- The Election Commission of India conducts the election to the President's office. The Supreme Court has strengthened the Election Commission's hands by delivering several landmark judgments.

Additional Information :**The Attorney General of India :**

- It is the highest law officer in the country and the chief legal advisor to the Union Government. They are also the primary lawyer for the government at the Supreme Court of India.
- The President appoints the Attorney General (AG) on the advice of the Union Cabinet. The AG holds office during the pleasure of the President and can be removed by the President at any time.
- The AG should have served as a judge in a high court for at least five years, or as an advocate in a high court for at least ten years.
- The 16th Attorney-General for India is R Venkataramani, who succeeded to the office on October 1, 2022. His predecessor was K. K. Venugopal.

1984**1. Which one of the following is part of Preamble of the Constitution of India?**

- (a) We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic do hereby Adopt. Enact and Give to ourselves this Constitution
- (b) We, the members of the Parliament, do hereby Adopt. Enact and Give to ourselves this Constitution

- (c) We, the people of Constituent Assembly, do hereby Adopt, Enact and Give to ourselves this Constitution
- (d) None of the above

EXPLANATION : (A)

- The Preamble to the Constitution of India presents the principles of the Constitution and indicates the sources of its authority.
- The preamble is based on the Objectives Resolution, which was moved in the Constituent Assembly by Jawaharlal Nehru on 13 December 1946 accepted on 22 January 1947 and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949, coming into force on 26 January 1950, celebrated as the Republic Day of India.
- It was amended during the Indian emergency by Indira Gandhi. The words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were added by 42nd Constitutional Amendment.

2. Who decides whether a Bill is a 'Money Bill' or not?

- (a) Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- (b) President
- (c) Prime Minister
- (d) Vice-President

EXPLANATION : (A)

- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha has the final authority to determine whether a bill is a money bill or not. The Speaker is the presiding officer in the Lok Sabha and is elected from within the members of the Lok Sabha.
- The Speaker is also the constitutional and ceremonial head and the principal spokesperson of the House.
- The Speaker certifies the bill as a money bill before sending it to the upper house. The decision of the Speaker is binding on both the Houses.
- A Money Bill can only be introduced in the Lok Sabha by a minister.

3. Being a non-member who among the following can participate in the proceedings of either House of Parliament without having the voting right?

- (a) Vice-President
- (b) Chief Justice of India
- (c) Comptroller & Auditor General
- (d) Attorney General

EXPLANATION : (D)

- The Attorney General of India is a non-member who can participate in the proceedings of Parliament without having the right to vote.
- The Attorney General is the chief legal advisor to the Indian government and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India. The President of India appoints the Attorney General, and they serve at the President's pleasure.
- The Attorney General has the right to speak and participate in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament, including joint sittings.
- They can also be a member of any parliamentary committee, but they have no power to vote in the committee.
- The 16th Attorney-General for India is R Venkataramani, who succeeded to the office on October 1, 2022. His predecessor was K. K. Venugopal.

4. Sarkaria Commission has been set up to study

- (a) Centre State relations
- (b) Inter-State relations
- (c) Financial aid to States
- (d) Splitting of LIC

EXPLANATION : (A)

- The Sarkaria Commission was established in 1983 by the Indian government to study the relationship and balance of power between the central and state governments.
- The commission was also tasked with suggesting changes to the Indian Constitution.

The commission was originally given one year to complete its work, but the deadline was extended four times. The commission submitted its report in January 1988, which contained 247 recommendations across 19 chapters.

Some of the commission's recommendations include:

1. Article 356 of the Constitution should be used sparingly.
2. All possibilities of forming an alternative government should be explored before imposing president's rule in a state.
3. The state assembly should not be dissolved unless the parliament approves the proclamation.
4. When the president withholds his assent to state bills, the reasons should be informed to the state government.
5. The National Economic and Development Council (NEDC) should be renamed and reinstituted as the National Development Council (NDC).

5. Match the following:

A.	Chief Election Commissioner	1.	Elected by members of Rajya Sabha
B.	Speaker of Lok Sabha	2.	Appointed by the President
C.	Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha	3.	Elected by members of Lok Sabha

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) A-1, B-1, C-3
- (b) A-2, B-3, C-1
- (c) A-3, B-2, C-1
- (d) None of these

EXPLANATION : (B)

The Correct Answer is (B)

- The Correct Answer is (c)
- $IV > III > II > I$.

6. After retirement, a High Court Judge

- (a) Can plead in the same High Court
- (b) Cannot plead in the same High Court
- (c) Can plead in the Supreme Court
- (d) Can plead in any of the High Courts

EXPLANATION : (B)

- A Retired High Court judge cannot practice law in any court or before any authority in India except the Supreme Court and the other High Courts.
- This means that a retired High Court judge cannot practice in lower courts and the same High Court from which they have retired.
- The retirement age of the judges of the High Courts was originally fixed at 60 but it was raised to 62 in 1963. Supreme court judges retire at the age of 65.

7. In which of the following States in India, the number of electorate is the highest?

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Rajasthan

EXPLANATION : (B)

- Uttar Pradesh is the most populous state in India and has the highest number of representatives in the 17th Lok Sabha.
- The state also has 403 members in its Legislative Assembly, the largest number of any state.
- The Malkajgiri Lok Sabha constituency is the largest in India by number of electors, with 3,150,303 as of 2019.
- The Constitution of India allows for a maximum of 552 members in the Lok Sabha. Currently, the house has 543 seats.

8. In a Parliamentary System of Government

- (a) The parliament is responsible to the executive
- (b) The parliament is responsible to the judiciary
- (c) The executive is responsible to the parliament
- (d) The judiciary is responsible to the parliament

EXPLANATION : (C)

- In a parliamentary system, the executive is collectively responsible to the legislature.

9. The Panchayati Raj was first introduced in the States of

- (a) Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Bihar
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Haryana

EXPLANATION : (A)

- The Panchayati Raj system was first introduced in India in the states of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh in 1959.
- Rajasthan was the first state to implement the Panchayati Raj system on October 2, 1959, in the Nagaur district. The system was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.
- Andhra Pradesh was the second state to implement the Panchayati Raj system on 11th October, 1959. Maharashtra was the ninth state to adopt the system.

10. Which of the following languages are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Sindhi and English
- (b) English and Kashmiri
- (c) Kashmiri and Konkani
- (d) Sindhi and Kashmiri

EXPLANATION : (D)

The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India :

- It lists the official languages of the country. It was intended to promote the use of Hindi and to enrich and promote the language.

The Eighth Schedule includes 22 languages:

- Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili, Dogri.
- The Eighth Schedule originally included 14 languages.
- The Constitution (Twenty-first Amendment) Act, 1967 added Sindhi to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. This amendment made Sindhi the 15th language in the schedule.
- The 71st Amendment, enacted in 1992, added three more languages: Konkani, Meitei (Manipuri), and Nepali.
- The 92nd Amendment, in 2003, added Bodo, Dogri, Santhali, and Maithali, bringing the total number of languages to 22.
- The Constitution of India has 12 schedules. When the Constitution was adopted in 1949, it had eight schedules.

11. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha can be removed by a resolution

- Passed by a two-thirds majority of its total members at that time
- Passed by a simple majority of its total
- Moved by Rajya Sabha but passed by Lok Sabha
- None of the above

EXPLANATION : (D)

- He can be removed by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by an absolute majority (ie, a majority of the total members of the House) and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.
- But, no such resolution can be moved unless at least 14 days' advance notice has

been given. Notably, no ground has been mentioned in the Constitution for his removal.

12. The National Anthem was written by

- Rabindranath Tagore
- Bankim Chandra Chatterji
- Mohammed Iqbal
- None of the above

EXPLANATION : (A)

- The National Anthem of India, "Jana Gana Mana", was written by Rabindranath Tagore. The song was originally composed in Bengali on December 11, 1911.
- The Constituent Assembly adopted the Hindi version of the song as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950. "Jana Gana Mana" is the first stanza of the Bengali hymn "Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata".
- The song was first sung at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress on December 27, 1911.

13. The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains

- States and Union Territories
- Salaries of the President, Governors of States, Judges of Supreme Court, etc.
- Union List, State List and Concurrent List
- Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha

EXPLANATION : (C)

The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains three lists:

- The Union List
- The State List
- The Concurrent List

- These lists specify the division of power between the Union and States for certain subjects. The Union List has 97 subjects, the State List has 66 subjects, and the Concurrent List has 47 subjects.
- The Seventh Schedule specifies the allocation of powers and functions between the Union and the State legislatures.

- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION : (D)

- The Flag Code of India took effect on January 26, 2002. As per Clause 2.1 of the Flag Code of India, there shall be no restriction on the display of the National Flag by members of the general public, private organizations, educational institutions etc. consistent with the dignity and honour of the National Flag.
- The Flag Code of India, 2002 was amended recently, and National Flag made of polyester or machine made flag have also been allowed.
- Now, the National Flag shall be made of hand-spun, hand-woven or machine-made cotton/polyester/wool/ silk/khadi bunting, as per the amended flag code.
- The standard sizes of the National Flag shall be as follows: - 900×600mm So, Statement 1 is not correct.
- The National Flag shall be rectangular in shape. The ratio of the length to the height (width) of the Flag shall be 3:2. So, **Statement 2 is correct.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

2024

- 14. Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over ?**
- (a) C. Rajagopalachari
 - (b) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
 - (c) T.T. Krishnamachari
 - (d) Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha

Explanation : (D)

- The Constituent Assembly first convened on 9th December 1946. Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was elected as a Provisional President to the Constituent Assembly from Bihar on a Congress Party ticket.

- He served as interim President of the Assembly, subsequently Rajendra Prasad was formally appointed as President, while H.C. Mukherjee and V.T. Krishnamachari were elected as Vice-Presidents, giving the Assembly two Vice-Presidents. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

- 15. As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of :**

1. Addition
2. Variation
3. Repeal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation : (D)

- According to Article 368 in Part XX of the Constitution of India, Parliament may in the exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article. **So, points 1, 2 and 3 are correct.**
- The Parliament can amend the provisions of the Constitution but cannot destroy its 'Basic Structure'. This was ruled by the Supreme Court in the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973). **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

- 16. Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament?**

1. Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills.
2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.
3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it.
4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha.

- following the Act's commencement and in force for a 15-year period after becoming an act. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- There are provisions for reservation of seats for SCs women within quota reserved for SCs. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

17. A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to :

- a government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.
- the Parliament/Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition.
- the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case.
- the Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.

Explanation : (C)

- **WRITS:** The Supreme Court (under Article 32) and the high courts (under Article 226) can issue the writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto. Further, the Parliament (under Article 32) can empower any other court to issue these writs.
- **PROHIBITION:** Prohibition Literally, it means 'to forbid'. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess.
- The writ of prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, and private individuals or bodies. **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

18. Consider the following statements :

1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.
2. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation : (B)

Definition of Scheduled Tribes :

- The Constitution of India in Article 366 (25) prescribe that the Scheduled Tribes means such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 of the Constitution to be Scheduled Tribes.
- **Article 342(1):** The President with respect to any State/UT (after consultation with the Governor in case of state) may specify the tribes/tribal communities/part of or groups within tribes/ tribal communities as a Scheduled Tribe in that State/UT. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The list of Scheduled Tribes is state/UT specific and a community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a state, need not be so in another state/UT. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

19. With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements :

1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual Financial Statement before both the Houses of Parliament.
2. At the Union level, no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Explanation : (B)

- The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the President lays the annual Financial Statement before both the Houses of Parliament. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

ECONOMY

1979

1. Which hydro-electric project produces maximum power energy?

- (a) Bhakra Nangal
- (b) Koyna
- (c) Hirakud
- (d) Salal

EXPLANATION : (B)

- The Koyna Hydroelectric Project is the second largest hydroelectric power plant in India, just after the Tehri Dam Project.
- This 1,960 MW plant is the largest completed hydroelectric power plant in India.
- It is a complex project with four dams including the largest dam on the Koyna River, Maharashtra, hence the name Koyna Hydroelectric Project, Which is located in Satara district.
- The Bhakra Nangal Dam is located on the Sutlej River in Himachal Pradesh, India. The dam is the second highest in Asia, standing at about 207 meters tall. It was constructed by the Indian Army and opened to the public in 1975.
- The Hirakud Dam is built across the Mahanadi River in Odisha, India. The Hirakud Dam is the longest earthen dam in the world and the longest major earthen dam in Asia.

What is an earthen dam?

- An earthen dam, also known as an earth dam, is made primarily of soil and rock materials, such as clay, silt, sand, and gravel. Earthen dams typically store water or create a barrier to control or divert water flow.
- The Salal Dam, also known as the Salal Hydroelectric Power Station, is located on the Chenab River in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. Consumer welfare is indicated by

- (a) Savings
- (b) Disposable income
- (c) Expenditure
- (d) None of the above

EXPLANATION : (D)

- Consumer welfare refers to the well-being and satisfaction of consumers within a market.
- It encompasses various factors such as access to quality goods and services, fair pricing, product safety, and the ability of consumers to make informed choices.
- The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 in India protects consumers from fraud and unfair practices. The act also encourages consumers to speak out against flaws in goods and services.

3. Productivity being low, cottage industry produced a lot because

- (a) It employs large number of people
- (b) No power is needed to manufacture most of the products
- (c) Raw material is generally available locally
- (d) It caters mostly to the rural population

EXPLANATION : (A)

- A cottage industry is a small manufacturing business that is owned and operated by an individual or a family, typically operating out of a home rather than a purpose-built facility.
- Cottage industries can produce a lot despite low productivity because they employ a large number of people.
- Few Example of Cottage industry are Cotton weaving, Carpet Weaving, Silk Weaving , Basket Weaving , Pottery figurines, etc

4. What is the most remarkable aspect of Indian industry since independence?

- (a) More employment opportunities
- (b) Increase in production

- (c) Capacity utilisation
- (d) Diversification

EXPLANATION : (D)

- The most remarkable aspect of Indian industry since independence is its diversification.
- India has moved from an agrarian economy to a service economy, with the services sector now dominating GDP.
- The sectors that have experienced the most growth are services and capital-intensive manufacturing.

Other notable achievements of the Indian manufacturing industry include:

- 1) Self-reliance
- 2) Growth
- 3) IT hub
- 4) Exports

5. What is Government's trade policy?

- (a) Export promotion
- (b) Import substitution
- (c) Both of the above
- (d) None of the above

EXPLANATION : (C)

- A government's trade policy is a set of laws, regulations, and agreements that govern a country's imports and exports.
- Trade policies aim to strengthen the domestic economy. In which There is Promotion Of Export And Substitution of Imports.

Trade policies can include:

- 1) Taxes on inspection regulations
- 2) Import and export
- 3) Tariffs and quotas
- 4) Protection of domestic manufacturers from foreign competition

6. Which two of the following are animal products?

- (a) Leather and meat
- (b) Silk and polyester
- (c) Linen and silk
- (d) Cotton and silk

EXPLANATION : (A)

- An animal product is any material derived from the body of a non-human animal.
- Leather is a strong, flexible and durable material obtained from the tanning, or chemical treatment, of animal skins and hides to prevent decay.
- The most common leathers come from cattle, sheep, goats, equine animals, buffalo, pigs and hogs, and aquatic animals such as seals and alligators.
- Tamil Nadu is the largest leather producing state in India, accounting for 40% of the country's leather production.
- Kanpur city is the largest center of leather industry in the country.
- India is the 4th largest exporter of leather goods in the world.

7. "Gresham's Law" in Economics relates to

- (a) Supply and demand
- (b) Circulation of currency
- (c) Consumption and supply
- (d) Distribution of goods and services

EXPLANATION : (B)

- Gresham's law is an economic principle that states that "bad money drives out good". It relates to the circulation of currency.
- **Bad money :** It is a currency with equal or less value than its face value.
- **Good money :** It has the potential for a greater value than its face value.

8. Cause of inflation is

- (a) Increase in money supply
- (b) Fall in production
- (c) Increase in money supply and fall in production
- (d) Decrease in money supply and fall in production

EXPLANATION : (C)

Inflation is a gradual increase in the prices of goods and services. It can be caused by a number of factors, including:

- 1) An increase in the money supply can lead to inflation. Monetary authorities can increase a country's money supply by printing and distributing more money to citizens.
- 2) When demand exceeds supply, prices rise.

There are mainly two types of inflatons :

- 1) **Demand-Pull Inflation:** Demand-pull inflation occurs when the demand for goods and services in an economy exceeds the supply. It's often described as "too much money chasing too few goods".
- 2) **Cost Push Inflation :** Cost-push inflation is a type of inflation that occurs when the cost of production increases, leading to higher prices for goods and services. It's also known as wage-push inflation.

9. The Government's gold auction policy is aimed at

- (a) Checking of smuggling and reducing the budgetary deficit of the Central Government
- (b) Promoting jewellery exports
- (c) Making gold available to consumers for ornaments.
- (d) Price stabilization

EXPLANATION : (A)

- The government's gold auction policy aims to reduce the budgetary deficit of the Central Government and check smuggling.
- Bank auctions for gold can provide buyers with an opportunity to purchase gold at a discounted price.
- Bank auctions also offer a level of transparency and security that can be difficult to find elsewhere in the gold market.

Gold auctions can have several benefits, including :

- Discounts, Transparency and security, Easy access to funds, etc

10. The countries of the world are economically interdependent. This fact is proved

- (a) By turmoil in Iran
- (b) By hike in oil prices by OPEC and rise in taxi fares all over
- (c) Because India has political relations with almost all countries of the world
- (d) Because multinationals have set up a number of projects in India

EXPLANATION : (B)

- Correct option is B. By hike in oil prices by OPEC and rise in taxi fares all over.
- Economic interdependence is a situation where two or more parties depend on each other to exchange goods and fulfill their needs.
- **Some factors that lead to economic interdependence include :** Industrialization, Economic advancement, Labor specialization, Regional production. Both advanced and less developed economic nations experience both positive and negative effects from economic interdependence.

What is OPEC?

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization that coordinates petroleum policies among its member countries.
- OPEC's goal is to ensure stable prices for petroleum producers, a reliable supply of petroleum to consuming nations, and a fair return on capital for investors in the industry.
- OPEC was founded in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- Venezuela is the OPEC member state with the largest crude oil reserves, in 2022.
- India is not a permanent member of OPEC.
- However, India and OPEC regularly hold Energy Dialogue meetings.

11. The Sixth and the Eighth Five-Year Plans covered the period 1980-85 and 1992-97 respectively. The Seventh Five-Year Plan covered the period

- (a) 1987-92
- (b) 1986-91
- (c) 1985-90
- (d) 1988-94

EXPLANATION : (C)

- India's Seventh Five-Year Plan covered the period 1985–1990.

The plan's objectives included:

1. Increasing economic productivity
2. Increasing food grain production
3. Generating employment through "Social Justice".
4. Improving industrial productivity by upgrading technology

12. Schemes of (i) Urban Micro Enterprises, (ii) Urban Wage Employment, and Housing and Shelter Upgradation are parts of

- (a) Integrated Rural Development Programme
- (b) Nehru Rozgar Yojana
- (c) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana
- (d) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

EXPLANATION : (B)

NRJ (Nehru Rozgar Yojana) is a scheme that includes five component plans:

1. Support for setting up micro enterprises
2. Housing and Shelter upgradation
3. Training for self-employment
4. Training relating to construction activities
5. Urban wage employment.

IRDP (Integrated Rural Development Programme) :

- It was a government initiative in India launched in 1978 to address rural poverty by promoting a range of development

activities. The program aimed to improve the standard of living for rural communities by focusing on areas such as agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, communication, and education.

What is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana :

- Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi launched the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) on April 1, 1989 in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The JRY was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- It was established by merging the National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme.
- The main objective of this initiative was to provide additional employment in rural areas.
- Under the Scheme 30% of the employment generated is reserved for Women.

13. **Assertion (A) :** The emergence of economic globalism does not imply the decline of socialist ideology.

Reason (R) : The ideology of Socialism believes in universalism and globalism. In the context of the above two statements, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not a correct explanation of A
- (c) A is true, but R is false
- (d) A is false, but R is true

EXPLANATION : (D)

- The increasingly emergence of economic globalism is the result of decline of socialist principles across the globe.
- However, the ideology of socialism indeed believes in social universalism and globalism.
- Hence, Assertion is false but Reason is true.

14. Which of the following come under Non-plan expenditure?

1. Subsidies
2. Interest payments

EXPLANATION : (D)

- As per the WTO data released in April 2019, for the year 2018, India's share in global exports for merchandise was 1.7 % and in global imports was 2.6 %.
- For the year 2018, for the service sector, India's share in global exports was 3.5 % and imports was 3.2 %. So **statement 1 is not correct.**
- Production-linked Incentive schemes are a cornerstone of the Government's push for achieving an Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- The objective is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and to create global Champions in manufacturing.
- The strategy behind the scheme is to offer companies incentives for incremental sales from products manufactured in India over the base year. So, **statement 2 is correct.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

15. Consider the following statements about G-20:

- The G-20 group was originally established as a platform for the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss the International economic and Financial issues.
- Digital public infrastructure is one of India's G-20 priorities.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATION : (C)

- The G20 group of 19 countries and the EU was established in 1999 as a platform for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors to discuss international economic and financial issues.
- Together, the G20 countries account for almost two-thirds of the global population, 75% of global trade, and 85% of the world's GDP, So, **statement 1 is correct.**

- India is pitching its digital infrastructure at G20 as an open-access platform that can aid in improving development outcomes. So, **statement 2 is correct. Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

2024

16. With reference to the Indian economy, "Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligations" are the instruments of:

- Bond market
- Forex market
- Money market
- Stock market

Explanation : (C)

- A collateralized borrowing and lending obligation (CBLO) is used in context of a money market instrument.
- It graphs an obligation between a borrower and a lender w.r.t. the terms and conditions of a loan.
- When borrower provides collateral (eg. government securities) the lender gave cash in exchange.
- It is short term instrument of borrowing and lending. **Hence, Option (d) is correct.**

17. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:

- the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.
- the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.
- the birth rate minus death rate.
- the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.

Explanation : (D)

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** The average number of children a hypothetical cohort of women would have at the end of their reproductive period if they were subject during their whole lives to the fertility rates of a given period and if they were not subject to mortality. It is expressed as children per woman. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

18. Consider the following statements :

1. In India, Non-Banking Financial Companies can access the Liquidity Adjustment Facility window of the Reserve Bank of India.
2. In India, Foreign Institutional Investors can hold the Government Securities (G-Secs).
3. In India, Stock Exchanges can offer separate trading platforms for debts.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Explanation : (D)

- A Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) is a monetary policy tool used in India by the RBI through which it adds or subtract liquidity into or from the banking system and thereby overall economy.
- LAF is used to aid banks in resolving short-term cash shortages of funds. Since NBFCs are not banking entities, they cannot access the LAF window of the RBI (exceptions Covid). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Foreign investors, whether registered as Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) or FPI may also invest in treasury bills and government securities with some terms and conditions put forth by SEBI AND RBI. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2018, the National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched the country's first dedicated debt trading platform.
- The separate debt trading platform provides an opportunity to retail investors to invest in corporate bonds on a liquid and transparent exchange platform for better price discovery and liquidity. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

19. In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities ?

1. Insurance Companies
2. Pension Funds
3. Retail Investors

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation : (D)

- **Corporate bond market functions:**
 - i) an alternative to bank finance
 - ii) lower the cost of long-term funding
 - iii) Quicker issuing time
 - iv) cost-effective source of longer-term funds for corporates
- Banks play a less crucial role in long-term liabilities because of shorter tenure.
- In India, all three categories - Insurance Companies, Pension Funds and Retail Investors - can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

20. Consider the following :

1. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF)
2. Motor vehicles
3. Currency swap

Which of the above is/are considered financial instruments?

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

Explanation : (D)

- A financial instrument refers to any type of asset that can be traded by investors, whether it's a tangible entity like property or a debt contract.

- This scheme provides, a minimum package of antenatal care services to pregnant women in their 2nd/ 3rd trimesters at Government health facilities (PHCs/ CHCs, DHs/ urban health facilities etc) in both urban and rural areas. But the scheme does not provide Six months post delivery health care services in any government facilities. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with the private sector which includes encouraging private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign for developing strategies for generating awareness and to give services at government health facilities. A National Portal for PMSMA and a mobile application have been developed to facilitate the involvement of doctors from the private/ voluntary sector.
- OBGY specialists/ Radiologists/physicians from the private sector would be encouraged to provide voluntary services at public health facilities where government sector practitioners are not available or inadequate. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

21. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements

1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.
2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of 3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
4. Family pension is applicable to the spouse and unmarried daughters.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Explanation : (B)

Eligibility criteria - a person should be:

- i) An unorganised worker
- ii) Entry age between 18 and 40 years
- iii) Monthly Income Rs 15000 or below.

So, statement 1 is not correct.

- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a 50:50 basis where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government.
- Subscriber needs to contribute in the range of Rs. 55 - Rs. 200 depending on the entry age. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Each subscriber would receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- If the beneficiary dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouses (and not unmarried daughters). **Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

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INDIAN GEOGRAPHY

1979

1. Recent discovery of method of reducing salination of soil is

- (a) Spreading of husk on the soil
- (b) Extensive use of fertilisers
- (c) Intensive use of fertilisers
- (d) None of the above

Explanation : (A)

- Recently, it was discovered that dense crop husks like rice husks could effectively be employed to encounter increasing salination of soils.
- Biochar from rice husks or wheat straw absorbs sodium (Na⁺) from the soil, which reduces the amount of sodium in the soil. This can help improve the growth of crops like rice.

Benefits :

- Biochar can also improve other soil properties, such as porosity, hydraulic conductivity, and potassium (K⁺) content.

Applications

- Biochar can be used to improve soil quality in areas affected by salinity, such as coastal soils. It can also be used in combination with other amendments, such as compost, to improve soil quality.

2. The crop which grows in alluvial soil and needs 150 cm rainfall is

- (a) Wheat
- (b) Rice
- (c) Groundnut
- (d) Sugarcane

Explanation : (B)

- Alluvial soil, mixture of clayey and loamy soil in adequate proportion with 150cm rainfall is ideal for cultivation of rice. Rice (Paddy) is grown well in hot and moist climate.

Geographical conditions for the rice cultivation:

- **Temperature:** 16°C – 27°C
- **Rainfall:** 100 cm to 200 cm
- **Soil:** rice is grown well on the alluvial soil or on the fertile river basin.
- **Land:** Plain lands or gentle slopes are suitable for the production of rice.
- In the areas of less rainfall, it grows with the help of irrigation. Rice is grown in the plains of north and north-eastern India, coastal areas and the deltaic regions.

3. What factors changed the landscape of India the most in last century?

- (a) Irrigation
- (b) Movement of people from rural to urban areas
- (c) Industrialisation
- (d) Deforestation

Explanation : (B)

- Most important factor that changed the landscape of India in the last century:
- Movement of people from rural to urban areas: - Rapid urbanization has led to the growth of cities and towns, resulting in significant changes in the landscape of India. The migration of people from rural to urban areas has led to the expansion of cities, the development of infrastructure, and the transformation of agricultural land into residential and commercial areas. As the opportunities increase the movement of people from rural to urban area increases as well.

4. The oldest mountains are

- (a) Himalayas
- (b) Aravallis
- (c) Satpura
- (d) Vindhya

Explanation : (B)

- The Aravalli range is the oldest fold mountains in India.

5. Which of the following projects is administered by more than one State?

- (a) Nagarjuna
- (b) Kosi Project
- (c) Hirakud Project
- (d) Tungbhadra Project

Explanation : (B)

- Tungabhadra project is administered by more than one State.
- The Tungabhadra Dam also known as Pampa Sagar is constructed across the Tungabhadra River, a tributary of the Krishna River. The dam is in Munirabad, Koppal district of Karnataka.
- It is a significant multi-purpose river project that contributes to irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and flood control in both Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

6. Which of the following crops helps in nitrogen fixation?

- (a) Rice
- (b) Wheat
- (c) Maize
- (d) Beans

Explanation : (D)

- Beans are a crop that helps in nitrogen fixation. Beans are legumes, which are plants that use nitrogen-fixing bacteria to enrich the soil with nitrogen.
- Nitrogen-fixing bacteria live in the root nodules of legumes. These bacteria convert atmospheric nitrogen into soluble nitrogenous compounds.

Symbiotic nitrogen fixation

- The process by which legumes fix nitrogen is called symbiotic nitrogen fixation (SNF).

Benefits of nitrogen fixation

- Nitrogen is a key component of chlorophyll, which plants need for photosynthesis.
- Other nitrogen-fixing plants include: Alfalfa, Amaranth, Chickpea, Clover, Purslane (Kulfa), and Spinach.

7. "Laterite Soil" is found in India in

- (a) Western Ghats
- (b) Eastern Ghats
- (c) Deccan Plateau
- (d) Satpura region in Madhya Pradesh

Explanation : (A)

- Laterite soil is mainly found in Western Ghats and the North-eastern region of the country.
- Laterite soil is also known as residual soil.
- It is rich in iron oxide and potash, but lacks nitrogen, phosphate, and calcium. It is not a fertile soil and has very limited use in agriculture.
- Laterite soil is formed by chemical weathering that causes leaching of the parent sedimentary rocks, which is known as "lateralization".

8. The sea territory of India extends up to

- (a) 4 nautical miles
- (b) 12 nautical miles
- (c) 200 nautical miles
- (d) None of these

Explanation : (B)

- Territorial waters or a territorial sea as defined by the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as a belt of coastal waters extending at most 12 nautical miles (22.2 km; 13.8 mile) from the base-line (usually the mean low-water mark) of a coastal state. Therefore, India's sea territory extends up to 12 nautical miles from its shorelines.
- A coastal state can claim a territorial sea that extends 12 nautical miles from its baselines.
- The coastal state has sovereignty over the territorial sea, the airspace above it, and the seabed and subsoil beneath it.

9. The winter rain in Madras is caused by

- (a) South-West Monsoons
- (b) North East Monsoons
- (c) Intense land and sea breezes
- (d) Cyclonic winds in the Bay of Bengal

1. Which one of the following types of coal contains a higher percentage of carbon than the rest?

(a) Bituminous coal
(b) Lignite
(c) Peat
(d) Anthracite

Explanation : (D)

- Anthracite coal contains the highest percentage of carbon than all others.

2000

2. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

<u>List I</u> <u>(Oceanic Trench)</u>	<u>List II</u> <u>(Location)</u>
A. Aleutian	1. Indian Ocean
B. Kermadec	2. North Pacific Ocean
C. Sunda	3. South Pacific Ocean
D. S. Sandwich	4. South Atlantic Ocean

Codes : A B C D

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

Explanation : (B)

- Aleutian- North Pacific Ocean
- Kermadec- South Pacific Ocean
- Sunda- Indian Ocean
- D.S. Sandwich- South Atlantic Ocean

Thus B is the correct answer.

3. Consider the following provinces of former Yugoslavia

1. Bosnia
2. Croatia
3. Slovenia
4. Serbia

The correct sequence of these provinces from the east

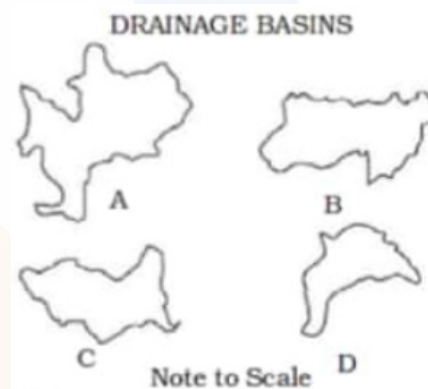
(a) 4, 1, 3, 2
(b) 4, 1, 2, 3
(c) 1, 4, 3, 2
(d) 1, 4, 2, 3

Explanation : (B)

- The correct sequence from east to west is Serbia- Bosnia- Croatia- Slovenia

Thus, B is the correct answer.

4. Match the drainage basins labelled as A, B, C and D with the names listed below and select the correct answer using the codes given below the names of the drainage basins. Names of drainage basins :



1. Ganga Brahmaputra
2. Indus
3. Parana
4. Zambezi

Codes : A B C D

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

Explanation : (C)

- In the above question
A- Ganga Brahmaputra
B- Parana
C- Indus
D- Zambezi

Thus, C is the correct answer.

5. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists:

<u>List I</u> (Minerals)	<u>List II</u> (Major producer)
A. Mineral Oil	1. Zambia
B. Copper	2. Guyana
C. Manganese	3. Venezuela
D. Bauxite	4. Gabon

A B C D

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

Explanation : (A)

- Venezuela is one of the major mineral oil producers in the world. In fact, it is also member country of major oil producing group - OPEC. Zambia is world's largest copper producer. Gabon has world's richest Manganese reserves. Guyana is major producer of Bauxite. Therefore, A is the correct match.

2001

6. **Assertion (A) :** Anti-cyclonic conditions are formed in winter season when atmospheric pressure is high and air temperatures are low.

Reason (R) : Winter rainfall in Northern India causes development of anticyclonic conditions with low temperatures.

- (a) Both A and R are individually true, and R is the correct explanation of A
(b) Both A and R are individually true, but R is NOT a correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false. but R is true

Explanation : (A)

- Winter monsoon is because of western disturbance level developed in central and north India.

7. Match List I with List II and select the correct answer using the codes given below the Lists :

<u>List I</u> (Local Wind)	<u>List II</u> (Region)
I. Fohn	A. Argentina
II. Samun	B. Kurdistan
III. Santa	C. California
IV. Zonda	D Alps

Codes :

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

Explanation : (B)

- Fohn- Alps
- Samun- Kurdistan
- Santa- California
- Zonda- Argentina

Thus, B is the correct answer.

8. **Assertion (A) :** During the Neap Tides, the high tide is lower tide is higher than usual.

Reason (R) : The Neap Tide, unlike the Spring Tide, occurs on the new moon instead of on the Full Moon.

- (a) Both A and R are individually true, and R is the correct A
(b) Both A and R are individually true, but R is NOT a correct of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

Explanation : (C)

- Neap tides are tides in which there is small difference between the high tide and low tide because high tides are comparatively bear less height and low tides have higher height.

9. **Volcanic eruptions do not occur in the**

- (a) Baltic Sea
(b) Black Sea

1. Consider the following information :

	<u>Region</u>	<u>Name of the mountain range</u>	<u>Type of mountain</u>
1.	Central Asia	Vosges	Fold mountain
2.	Europe	Alps	Block mountain
3.	North America	Appalachians	Fold mountain
4.	South America	Andes	Fold mountain

In how many of the above rows is the given information correctly matched ?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Explanation: (B)

- **There are three types of mountains-**
 - a) Fold Mountains
 - b) Block Mountains
 - c) Volcanic Mountains.
- The Himalayan Mountains, Alps and Andes are young fold mountains
- The Aravali range in India is one of the oldest fold mountain systems in the world. The range has majorly worn down due to the processes of erosion.
- Andes Mountains are a mountain system of South America and one of the great natural features on Earth.
- Appalachians in North America and the Ural mountains in Russia are fold mountains.
- Block Mountains are created when large areas are broken and displaced vertically. The uplifted blocks are termed as horsts and the lowered blocks are called graben.
- The Rhine Valley and the Vosges mountain in Europe are Block Mountains. **Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

2. With reference to “water vapour”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a gas, the amount of which decreases with altitude.
- 2. Its percentage is maximum at the poles.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

Explanation: (A)

Water Vapour :

- Water vapor is water in gaseous form. It is Earth's most abundant greenhouse gas.
- It is also a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude.
- Warm and wet tropics- 4 %
- Dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions- less than one per cent of the air.
- Water vapour also decreases from the equator towards the poles. **Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

3. Consider the following description :

- 1. Annual and daily range of temperatures is low.
- 2. Precipitation occurs throughout the year.
- 3. Precipitation varies between 50 cm - 250 cm.

What is this type of climate ?

- (a) Equatorial climate
- (b) China type climate
- (c) Humid subtropical climate
- (d) Marine West coast climate

Explanation: (D)

Marine West Coast Climate:

- It is located poleward from the Mediterranean climate on the west coast of the continents.

ENVIRONMENT

1987

1. Which one of the following plants is effective in reducing water pollution and is also useful for producing biogas?

- (a) Eucalyptus
- (b) Water hyacinth
- (c) Salvinia
- (d) Lotus

Explanation : (B)

- Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) is a plant that can reduce water pollution and is also useful for producing biogas.
- Water hyacinth is a free-floating aquatic plant that grows quickly and scavenges. It can absorb lead elements from polluted rivers and use them as nutrients. Water hyacinth leaves contain cellulose, nitrogen, essential nutrients, and high fermentation contents, which can be used for biogas production.

Eucalyptus :

- It is a genus of flowering plants in the Myrtaceae family. It is also known as an eucalypts or “gum tree”.
- Eucalyptus plants are fast-growing evergreen trees that are native to Australia. They can range in size from ornamental shrubs to giant trees, and can grow as high as 230 feet.
- Eucalyptus plants prefer areas that receive at least eight to 10 hours of full sun. If you plant your eucalyptus indoors, place the potted eucalyptus near a south-facing window so that it gets plenty of sunlight.

Salvinia :

- It is a free-floating aquatic fern. It is native to Brazil, but has spread to many tropical and subtropical areas around the world. It is commonly known as watermoss and is related to other water ferns, such as the mosquito fern.

- Salvinia is an aggressive invasive species that can reproduce by spores or fragmentation. It can quickly fill waterways and displace native species. If colonies of salvinia cover the surface of the water, it can lead to oxygen depletion and fish kills. Salvinia has small green leaves that grow in pairs along a stem.

Lotus :

- It is also known as *Nelumbo nucifera*, is a perennial aquatic plant. It is a member of the small *Nelumbonaceae* family, **which includes two species:**
 1. *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn and
 2. *Nelumbo lutea* Pear.
- The *Nelumbo nucifera* is also known as the sacred lotus, Indian lotus, or water lily.

The lotus has adapted to live in water by developing the following features:

1. Oxygen-absorbing roots
2. Flat leaves
3. Air sacs

2. Consider the following statements regarding “Bioremediation”. It involves the use of bacteria and fungi to

1. Clean up aquifers
2. Clean up toxic dumps
3. Clean up oil spills
4. Cure bacterial and fungal disease

Explanation : (C)

- Bioremediation is the process of using microorganisms like bacteria and fungi to break down environmental contaminants into less toxic forms.
- These microorganisms can be native to the contaminated area or brought in from elsewhere.
- Bioremediation can be used to treat contaminated water, soil, and subsurface material. For example, bacteria can be used to remove oil spills from seawater.

- Bioremediation can be more sustainable and less expensive than other remediation options. It can also be used to reduce the impact of byproducts from agricultural processes and industrialization.
- It has no relation with curing bacterial and fungal diseases whatsoever. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**

1988

3. Match the columns:

A. Kaziranga National Park	1. Gujarat
B. Gir National Park	2. Madhya Pradesh
C. Bandipur National Park	3. Assam
D. Kanha National Park	4. Karnataka

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

A B C D

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

Explanation : (B)

Kaziranga National Park :

- It is a protected area in the Indian state of Assam. It's located in the Brahmaputra River's floodplains, and is home to many animals and birds.
- Kaziranga is famous for its one-horned rhinoceroses, which make up the world's largest population. The park is also home to tigers, elephants, wild water buffalo, swamp deer, and Ganges River dolphins.
- Kaziranga is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was designated a Tiger Reserve in 2006, and is also recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.

Gir National Park :

- It is also known as Sasan Gir, is a wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat, India. It's located near

the Junagadh and Gir Somnath districts.

- Gir National Park is the only place in the world where you can find lions roaming free in the wild. It's also the only national park in India that nurtures Asiatic lions. The park also has leopards, antelopes, over 300 species of birds, and wildlife like vultures and pythons.

Bandipur National Park :

- It is a wildlife sanctuary in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. It's a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, which is the largest protected area in Southern India.
- Bandipur National Park is home to the largest population of wild Asian elephants in South Asia. It also has the second highest tiger population in India. **Other mammals that live in the park include:** Gaur, Sloth bear, Golden jackal, Dhole, Four-horned antelope.
- **The park is also home to many types of timber trees, including:** Teak, Sandalwood, Rosewood, Bamboo.

Kanha National Park :

- It is also known as Kanha-Kisli National Park, is a wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, India. It is one of the largest and most well-known tiger reserves in the country, covering an area of approximately 940 square kilometers (363 square miles).
- Kanha National Park was established around 1933 and became the Kanha Tiger Reserve in 1973. It is located in the Maikal group of hills in Madhya Pradesh. The park's vibrant environment inspired Rudyard Kipling, the author of The Jungle Book.

1989

4. Why DDT is banned in western countries?

- (a) It remains in environment for a long time
(b) The insects are immunised
(c) It is a highly poisonous insecticide
(d) None of the above

Explanation : (A)

- The Ramsar Convention defines wetlands as areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary. **The Ramsar classification system has three main wetland habitats:**

1. marine and coastal,
2. inland, and
3. human-made.

- Wetlands are important because they can adapt to changing conditions and accelerating rates of change.
- India has 75 wetlands designated as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention. According to the National Wetland Atlas, India has around 4.6% of its land as wetlands, covering an area of 15.26 million hectares.

Biosphere reserve :

- They are international designations by UNESCO for large areas of natural and cultural landscapes. They protect larger areas of natural habitat than national parks or animal sanctuaries, and often include one or more national parks or reserves. Biosphere reserves also conserve plants, animals, and tribal lives in the region.
- As of 2023, India has 18 biosphere reserves.

5. Which one of the following does provide the best estimate of world's biological diversity?

- of about ten million species probably alive today, some 20 species are lost everyday, most of them unknown because no more than half a million have yet been actually identified by scientists.
- Of about thirty million living species, some 50 are lost everyday, most of them unknown because no more than one million have been actually identified.
- Of about forty five million living species, some 100 are lost every day, most of them unknown because no more than 1.5 million have been actually identified.

- Of about seventy five million living species, some 500 are lost every day, most of them unknown because no more than 3 million have been actually identified.

Explanation : (C)

- The best estimate of the world's biological diversity is that of about 45 million living species, some 100 are lost every day. Most of these species are unknown because no more than 1.5 million have been identified by scientists.
- Biodiversity refers to all living things on the planet, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans. Scientists estimate that there are around 8.7 million species of plants and animals in existence, but only around 1.2 million species have been identified and described so far.
- Scientists agree that today's extinction rate is hundreds, or even thousands, of times higher than the natural baseline rate. The baseline extinction rate is about one species per every one million species per year.

1995

6. The greatest diversity of animal and plant species occurs in

- temperate deciduous forests
- tropical moist forests
- heavily polluted rivers
- deserts and savannas

Explanation : (B)

- Tropical moist forests have the greatest diversity of animal and plant species.
- Tropical rainforests are known for their extreme biodiversity. They have high average temperatures, very high annual rainfall, nutrient-poor soil, and high levels of biodiversity. The rain and high sunlight allow for abundant plant growth, which produces food for a vast number of animal species.
- The complex structure of the forest, with multiple canopy layers and diverse microhabitats, supports specialized species and fosters intricate ecological relationships.

7. 'Bio-Carbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes' is managed by the

- (a) Asian Development Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) World Bank

Explanation : (D)

- **Bio-Carbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest landscapes** : The BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) is a multilateral fund, supported by donor governments and managed by the World Bank.
- It promotes reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector, including efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+), sustainable agriculture, as well as smarter land-use planning, policies and practices.

8. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee is constituted under the

- (a) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- (b) Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- (c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- (d) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Explanation : (C)

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) works under the aegis of Environment Protection Act and functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- It is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large-scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
- The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.

9. In a particular region in India, the local people train the roots of living trees into robust bridges across the streams. As the time passes, these bridges become stronger. These unique 'living root bridges' are found in

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Himachal Pradesh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Tamil Nadu

Explanation : (A)

- The entwined roots of Indian rubber trees form bridges by training tree roots to knit together.
- The Khasi and Jaintia people of Rewai village in Meghalaya make the living tree root bridges.
- The Indian rubber tree produces strong rope like aerial roots which ones last into a scaffold of hollowed-out betel nuts or tied to bamboo stalks.
- They take decades to grow horizontally across steep ravines and river banks.
- The living foot Bridge can hold up to 50 people at a time.
- They endure for almost 500 to 600 years and grow stronger over time.

10. With reference to 'Forest Carbon Partnership Facility', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society and indigenous peoples.
- 2. It provides financial aid to universities, individual scientists and institutions involved in scientific forestry research to develop eco-friendly and climate adaptation technologies for sustainable forest management.
- 3. It assists the countries in their 'REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation+)' efforts by providing them with financial and technical assistance.

11. Consider the following statements :

1. In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realization of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

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

Explanation : (C)

Biodiversity Management Committees and Nagoya Protocol in India :

- In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are instrumental in achieving the goals of the Nagoya Protocol. This international agreement focuses on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. BMCs, established at local levels, are pivotal in promoting the conservation, sustainable use, and documentation of biological diversity.
- These committees are vital in implementing the Nagoya Protocol by facilitating access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. They ensure that the benefits from their utilization are shared appropriately. Their role encompasses conservation efforts, sustainable usage of biodiversity, and managing the documentation of diverse biological resources.

Functions of Biodiversity Management Committees :

- The Biodiversity Management Committees play a significant role in access and benefit-sharing mechanisms. One of their key

functions includes the authority to impose collection fees for accessing biological resources within their jurisdiction. This power is essential for regulating access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

- Moreover, Biodiversity Management Committees are tasked with ensuring equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of these resources. The imposition of collection fees aids in generating revenue, which is then utilized for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This approach aligns with the broader objectives of the Nagoya Protocol, promoting a balanced and fair distribution of benefits among all stakeholders involved in the utilization of biological resources.

2024

- 12. One of the following regions has the world's largest tropical peatland, which holds about three years worth of global carbon emissions from fossil fuels; and the possible destruction of which can exert detrimental effect on the global climate. Which one of the following denotes that region ?**

- (a) Amazon Basin
- (b) Congo Basin
- (c) Kikori Basin
- (d) Rio de la Plata Basin

Explanation: (B)

- The Congo Basin is home to the world's largest tropical peatlands, along with Brazil and Indonesia. The peat swamp forest of the Congo Basin stores around 29 billion tons of carbon – approximately equivalent to three years' worth of global greenhouse gas emissions – and the Basin as a whole absorbs nearly 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide a year.
- The Basin stretches across six countries- Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. **Hence option (b) is correct answer.**

- Some frogs can be poisonous- Produce and store alkaloid poisons and toxins in their body majorly are poison arrow frogs or poison dart frogs. Eg. Bruno's casque-headed frog (*Aparasphenodon bruno*) and Greening's frog (*Corythomantis greeningi*). **Hence, Option (c) is correct.**

13. Which one of the following is the exhaust pipe emission from Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles, powered by hydrogen ?

- (a) Hydrogen peroxide
- (b) Hydronium
- (c) Oxygen
- (d) Water vapour

Explanation : (D)

- Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) are powered by hydrogen. They are more efficient than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles as they produce no harmful emissions.
- They only emit water vapour and warm air making cleaner air in cities. **Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

14. Consider the following materials :

1. Agricultural residues
2. Corn grain
3. Wastewater treatment sludge
4. Wood mill waste

Which of the above can be used as feedstock for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel?

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

Explanation : (C)

Sustainable Feedstocks for Producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel:

- Low environmental impact using renewable source of fuel or Biofuel - Oil seeds, Algae, Other fats, oils, and greases, Agricultural residues, Corn grain, Municipal solid waste streams, Wood mill waste, Forestry

residues, Wet wastes (manures, wastewater treatment sludge), Dedicated energy crops **Hence, option (c) is correct.**

15. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions?

- (a) Locomotives using fossil fuels
- (b) Ships using fossil fuels
- (c) Extraction of metals from ores
- (d) Power plants using fossil fuels

Explanation : (D)

- The largest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities. The gas contributes to the formation of acid rain and in high concentrations can cause respiratory problems.

Smaller sources of SO₂ emissions include:

- Industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore.
- Natural sources such as volcanoes.
- Locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with a high sulphur content. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

1980

1. Skylab crashed on July 11, 1979 in

- (a) Pacific Ocean
- (b) Atlantic Ocean
- (c) Mediterranean Sea
- (d) Indian Ocean near Western Australia

Explanation : (D)

- Thirty-six years ago, on July 11, 1979, the first US space station Skylab fell out of orbit. It crashed in southern Indian Ocean near western Australia.

2. India has launched Symphonic Satellite Telecommunication Experiment (STEP). It is a joint project of the Project

- (a) S and T Department and Indian Space Research Organisation
- (b) Ministry of Energy and Space Commission
- (c) Ministry of Defence and Indian Space Research Organisation
- (d) Indian Space Research Organisation and Ministry of Industry

Explanation : (A)

- The Satellite Telecommunications Experiments Project (STEP) was a joint project of S and T department of India and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)

1981

3. Put the following mass communication media in the sequence in which they came to India?

- 1. Radio
- 2. Television
- 3. Films
- 4. Printing

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

- (a) 1, 3, 2, 4
- (b) 1, 4, 3, 2

(c) 2, 4, 3, 1

(d) 4, 3, 1, 2

Explanation : (D)

- Printing was the beginning of mass communication in India which was introduced by Portuguese in 16th century itself. Afterwards, many medium of communication such as films, radio, and television were introduced. Correct sequence is (D)

4. Total solar eclipse was observed in February 1980 in India at

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Puri
- (c) Bombay
- (d) Calcutta

Explanation : (D)

- Total solar eclipse was observed in Calcutta.

5. Which of the following statements is true?

- (a) Bhaskara and Aryabhata were put into orbit from a Chinese Cosmodrome
- (b) Bhaskara and Aryabhata were put into orbit from a French cosmodrome
- (c) Rohini II is going to be launched from Moscow
- (d) Rohini, the third Indian satellite, was launched from Sriharikota

Explanation : (D)

- Rohini, the third Indian satellite, was
- launched from Sriharikota by ISRO.

6. Hybridisation is useful in developing improved crops by

- (a) Creating new and better genes
- (b) Eliminating undesirable genes
- (c) Producing favourable combination of genes
- (d) By encouraging favourable genes and removing unfavourable genes

7. Which of the following types is used by computed tomography employed for visualization of the internal structure of human body?

- (a) X-rays
- (b) Sound Waves
- (c) Magnetic resonance
- (d) Radioisotopes

Explanation : (A)

- Computed Tomography (CT) technique uses the axial bombardment of numerous x-rays through various 2-d routes and associated computer makes a 3-d image generated out of these numerous 2-d xray images.

8. Recently, the European Union and other six countries including India signed the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project.

Which one of the following was not a signatory to it?

- (a) Canada
- (b) China
- (c) Japan
- (d) USA

Explanation : (A)

- The ITER Members : China, the European Union (EU), India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States (US).

2008

9. ISRO successfully conducted a rocket test using cryogenic engines in the year 2007. Where is the test-stand used for the purpose, located?

- (a) Balasoren
- (b) Thiruvananthapuram
- (c) Mahendragiri
- (d) Karwar

Explanation : (C)

- ISRO had achieved a significant milestone through the successful test of indigenously developed Cryogenic Stage, to be employed as the upper stage of India's Geosynchronous

Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The test was conducted for its full flight at Liquid Propulsion test facility at Mahendragiri, in Tamil Nadu

10. In which one of the following locations is International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project to be built?

- (a) Northern Spain
- (b) Southern France
- (c) Eastern Germany
- (d) Southern Italy

Explanation : (B)

- ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, and is also Latin for the way of energy) is an international nuclear fusion research and engineering megaproject, which will be the world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment. It is an experimental Tokamak nuclear fusion reactor that is being built next to the Cadarache facility in the southern France.
- Why insofar nuclear fusion reactor could not be made practically viable? : For fusion to occur on Earth, we would need a temperature of at least 100 million degrees Celsius—six times hotter than the core of the sun. The sun is a natural fusion reactor which makes up for its measly 15 million degrees with the intense pressure created by its core's gravity. Currently, here on Earth the amount of energy we'd need to put in to produce that kind of heat or pressure is much, much higher than what we get out in usable energy. That's simply explains the practical. infeasibility of having nuclear fusion reactors. Research is going on though to make it practical viable.

11. What is the purpose of the US Space Agency's Themis Mission, which was recently in the news?

- (a) To study the possibility of life on Mars
- (b) To study the satellites of Saturn
- (c) To study the colourful display of high latitude skies

12. 'Aerial metagenomics' best refers to which one of the following situations?

- (a) Collecting DNA samples from air in a habitat at one go
- (b) Understanding the genetic makeup Of avian species of a habitat
- (c) Using air-borne devices to collect blood samples from moving Animals
- (d) Sending drones to inaccessible Areas to collect plant and animal Samples from land surfaces and Water bodies

Explanation : (A)

- Aerial metagenomics" typically refers to the study of genetic material (such as DNA or RNA) collected from the air, usually in the form of airborne particles or aerosols.
- It involves analysing the microbial communities present in the air and characterising their genetic diversity.
- Ecologists have thought of this, and it certainly works for things like animal droppings.
- But these, too, must first be detected and collected—and they will identify only the animal that dropped them.
- Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

13. 'Microsatellite DNA' is used in the case of which one of the following?

- (a) Studying the evolutionary relationships among various species of fauna
- (b) Stimulating 'stem cells' to transform into diverse functional tissues
- (c) Promoting clonal propagation of horticultural plants
- (d) Assessing the efficacy of drugs by conducting series of drug trials in a population

Explanation : (A)

- Microsatellite DNA is utilised in genetic analysis, more specifically in molecular genetics and genomics.
- Microsatellites are small DNA sequences made up of repeating units.
- They are also known as short tandem repeats (STRs) or simple sequence repeats

(SSRs).

- These repeating units, which are typically 1-6 base pairs in length, are repeated in tandem, and the amount of repetitions varies between individuals.
- The number of repeats at a certain microsatellite locus might vary greatly between people in a population because microsatellite DNA is highly variable.
- Researchers can analyse the genetic structure, population dynamics, and evolutionary relationships among various species of animals by analysing microsatellite DNA.
- Microsatellite markers are very valuable in population genetics conservation genetics, and phylogenetic research.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

14. Consider the following statements in the context of interventions being undertaken under Anaemia Mukh Bharat Strategy :

1. It provides prophylactic calcium supplementation for pre-school children, adolescents and pregnant women.
2. It runs a campaign for delayed cord clamping at the time of child-birth.
3. It provides for periodic deworming to children and adolescents.
4. It addresses non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets with special focus on malaria, hemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

Explanation : (C)

- Prophylactic Iron Folic Acid supplementation (not Prophylactic calcium) given to children, adolescents,

women of reproductive age and pregnant women, irrespective of anemia is a key continued intervention.

- Promotion and monitoring of delayed clamping of the umbilical cord for at least 3 minutes (or until cord pulsations cease) for newborns across all health facilities will be carried out for improving the infant's iron reserves up to 6 months after birth.
- Simultaneously, all birth attendants should make an effort to ensure early initiation of breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth.
- The Anemia Mukht Bharat, also integrates deworming of women of reproductive age and for pregnant women as part of the NDD strategy.
- Bi-annual mass deworming for children in the age groups between 1-19 years is carried out on designated dates – 10th February and 10th August every year under National Deworming Day (NDD) programme.
- The Anemia Mukht Bharat strategy attempts to intensify awareness and integrate screening and treatment for non-nutritional causes of anemia with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis.

15. 'Wolbachia method' is sometimes talked about with reference to which one of the following?

- Controlling the viral diseases spread by mosquitoes
- Converting crop residues into packing materials.
- Producing biodegradable plastics
- Producing biochar from Thermo chemical conversion of biomass

Explanation : (A)

- The Wolbachia method is simple. when Aedes aegypti mosquitoes carry Wolbachia, the bacteria compete with viruses like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- This makes it harder for viruses to reproduce inside the mosquitoes.

- And the mosquitoes are much less likely to spread viruses from person to person.
- This means that when Aedes aegypti mosquitoes carry natural Wolbachia bacteria, the transmission of viruses like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever is reduced.
- Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

2024

16. With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are used in making many consumer products, consider the following statements :

- PFAS are found to be widespread in drinking water, food and food packaging materials.
- PFAS are not easily degraded in the environment.
- Persistent exposure to PFAS can lead to bioaccumulation in animal bodies.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Explanation: (D)

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are chemicals that resist grease, oil, water, and heat which are used in stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, and fire-fighting foams. Certain PFAS are also authorised by the FDA for limited use in cookware, food packaging, and food processing equipment.
- PFAS are found majorly in drinking water, foods, food packaging materials and other consumer products. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Chemically, PFAS have a carbon-fluorine bond, which is very strong and therefore, they do not degrade easily. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

17. Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?

- (a) Big data analytics
- (b) Cryptography
- (c) Metaverse
- (d) Virtual matrix

Explanation : (C)

- The most appropriate word/phrase to describe the given concept is “metaverse”.
- The term “metaverse” refers to an interconnected network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed by millions of users simultaneously.
- The metaverse is a shared environment that spans a multitude of 3D virtual worlds.
option (c) is the correct answer.

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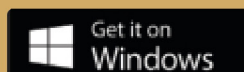


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