

Practice Questions

1. The Deccan Riots of 1875 were peasant rebellions against which of the following classes?

- (a) Zamindars
- (b) British Officials at Poona
- (c) Moneylenders/Sahukars
- (d) Patels/Village Headmen

2. Which of the following temples are constructed by Krishnadeva Raya?

- 1. Krishnadeva Temple
- 2. Hazara Rama Temple
- 3. Vitthalaswami Temple
- 4. Tiruvengalanatha Temple

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

3. The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 reserves one-third of all seats for women in various Legislatures. For how many years will the reservation be available under this Act?

- (a) 10 years
- (b) 12 years
- (c) 15 years
- (d) 20 years

4. The scientific name of Mango is *Mangifera indica* L. The word *indica* stands for which one of the following?

- (a) Generic name
- (b) General name
- (c) Species name
- (d) Specific epithet

5. Which one of the following books expressed concern on the indiscriminate use of DDT and played major role in banning the use of DDT for agricultural use?

- (a) Walden
- (b) Half-Earth
- (c) Silent Spring
- (d) The End of Nature

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the 'National Manufacturing Mission' is/are correct?

Consider the following statements:

1. The International Date Line roughly coincides with 180° longitude and it differs 24 hours from 0° Prime Meridian.
2. A person travelling eastward on a Monday will move back to Sunday on crossing the International Date Line.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

7. Who among the following commanders was not tried in the INA trials in the Red Fort, Delhi?

- (a) P. K. Sahgal
- (b) G. S. Dhillon
- (c) Mohan Singh
- (d) Shah Nawaz Khan

8. Among the following local winds, which one is known as "Doctor's wind"?

- (a) Chinook
- (b) Khamsin

- (c) Harmattan
- (d) Nor'wester

9. On 21st June, which among the following phenomena is/are associated with Earth?

1. Delayed Sunrise and Advanced Sunset in the Northern Hemisphere.
2. The Sun does not set below the horizon at the Arctic Circle.
3. The Tropic of cancer experiences summer solstice while tropic of Capricorn experiences winter solstice.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

10. Consider the following statements:

1. In temperate latitudes, the westerlies carry warm oceanic air toward the land, making the western coasts warmer than the eastern coasts at the same latitude.

2. In tropical latitudes, the trade winds drive warm surface waters westward, causing the eastern coasts of continents to be warmer than their western coasts.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

11. Consider the following statements about the Virashaiva Movement:

1. The Virashaiva Movement was led by Basavanna.
2. Virashaivas worshipped Shiva in his manifestation as a Linga.
3. Vachanas, composed in Kannada, are the main compositions for understanding the Virashaiva tradition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

12. Consider the following indicators:

1. Expenditure quality
2. Revenue mobilisation
3. Fiscal prudence
4. Climate resilience score
5. Primary deficit

Which of the above are parameters used by NITI Aayog in the annual Fiscal Health Index?

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

13. Who among the following is the least frequently invoked God in the Rig Veda?

- (a) Indra
(b) Agni
(c) Surya
(d) Varuna

14. The buffalo and bulbul fights are part of the folk culture associated with the winter harvest of:

- (a) Karnataka
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Goa
(d) Assam

15. Consider the following appliances:

1. LED bulb
2. LED Tube light
3. Energy-efficient fan

How many of the above are covered under the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) Scheme?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

16. Which one among the following
Which of the following statements about Money Bill is/are correct?

1. The Money Bill passed by the Lok Sabha shall be returned by the Rajya Sabha within 14 days with its recommendations.
2. The Lok Sabha shall agree to the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha on the Money Bill to consider it passed by both the Houses of the Parliament.
3. The Finance Minister has absolute powers to pass the Money Bill.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

17. Which of the following are among the objectives of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme?

1. Improving Sex Ratio at Birth
2. Improving institutional deliveries
3. Increase in skilling of girls/women.
4. Reducing dropout rate of girls at higher secondary levels

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

18. In Vazhachal forest division, tribal community members are being engaged in the removal of invasive species from the forest. Identify the tribe.

- (a) Katkari
- (b) Kadar
- (c) Bamcha

- (d) Bhil
19. When the Vice President of India is impeached for the violation of the Constitution, the charge shall be preferred by
- (a) the Lok Sabha
(b) the Rajya Sabha
(c) either House of the Parliament
(d) the Lok Sabha followed by the Rajya Sabha
20. Water has its maximum density at which one of the following temperatures?
- (a) 273 K
(b) 277 K
(c) 373 K
(d) 298 K
21. In which among the following atmospheric layers, the temperature decreases with height?
- (a) Mesosphere and Thermosphere
(b) Stratosphere and Mesosphere
(c) Stratosphere and Thermosphere
(d) Troposphere and Mesosphere
22. Consider the following statements:
1. P-waves can travel through solids, liquids, and gases, whereas S-waves cannot propagate through liquid medium.
2. The shadow zone of S-waves is smaller than that of P-waves.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
23. Which of the following is/are the unique features of the CISF?
1. CISF is a need based force.
2. Unlike other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), it is organised on unit pattern rather than on battalion pattern.
3. It is the sole revenue earning CAPF.
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

24. What is the time limit specified in the RTI Act, 2005 for the Central / State Information Commissions to decide on complaints?

- (a) 15 days
- (b) One month
- (c) Two months
- (d) No such time limit has been specified

25. Which one of the following Articles of the Constitution of India prescribes for the submission of an annual report of the work done by the State Public Service Commission?

- (a) Article 320
- (b) Article 323
- (c) Article 326
- (d) Article 330

26. In Sun-Earth system, the Sun, the Earth and the Lagrange point L2 form:

- (a) an isosceles triangle
- (b) an equilateral triangle
- (c) a straight line
- (d) a scalene triangle

27. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Flag Code of India superseded the 'Flag Code-India'.
- 2. The state emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath.

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

28. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Criminal law is exclusively a subject under the State List of the Constitution of India.
- 2. Code of Civil Procedure falls under the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

29. Mission Shakti (DRDO) of India is related to which one among the following?

- (a) Launch of multiple satellites using a single rocket
- (b) Launch of heavy satellites
- (c) Use of highpower rockets in launching of satellites
- (d) Use of rocket to destroy an orbiting satellite

30. Which one of the following is not among the thematic areas of National Mission on Sustainable Habitat?

- (a) Energy and Green Building
- (b) Mobility and Air Quality
- (c) Waste Management
- (d) Rural Planning, Green cover and Biodiversity

31. In which of the following matters placed before the UN General Assembly, a resolution by two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required?

- 1. Admission of new members to the UN

2. Election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council

3. Election of members of the Economic and Social Council

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

32. Who among the following stated that 'A just society is that society in which ascending sense of reverence and descending sense of contempt is dissolved into the creation of a compassionate society'?

- (a) Vinoba Bhave
- (b) Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
- (c) Rammanohar Lohia
- (d) Jayaprakash Narayan

33. Arrange the following agreements between India and Pakistan in chronological order:

- 1. Tashkent Declaration
- 2. Indus Water Treaty
- 3. Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against

Each Other's Nuclear
Installations and Facilities

4. Agreement on Reducing the
Risk from Accidents Relating
to Nuclear Weapons

Select the answer using the code
given below:

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

34. Which one of the following UN
organizations has not been awarded
the Nobel Prize?

- (a) WFP
(b) ILO
(c) UNESCO
(d) UNHCR

35. Which one among the following is
used in bleaching of paper?

- (a) Chloride
(b) Chlorobenzene
(c) Ammonium chloride
(d) Hydrochloric acid

36. Which of the following statements
with regard to the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO)
is/are correct?

1. The official languages of the
SCO are Russian and Chinese.
2. The SCO enjoys observer
status in the UN General
Assembly.
3. The SCO consists of 13
member states.

Select the answer using the code
given below:

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

37. Financial Action Task Force is:

- (a) A wing under the Central
Economic Intelligence Bureau
(b) A division of Enforcement
Directorate
(c) A global money laundering and
terrorist financing watchdog
(d) A UN Anti-Corruption Agency

38. Which of the following statements, as
per the Information Technology Act,
2000, is/are correct?

1. This Act provides that
electronic signature is legally

valid in the same manner as the handwritten signature.

2. Both the Central Government and State Governments have been given the power to make rules with respect to electronic signature.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
39. Ozone hole is a region over:
- (a) the Antarctic caused mainly by CFC gases.
(b) the Antarctic caused mainly by carbondioxide gas.
(c) the Arctic caused mainly by CFC gases.
(d) the Arctic caused mainly by carbon dioxide gas.
40. Which organelle in animal cells can digest foreign materials?
- (a) Endoplasmic reticulum
(b) Lysosome
(c) Golgi body

(d) Mitochondria

41. Consider the following statements about the Vedanta philosophy:
1. Shankara was the founder of Advaita Vedanta.
 2. The philosophy of Dvaita was elaborated by Madhva.

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
42. The distribution of charkhas on a wide scale among the people was decided by:
- (a) Congress Working Committee in 1919
(b) All India Congress Committee in 1921
(c) Mahatma Gandhi at the start of Dandi
(d) All India Congress Committee in 1947
43. Which one of the following organizations challenged the constitutionality of Section 377 of

- the Indian Penal Code in the Supreme Court of India?
- (a) Naz Foundation (India) Trust
(b) Bachpan Bachao Andolan
(c) Sambhav Foundation India
(d) ActionAid India
44. Which of the following areas has been exempted from the purview of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019?
- (a) Ladakh
(b) Jammu and Kashmir
(c) The Sixth Schedule Areas
(d) The Fifth Schedule Areas
45. Which one among the following is not a feature of Xerophytes?
- (a) Smaller leaves
(b) Large number of stomata
(c) Waxy cuticle
(d) Stomata in pits
46. Which of Consider the following statements about the condition of widows in the 18th century India:
1. Raja Sawai Jai Singh of Amber promoted widow remarriage.
 2. Maratha General Parshuram Bhau promoted widow remarriage.
 3. Raja Ram Mohan Roy opposed Sati.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
47. Which of the following statements about National Recruitment Agency is correct?
- (a) It is a body to conduct Common Eligibility Test (CET) to shortlist the candidates for vacancies under 'Group B' and 'Group C' of the Government.
(b) Employment in private sector is facilitated in all the districts, particularly 117 aspirational districts.
(c) It was set up in 2014.
(d) It has been accorded Constitutional status in 2021.
48. As per Article 371G of the Constitution of India, special

provisions have been made with respect to the state of Mizoram. Accordingly, no Act of Parliament shall apply on certain matters unless the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram so decides by a resolution. Which one of the following matters is not covered under this Article?

- (a) Religious or social practices of the Mizos
- (b) Mizo customary law and procedure
- (c) Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law
- (d) Ownership and transfer of natural resources

49. Which of the following statements for persons suffering from presbyopia is/are correct?

1. They cannot distinguish colours.
2. It usually develops with ageing.
3. They wear either bi-focal lenses consisting of both concave and convex lenses or progressive lenses.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

50. Which one among the following is responsible for determining the chemical properties of an element?

- (a) Protons
- (b) Electrons
- (c) Neutrons
- (d) Nucleus

51. Consider the following statements about the administrative measures of Shivaji:

1. The scheme of Ashta Pradhan (eight ministers) was completed and announced at the time of Shivaji's coronation with regulations and duties properly defined.
2. Shivaji introduced Marathi in place of Persian and coined Sanskrit technical terms for administrative purposes.

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
52. Who among the following were famous for their metal-casting skills and used to cast excellent matchlocks during the medieval period?
- (a) Marathas
(b) Rajputs
(c) Ahoms
(d) Gonds
53. Cumulonimbus clouds develop from which among the following clouds?
- (a) Cumulus congestus clouds
(b) Cumulus and Nimbostratus clouds
(c) Cumulus and Altostratus clouds
(d) Cirrocumulus clouds
54. Which one of the following is not an example of chemical weathering?
- (a) Acid action
(b) Hydrolysis
(c) Salt Crystal Growth
(d) Oxidation
55. Which of the following statements about Cabinet Mission are correct?
1. It was sent to India in 1946 to negotiate the transfer of power with the Indian leaders.
 2. It proposed a two-tiered federal plan while conceding the largest measure of regional autonomy.
 3. There was to be a federation of provinces and states, alongside a federal centre.
 4. The individual provinces were allowed to form regional unions to which they could surrender some of their powers by mutual agreement.
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
56. Which of the following Ramsar Wetland sites is not situated in any of the Union Territories of India?
- (a) Hokera Wetland

- (b) Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary
(c) Tsomoriri Lake
(d) Shallbugh Wetland
57. The Rangarajan Committee methodology for determining the poverty line incorporated which of the following?
1. A food component
 2. A normative level of expenditure for essential non-food items
 3. A behaviourally determined expenditure for other non-food items
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3 only
58. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund was established with the view to help which one of the following groups?
- (a) Medical Practitioners
(b) Farmers
(c) Sportspersons
(d) War Widows
59. In the decoration of Stupas, what does the term 'Kinjalkini' refer to?
- (a) Creepers showing ornaments and textiles
(b) Scarves and saris
(c) Mango shaped pendants
(d) A garland of thousand lotus flowers
60. Which one among the following metals is not stored under oil?
- (a) Sodium
(b) Rubidium
(c) Potassium
(d) Lithium
61. Which of the following are the major missions of Indian Space Research Organization in 2025?
1. NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)
 2. Solar Mission Aditya-L1
 3. SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment)
 4. Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4)
- Select the answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
62. Consider the following statements with reference to Census in India:
1. The first All India Census was attempted in 1872.
 2. From 1881, decennial censuses became a regular feature.
- 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
63. Consider the following statements about the Ancient Hindu metal images in India:
1. The Chola period is well known for the aesthetic and technical finesse of its metal sculpture.
 2. The iconography and style of Chola metal images were similar to those of their stone counterparts.
- 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
64. The antariya was a garment worn by people during the Mauryan period. It was:
- (a) an unstitched length of cloth draped around the body.
(b) a sewn garment consisting of a sleeved tunic.
(c) a head covering used exclusively by women.
(d) made of strips sewn together tied at the waist with a cord.
65. Which kind of mass wasting processes are commonly associated with creep?
- (a) Fast speed with soil
(b) Slow speed with rock
(c) Slow speed with ice
(d) Slow speed with soil

66. With reference to the Mesolithic art in India, consider the following statements:

1. Alexander Burns discovered the first rock paintings in India at Sohaghat in Uttar Pradesh.
2. Bhimbetka rock paintings were discovered when archaeologist V.S. Wakankar noticed the rocks out of a train window while travelling from Bhopal to Itarsi and got off at the nearest railway station to explore the site.
3. The paintings and engravings do not exist in the same shelter in the rock art of Orissa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

67. The terms used for cereals in the Rig Veda are:

- (a) Godhuma and Vrihi
- (b) Yava and Dhanya

- (c) Tila and Khala
- (d) Priyangu and Shyamaka

68. Which kingdom was described by Governor-General Lord Dalhousie as "A cherry that will drop into our mouth one day"?

- (a) Delhi
- (b) Awadh
- (c) Jhansi
- (d) Gwalior

69. Which of the following peaks are situated in India?

1. Dhaulagiri
2. Namcha Barwa
3. Kamet
4. Makalu

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

70. Which of the following is not included in the Capital Account of the Balance of Payments of a country?

- (a) Foreign Direct Investment

- (b) Commercial Borrowing
(c) Invisibles
(d) External Assistance
71. Consider the following statement
ISRO, in its studies, has revealed that
there is a 178% increase in the size of
the Ghepang Ghat Glacial Lake. In
which of the following States/UTs is
this lake located?
- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
(b) Ladakh
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Uttarakhand
72. Which one of the following countries
has been suffering from decades of
civil strife, and was recently in the
news due to severe drought and
flooding, the persistent threat of
terrorism, and the UN Security
Council's authorisation of the
**African Union Support and
Stabilization Mission (AUSSOM)**?
- (a) Chad
(b) Somalia
(c) Niger
(d) South Sudan
73. Consider the following statements
regarding transportation functions
associated with important ports:
1. Singapore functions both as a
port of call and an entrepot.
 2. Karwar in India is an example
of a naval port.
 3. Dover in England is an
example of an outport.
- Which of the statements given above
is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1 and 2
74. Which one of the following countries
shares the territorial boundary with
both Russia and Ukraine?
- (a) Estonia
(b) Latvia
(c) Belarus
(d) Poland
75. Which one of the following
dimensions is not included in Human
Development Index?
- (a) Life Expectancy at birth
(b) Mean years of schooling
(c) Expected years of schooling

- (d) Mortality rate
76. Which of the following statements with reference to Humus is/are correct Which one of the following statements about INS Tamurjig is not correct?
- (a) It is a fast attack craft commissioned by the Indian Navy.
(b) It was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
(c) It was given by the Government of India to Sri Lankan Naval Force in 2006 and returned to the Indian Navy in May 2023.
(d) It is supposed to be used for coastal surveillance.
77. If the price index increased from 100 in 2021 to 110 in 2022 to 132 in 2023, then the rate of inflation is:
- (a) 10%
(b) 32%
(c) 20%
(d) Cannot be determined
78. Consider the following statements with reference to the Utpala dynasty of Kashmir:
1. Avantivarman, the founder, devoted his energies to the economic upliftment of his subjects.
2. Avantivarman's period in Kashmir is known for the engineering operations under his minister Suyya, resulting in the enormous increase of grains and fall in prices.
- 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
79. Which one among the following is not a part of vascular bundle in plants?
- (a) Phloem
(b) Xylem
(c) Cambium
(d) Endodermis
80. **The Philadelphi Corridor**, often seen in the media, is located along which of the following?
- (a) Israel–Lebanon border

- (b) Israel–Gaza border
(c) Egypt–Gaza border
(d) Egypt–Israel border
81. Consider the following statements:
1. Bajra is predominantly grown in states like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, while Ragi is mainly cultivated in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
 2. Bajra grows well in sandy and shallow black soils, whereas red and shallow black soil is suited for Ragi.
- With regard to the statements given above, which of the following is correct?
- (a) Both the statements are correct and statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement 1.
(b) Both the statements are correct, but statement 2 is not the correct explanation of statement 1.
(c) Statement 1 is correct, but statement 2 is false.
(d) Statement 1 is false, but statement 2 is correct.
82. Which of the following peaks are correct according to Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025?
1. It is released by UNEP.
 2. India has moved up to 9th position globally in terms of total forest area as per GFRA 2025.
 3. India ranked 5th among the top global carbon sinks, with its forests removing 150 Mt of CO₂ per year during 2021-2025.
- (a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None
83. Eratosthenes, a Greek philosopher measured the Earth's circumference based on the angle of Sun rays at two different points. Which cities were they?
- (a) Alexandria and Syene
(b) Syene and Troy
(c) Alexandria and Troy
(d) Alexandria and Thebes
84. Which of the following pairs of Himalayan Glaciers and their location is/are correctly matched?

1. Siachen - Nubra Valley Region
2. Chungphar - Kumaon-Garhwal Region
3. Zemu - Central Nepal Region
4. Gasherbrum - Pir Panjal Range

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

85. Which one of the following terms was used for the States in the Draft Constitution presented by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 4th November, 1948?

- (a) Union of States
- (b) Federation of States
- (c) Autonomous States
- (d) Subsidiary States

86. Consider the following statements regarding the rivers of India:

1. The Barak River, the head stream of the Meghna, rises in the hills of Meghalaya.
2. The Ghaggar River does not drain out to the sea and gets lost in the Rajasthan desert.

3. Puthimari and Manas are important tributaries of the Brahmaputra.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

87. Which of the following are correct according to India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023?

1. The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, released in December 2024, reveals that India's total forest and tree cover has reached 827,357 sq km, or 30 % of the country's geographical area.
2. India's mangrove cover is 4,991.68 km², representing 0.15% of the total geographical area.

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

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

Sl.no.	List-I (Speaker of Lok Sabha)	List-II (Tenure)
1.	Manohar Gajanan Joshi	14th Lok Sabha
2.	Somnath Chatterjee	13th Lok Sabha
3.	Meira Kumar	16th Lok Sabha
4.	Sumitra Mahajan	15th Lok Sabha

Code: A B C D

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

89. The Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme announced by the Government helps in :

1. Enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports across the industries
2. Incentivizing foreign investments for domestic production

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

90. Which one among the following was the focus of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan?

- (a) Sustainable and Inclusive Growth
(b) Social Justice and Equality
(c) Food, Work and Productivity
(d) Attainment of Self-reliance

91. Consider the following statements:

1. Hadley cells are key to understanding the wind patterns of Earth.
2. Hadley cells are formed because the Equator is heated more strongly by the Sun than other places, creating thermal circulations.

With regard to the statements given above, which of the following is correct?

- (a) Both the statements are correct and statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement 1.

- (b) Both the statements are correct, but statement 2 is not the correct explanation of statement 1.
- (c) Statement 1 is correct, but statement 2 is false.
- (d) Statement 1 is false, but statement 2 is correct.
92. Suppose there are only two normal goods in the economy, X and Y. If price of good X increases, which would be the correct statement from below?
- (a) Demand for good X decreases and demand for Y is indeterminate.
- (b) Demand for good X decreases and demand for Y decreases.
- (c) Demand for good X increases and demand for Y is indeterminate.
- (d) Demand for good X increases and demand for Y decreases.
93. Which one of the following heat transfers is an example of convection?
- (a) Heating of food in a microwave oven
- (b) Boiling water in a pot on a gas stove
- (c) Feeling the warmth in sun
- (d) Heating a brass rod at one end and observing the temperature rise at the other end
94. Consider the following pairs of High Offices and concerned Departments in the Mauryan Administration:
1. Samahartri - Chief Collector of Revenue
 2. Dauvarika - Chief of Army
 3. Akshapatala - Records-cum-Audit Officer
 4. Samnidhatri - Treasurer
- Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
95. Which one of the following is not a fund managed by NIIFL (National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited)?
- (a) Master Fund
- (b) Fund of Funds
- (c) Strategic Opportunities Fund
- (d) Global Investment Fund
96. India has signed a Trade and Economic Partnership. Agreement

- (TEPA) with **EFTA**, which is a regional group consisting of four countries. Which one of the following countries is not a member of this group?
- (a) Switzerland
(b) Norway
(c) Iceland
(d) England
97. Which one of the following statements for a firm's equilibrium in Perfect Competition is not correct?
- (a) The market price must be greater or equal to average variable cost in the short run.
(b) The market price must be equal to marginal cost.
(c) The market price must be equal to average cost in the long run.
(d) The marginal cost decreases at the equilibrium output.
98. Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy envisions:
1. A transition from fossil fuels in a just, smooth, sustainable manner.
 2. Increased use of bio-fuels.
3. Climate resistant urban development.
4. Financing of sustainable development through Green Bonds.
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4
99. Which peninsular river has a tributary named Kabini?
- (a) Godavari
(b) Krishna
(c) Mahanadi
(d) Kaveri
100. X-rays can be used to:
1. Inspect welded joints between two metal parts of a machine.
 2. Study structure of crystals.
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

101. Consider the following statements:

1. A rupee **Vostro account** is an account that an Indian bank holds for a foreign bank in the domestic currency (rupee) to enable domestic banks to provide international banking services.
2. **Insurance density**, i.e., average insurance premium per capita does not fully capture the financing gap in the event of a premature death because most of the insurance products sold in India are savings-linked with a small component of protection.

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

102. With reference to the continent of Antarctica which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is larger than Europe in terms of area.

2. It has the highest average elevation as compared to all other continents.
3. Mt. Ross is the highest peak of this continent.
4. Waters of the Southern Ocean (West Wind Drift) move in an anticlockwise direction around it.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

103. Which one of the following statements regarding S-waves is **not** correct?

- (a) S-waves are slower than P-waves.
- (b) During an earthquake S-waves are less destructive to structures like buildings and highway overpasses.
- (c) S-waves can travel only through solids and cannot travel through the Earth's outer core.
- (d) Seismologists have concluded that then Earth's outer core must be liquid or fluid.

104. Consider the following pairs:

1. Gajapati - Name of a powerful Dynasty in Orissa
2. Ashvapati - Deccan Sultans
3. Narapati - Rayas of Vijayanagara

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

105. Which one among the following is not a micronutrient for plants?

- (a) Iron
- (b) Manganese
- (c) Magnesium
- (d) Chlorine

106. Consider the following statements:

1. Ocean currents are dominated by huge surface gyres that are driven by the global surface wind pattern.
2. Equatorial currents move cold water westward and then poleward along the east coasts of continents.

With regard to the statements given above, which of the following is correct?

- (a) Both the statements are correct and statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement 1.
- (b) Both the statements are correct, but statement 2 is not the correct explanation of statement 1.
- (c) Statement 1 is correct, but statement 2 is false.
- (d) Statement 1 is false, but statement 2 is correct.

107. Which of the following statements regarding Arc Volcanoes is/are correct?

1. Arc volcanoes are found near divergent plate boundaries.
2. Some of the world's classical examples of cone-shaped stratovolcanoes, such as Mount Fuji in Japan, Mayon in the Philippines are Arc volcanoes.
3. Some of the highest volcanoes on Earth are of the Arc type, notably Nevado Ojos del Salado in the Chilean Andes.

Select the answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
108. Which of the following states is/are part of the Ganga Basin?
1. Chhattisgarh
 2. Himachal Pradesh
 3. Rajasthan
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (b) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
109. Consider the following statements:
1. An additional spending by the Government of ₹ X is likely to have less impact on income than an additional transfer of X to households.
 2. An additional spending by the Government of ₹ X is likely to have less impact on income if it is not accompanied by an expansion in money supply.
- 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
110. Which of the following statements related to Indian medicine system is not correct?
- (a) The Siddha system is a holistic system of medicine.
(b) Sowa-Rigpa has been in practice in the Himalayan regions of India.
(c) Unani system of medicine has been dissociated from the Ministry of Ayush.
(d) Sushruta Samhita is a major source of Ayurveda.
111. Which one of the following statements correct about the PM-JANMAN scheme?
- (a) It is a scheme of the Government of India to impart electoral literacy to voters.
(b) It is a scheme of the Government of India for deepening of democracy

- in the functioning of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- (c) It is a scheme of the Government of India for benefitting every member of the tribal community from Government schemes.
- (d) It is a scheme of the Government of India for benefitting migrants workers in the unorganized sector.
112. ISRO, in its studies, has revealed that there is a 178% increase in the size of the Ghepang Ghat Glacial Lake. In which of the following States/UTs is this lake located?
- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
(b) Ladakh
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Uttarakhand
113. Which of the following State/s is/are common to Bru-Reang Agreement, NLFT (SD) Agreement and Tripartite Agreement with TIPRA?
- (a) Tripura
(b) Assam and Tripura
(c) Tripura and Mizoram
(d) Manipur and Mizoram
114. Which one of the following statements about INS Tarmugli is not correct?
- (a) It is a fast attack craft commissioned by the Indian Navy.
(b) It was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
(c) It was given by the Government of India to Sri Lankan Naval Force in 2006 and returned to the Indian Navy in May 2023.
(d) It is supposed to be used for coastal surveillance.
115. Which one of the following resolutions in the final agreement reached at COP28 is associated with the target of achieving 'Net Zero by 2050'?
- (a) Fossil fuel phase-out
(b) Methane emission cuts
(c) Global goal on adaptation
(d) Climate resilience
116. Which of the following were added in India as Ramsar Site in the year 2025?
1. Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary
 2. Udhwa Lake

3. Rudrasagar Lake
4. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 and 4
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
117. Laterite soil in India is rich in which of the following?
1. Calcium
2. Nitrogen
3. Phosphate
4. Potash
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 4 only
118. Which one of the following organisations has completed 150 years of service to the nation in the year 2025?
(a) Botanical Survey of India
(b) Survey of India
(c) India Meteorological Department
(d) Press Trust of India
119. Which one of the following blood cells types secrete large number of antibodies during an immune response of the body?
(a) Neutrophils
(b) Eosinophils
(c) Lymphocytes
(d) Monocytes
120. Which of the following is/are warm ocean current(s)?
1. Alaska Current
2. Agulhas Current
3. Falkland Current
4. West Australian Current
Select the answer using the code given below:
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 4 only
121. Which of the following statements with reference to soil forming processes is/are correct?
1. Translocation, enrichment, removal and transformation are different classes of soil forming processes
2. In translocation, fine particles are transported

downward by eluviation and
accumulate in lower
horizons by illuviation

Select the answer using the code
given below:

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

122. In the Harappan Civilization, traces
of canals have been found at

- (a) Banawali
- (b) Lothal
- (c) Shortughai
- (d) Dholavira

123. Consider the following statements
about BRICS Summits :

1. The first BRICS Summit was
held in Brazil
2. BRICS Summits were held in
New Delhi on three occasions

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

124. Which of the following Acts
established the Board of Control to
guide and control the work of the
Court of Directors and the
Government of India?

- (a) Regulating Act of 1773
- (b) Pitt's India Act of 1784
- (c) Charter Act of 1793
- (d) Charter Act of 1813

125. The Ramacharita, an example of
dvyasrya-kavya, telling two stories
simultaneously, was written by

- (a) Subandhu
- (b) Bhatti
- (c) Sandhyakara
- (d) Kamban

Keys and Explanations

Sl.no	Ans	Explanations
1.	C	<p>Ans: 1 - (c) Moneylenders/Sahukars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deccan Riots of 1875 were a series of peasant uprisings in the Bombay Deccan (specifically the districts of Poona and Ahmednagar) primarily directed against the exploitative practices of moneylenders, also known locally as Sahukars. • Debt Trap: Peasants were heavily indebted due to high land revenue demands under the Ryotwari system and falling agricultural prices after the American Civil War. • Direct Action: The rioters systematically attacked the houses and shops of moneylenders to seize and burn debt bonds, account books (bahi khatas), and other legal documents used to claim their land. • Social Boycott: The rebellion often began with a social boycott, where village communities refused to serve or work for the moneylenders before turning to physical attacks. • Result: The unrest led to the enactment of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act of 1879, which aimed to provide legal protection to indebted farmers. <p>Why other options are incorrect</p> <p>(a) Zamindars: The Deccan region operated under the Ryotwari system, where the government dealt directly with the individual cultivator (ryot), rather than the</p>

		<p>Zamindari system prevalent in Bengal. Therefore, the primary conflict was with creditors, not a landlord class.</p> <p>(b) British Officials at Poona: While the British government set the high revenue policies that triggered the crisis, the immediate violence and spontaneous riots were targeted at the local moneylenders who held the peasants' debt, rather than government officials or administrative centers.</p> <p>(d) Patels/Village Headmen: Although some local officials were involved in revenue administration, many Village Headmen (Patels) actually led or supported the peasants in their revolt against the moneylenders.</p>
2.	A	<p>Ans: 2 - (a)</p> <p>Let's examine each temple mentioned in the options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krishnadeva Temple: While Krishnadeva Raya was a great builder, a specific temple prominently known solely by this name as one of his major distinct constructions is less commonly cited in historical records compared to other masterpieces attributed to him. • Hazara Rama Temple: This temple is widely acknowledged by historians and architectural scholars as having been commissioned and constructed during the reign of Krishnadeva Raya. It is celebrated for its intricate narrative carvings depicting scenes from the Ramayana, making it a significant piece of Vijayanagara art.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vitthalaswami Temple: Also known as the Vithala Temple, this is arguably one of the most iconic and artistically significant structures in Hampi. It is famous for its stunning architecture, including the famous Stone Chariot and the musical pillars that resonate with different musical notes. Historical consensus attributes its construction to Krishnadeva Raya. • Tiruvengalanatha Temple: Located in Hampi, this temple is also sometimes associated with Krishnadeva Raya's period and patronage. However, when compared to the definitive and widely recognized contributions like the Hazara Rama and Vitthalaswami temples, its direct construction mandate solely by Krishnadeva Raya might be viewed differently in specific contexts. <p>Key Constructions of Krishnadeva Raya:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on widely accepted historical and architectural evidence, the Hazara Rama Temple and the Vitthalaswami Temple are considered major constructions directly attributable to Krishnadeva Raya. These temples showcase the pinnacle of Vijayanagara architectural style and artistic achievement during his rule.
3.	C	<p>Sol: 3 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, contains a "sunset clause" specifying that the one-third reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly will remain in force for a period of 15 years. This period begins from the date the Act's provisions

		<p>come into effect, which is scheduled to occur after the publication of the first census conducted following the Act's commencement and the subsequent delimitation exercise. While the initial duration is set for 15 years, the Act allows the Parliament to extend this reservation further by law.</p>
4.	D	<p>Ans: 4 - (d)</p> <p>The scientific name of Mango, <i>Mangifera indica</i> L., follows the system of Binomial Nomenclature developed by Carolus Linnaeus. In this system, every scientific name consists of two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangifera: This is the first part of the name and represents the generic name or the genus to which the mango belongs. • indica: This is the second part of the name and represents the specific epithet. • L.: This stands for Linnaeus, the author who first described the species.
5.	C	<p>Ans: 5 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Spring (1962), authored by Rachel Carson, documented the detrimental environmental effects of the indiscriminate use of synthetic pesticides, particularly DDT. • The book highlighted how DDT enters the food chain and accumulates in the fatty tissues of animals (biomagnification), leading to thin eggshells and the death of bird populations—a phenomenon Carson termed a "silent spring".

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It sparked a massive public outcry and a national debate that eventually led to a nationwide ban on DDT for agricultural use in the United States in 1972 and influenced similar bans worldwide. The work is widely credited with launching the modern environmental movement and the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
6.	D	<p>Ans: (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement 1 is incorrect: The International Date Line (IDL) is an imaginary line that roughly follows the 180° meridian. Because the Earth rotates 360 deg in 24 hrs; thus, the 180° longitude is exactly 12 hours ahead (East) or 12 hours behind (West) of the 0° Prime Meridian. Statement 2 is correct: When traveling eastward (from Asia/Australia toward the Americas) across the IDL, you gain a day by moving "back in time" on the calendar. If it is Monday on the western side (Asia), it will be Sunday on the eastern side (Americas) upon crossing.
7.	C	<p>Ans: 7 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The famous INA trials (also known as the Red Fort trials) held between November 1945 and May 1946 primarily focused on three high-ranking officers of the Indian National Army who became symbols of the independence struggle. These three officers were: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shah Nawaz Khan Prem Kumar Sehgal (P. K. Sehgal)

		<p>3. Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon (G. S. Dhillon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mohan Singh, while being the original founder and first commander of the INA in 1942, was not among those tried at the Red Fort. He had been dismissed and arrested by the Japanese in December 1942 following internal disagreements before the INA was reorganized under Subhas Chandra Bose.
<p>8.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Ans: 8 - (c)</p> <p>Analyzing the Local Winds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chinook: This is a type of warm, dry wind that blows down the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains in North America. While it can cause rapid temperature changes, it's not known as the "Doctor's wind". Khamsin: This is a hot, dry, and dusty wind that blows across parts of North Africa and the Middle East, typically during the spring. It often brings sandstorms and can cause respiratory discomfort, making it quite unpleasant. Harmattan: This is a hot, dry, and dusty trade wind that blows southwards from the Sahara Desert over West Africa, particularly during the dry season (from November to March). Despite being dusty, the Harmattan brings lower humidity and cooler temperatures compared to the preceding humid months, providing relief from the heat and discomfort. This welcome change and improvement in weather conditions led to it being nicknamed the "Doctor's wind" or simply "the Doctor".

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nor"westers: This is a strong, gusty wind that blows from the northwest across the Canterbury Plains in New Zealand. It can be associated with either rain or fine weather but doesn't carry the "Doctor"s wind" nickname. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the characteristics and common knowledge associated with these regional winds, the Harmattan is the wind known as the "Doctor"s wind" due to the relief it brings from the oppressive heat and humidity in West Africa.
9.	B	<p>Ans: 9 - (b)</p> <p>On June 21st, known as the Summer Solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, several key astronomical phenomena occur due to the Earth"s axial tilt of 23.5°:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midnight Sun at the Arctic Circle: The Northern Hemisphere is tilted at its maximum extent toward the Sun. Consequently, regions within the Arctic Circle (66.5° N) experience 24 hours of continuous daylight, meaning the Sun does not set below the horizon. • Opposing Solstices: The Sun"s rays fall vertically on the Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N), marking the summer solstice for the Northern Hemisphere. Simultaneously, the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away from the Sun, causing the Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S) to experience the winter solstice. • Longest Day in the North: Locations north of the equator witness their longest day and shortest night of the year.
10.	C	<p>Ans: 10 - (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: In temperate latitudes (30° to 60°), the prevailing winds are the Westerlies, which blow from west to east. These winds carry warm oceanic air and drive warm surface waters (like the North Atlantic Drift) toward the western coasts of continents. This makes these western coasts significantly warmer than eastern coasts at the same latitude, where cold currents often flow southward. • Statement 2 is correct: In tropical latitudes, the Trade Winds blow from east to west. This movement pushes warm surface waters toward the eastern coasts of continents (the western sections of the ocean basins), causing them to be warmer. Conversely, the eastern side of the ocean (western coast of the continent) experiences the upwelling of colder, deeper water.
11.	D	<p>Ans: 11 - (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is Correct: The Virashaiva Movement was led by Basavanna. • Basavanna was the founder and principal leader of the Virashaiva (or Lingayat) Movement in 12th-century Karnataka. • Statement 2 is Correct: Virashaivas worshipped Shiva in his manifestation as a Linga. • Virashaivas are also known as Lingayats because they worship Shiva in the form of a linga (a symbol of Shiva).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 3 is Correct: Vachanas, composed in Kannada, are the main compositions for understanding the Virashaiva tradition. • The teachings and philosophy of the Virashaiva Movement are largely found in the "Vachanas", which are brief poetic works in Kannada. <p>Therefore, all three statements are correct.</p>
12.	A	<p>Ans :12 - (a) is 1, 2, 3 only.</p> <p>The Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025, introduced by NITI Aayog, evaluates the fiscal performance of major Indian states based on five key sub-indices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditure Quality (1): Assesses developmental spending and capital outlay efficiency. • Revenue Mobilisation (2): Measures a state's ability to generate its own tax and non-tax revenues. • Fiscal Prudence (3): Evaluates adherence to fiscal discipline, including monitoring fiscal and revenue deficits relative to GSDP. • Debt Index: Assesses the overall debt burden and interest payments. • Debt Sustainability (6): Measures long-term viability by comparing GSDP growth with interest payments.
13.	C	<p>Ans: 13 (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among the options provided, Surya (the Sun god) is the least frequently invoked. While he is a significant deity representing light and life, only about 10 to 11 hymns are dedicated specifically to him in the Rig Veda. • The frequency of invocation in the Rig Veda is typically measured by the number of hymns (suktas) dedicated to a specific deity. <p>Based on these numbers, the ranking from most to least frequent among your choices is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indra: The most frequently invoked god with approximately 250 hymns. • Agni: The second most prominent deity with about 200 hymns. • Varuna: Mentioned in roughly 46 hymns (or 341 total mentions across various contexts), placing him behind Indra and Agni in frequency. • Surya: Has approximately 11 hymns dedicated to him, making him the least frequent of the four.
14.	D	<p>Ans : 14 - (d) Assam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Context: Buffalo fights (Moh Juj) and bulbul fights are age-old traditions in Assam. • Associated Festival: These events are held during Magh Bihu (also known as Bhogali Bihu), which is the winter harvest festival of Assam celebrated in mid-January. • Venues: Historically, buffalo fights are most prominent in places like Ahatguri in the Morigaon district, while bulbul fights are a traditional attraction at the Hayagriva Madhava Temple in Hajo.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Roots: The tradition dates back to the Ahom dynasty, specifically credited to rulers like King Rudra Singha and Pramatta Singha.
15.	C	<p>Ans: 15 - (c)</p> <p>The correct option is (c) All three.</p> <p>The Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme, launched by the Government of India in 2015, is designed to promote energy efficiency across households.</p> <p>The scheme covers all three appliances mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LED Bulbs: The primary focus of the scheme, replacing inefficient incandescent bulbs. • LED Tube Lights: Distributed to provide more efficient lighting compared to traditional fluorescent tubes. • Energy-efficient Fans: Specifically, BEE 5-star rated ceiling fans are provided at subsidized rates to reduce residential power consumption.
16.	A	<p>Ans: 16 - (a)</p> <p>Statement 1: Rajya Sabha"s Role in Money Bills</p> <p>Statement: The Money Bill passed by the Lok Sabha shall be returned by the Rajya Sabha within 14 days with its recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This statement is correct. According to Article 109 of the Constitution of India, a Money Bill, after being passed by the Lok Sabha, is sent to the Rajya Sabha. The Rajya Sabha has 14 days to consider the Bill and return it to the

Lok Sabha with its recommendations. If the Rajya Sabha does not return the Bill within this period, it is considered passed by both Houses in the form it was passed by the Lok Sabha.

Statement 2: Lok Sabha's Consideration of Recommendations

Statement: The Lok Sabha shall agree to the recommendations of the Rajya Sabha on the Money Bill to consider it passed by both the Houses of the Parliament.

- **This statement is incorrect.** While the Rajya Sabha can suggest amendments, the Lok Sabha is not obligated to accept them. The Lok Sabha has the authority to accept or reject any or all of the recommendations made by the Rajya Sabha. The Bill is deemed passed once it is returned by the Rajya Sabha within 14 days or when the Lok Sabha considers the Bill after the Rajya Sabha's recommendations have been processed. The Lok Sabha's agreement to Rajya Sabha's recommendations is not a prerequisite for the Bill to be considered passed by both Houses.

Statement 3: Finance Minister's Power

Statement: The Finance Minister has absolute powers to pass the Money Bill.

- **This statement is incorrect.** A Money Bill is introduced by the Finance Minister, but its passage requires approval from the Lok Sabha. The members of the Lok Sabha debate and vote on the Bill. Following its passage in the Lok Sabha, it is sent to the Rajya Sabha. Finally, the President's assent is required for the Bill to become law. The Finance Minister plays a role in introducing and advocating for the Bill but does not hold absolute power to pass it.

17.	D	<p>Ans: (d)</p> <p>All four listed items are objectives or measurable targets of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.</p> <p>While the scheme's original core objectives (2015) focused on preventing sex-selective elimination and ensuring the survival and education of the girl child, it has since been expanded under Mission Shakti (2022 onwards) to include more comprehensive socio-economic targets.</p> <p>Correct Objectives and Codes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB): A primary goal since the scheme's inception, aiming for an increase of 2 points per year. • Improving institutional deliveries: A key monitorable health target, aiming to sustain or improve the rate to 95% or above. • Increase in skilling of girls/women: Added in the revised 2022 guidelines (BBBP 2.0) to promote non-traditional livelihoods (NTL) and economic participation. • Reducing dropout rate of girls: The scheme specifically targets checking dropout rates among girls at both secondary and higher secondary levels.
18.	B	<p>Ans: (b) Kadar</p> <p>Members of the Kadar tribe in the Vazhachal forest division of Kerala are actively engaged in removing invasive species to restore natural forests.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location & Role: The project is primarily based in the Pothupara tribal hamlet within the Vazhachal division. • Invasive Species Managed: They are removing aggressive alien plants such as <i>Lantana camara</i>, <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (Siam weed), <i>Mimosa diplotricha</i>, and <i>Mikania micrantha</i>. • Partnerships: The initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), WWF-India, and local Gram Sabhas, leveraging the tribe's traditional ecological knowledge. • Legal Context: The community utilizes their Community Forest Resource (CFR) rights under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to manage and regenerate the forest.
19.	B	<p>Ans: (b) the Rajya Sabha.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Constitution of India, the Vice President serves as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). Unlike the President, who can be impeached by either House for "violation of the Constitution," the Vice President is removed through a specific resolution process rather than a formal "impeachment" as defined for the President.
20.	B	<p>Ans : 20 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water exhibits an unusual property known as anomalous expansion, where it reaches its maximum density at a temperature of approximately (4 deg C). <p>To convert this temperature into the Kelvin scale, the following formula is used:</p>

		<p>$K = C + 273.15$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rounding to the nearest whole number provided in the options gives 277 K. At this temperature, the water molecules are packed most efficiently.
21.	D	<p>Ans: 21 - (d) Troposphere and Mesosphere</p> <p>Temperature trends in the Earth's atmosphere reverse at each major boundary (pause). The layers where temperature decreases with increasing height are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troposphere: The lowest layer, where temperature decreases at an average rate of 6.5°C per kilometer (normal lapse rate) because it is primarily heated from below by the Earth's surface. • Mesosphere: The third layer, situated above the stratosphere, where temperature decreases again with altitude, eventually reaching the coldest temperatures in the entire atmosphere (about -90°C to -100°C) at the mesopause.
22.	A	<p>Ans: 22 - (a) 1 only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: P-waves (Primary waves) are longitudinal/compressional waves that can propagate through all three states of matter—solids, liquids, and gases. In contrast, S-waves (Secondary waves) are shear waves that require rigidity to propagate; because liquids and gases lack shear strength, S-waves cannot travel through them. • Statement 2 is incorrect: The shadow zone of S-waves is significantly larger than that of P-waves.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The P-wave shadow zone exists as a ring/band between approximately 103° and 142° from the epicenter because the waves are refracted (bent) as they pass through the liquid outer core. • The S-wave shadow zone extends from 103° to 180° (and all the way around) because S-waves are completely blocked by the liquid outer core. It covers about 40% of the Earth's surface.
23.	C	<p>Ans: 23 - (c)</p> <p>The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) possesses several unique characteristics that distinguish it from other Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in India:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need-based Force: Unlike other forces that are permanently stationed based on geography (like border forces), the CISF is deployed based on the specific security needs of an installation. • Unit Pattern Organization: While most CAPFs like the BSF or CRPF are organized into battalions, the CISF is primarily organized on a unit pattern to cater to the specific requirements of the industrial units and vital installations it protects. • Revenue Earning CAPF: It is the only "compensatory cost force" or revenue-earning CAPF. It charges the public and private sector undertakings it protects for its services, effectively reimbursing its costs to the government.
24.	D	<p>Ans : 24 - (d)</p> <p>The correct answer is (d) No such time limit has been specified.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints (Section 18): The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, does not prescribe a specific time limit for the Central Information Commission (CIC) or State Information Commission (SIC) to decide on complaints filed under Section 18. • Appeals (Section 19): While first appeals must be decided within 30-45 days, and second appeals (under Section 19) are also often handled in a similar timeframe, the Act does not set a mandatory deadline for complaints. • Guidelines: The CIC usually handles complaints and appeals as expeditiously as possible, but there is no statutory timeframe.
25.	B	<p>Ans: 25 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Article 323 of the Constitution of India, it is the duty of a State Public Service Commission to present an annual report of the work done by the Commission to the Governor of the State. Upon receiving this report, the Governor is required to lay a copy of it before the State Legislature, along with a memorandum explaining any cases where the Commission's advice was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance.
26.	C	<p>Ans: (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lagrange points L1, L2, and L3 lie along the line connecting the two large masses, which in this case are the Sun and the Earth. Specifically, L2 is located on the far side of the Earth, directly opposite the Sun, on this connecting line. Therefore, the Sun, the Earth, and the L2 point form a straight line configuration.

27.	C	<p>Ans: (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: The Flag Code of India, 2002, took effect from January 26, 2002, and supersedes the "Flag Code-India" as it existed. The 2002 Code consolidated all previous laws, conventions, and instructions regarding the display of the national flag into a single document. • Statement 2 is correct: The state emblem of India is an adaptation of the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath, preserved in the Sarnath Museum. The emblem was officially adopted on January 26, 1950, the day India became a republic. It features four lions (with only three visible in the two-dimensional adaptation) standing back to back on an abacus with a Dharma Chakra, a bull, and a horse.
28.	C	<p>Ans: (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is incorrect: Criminal law is a subject under the Concurrent List (List III, Entry 1) of the Constitution of India, not exclusively the State List. This means that both the Central (Parliament) and State legislatures can make laws on this subject. • Criminal law is a concurrent subject, not a State List subject. The "exclusive" nature of the State List applies to matters like Police, Public Health, and Agriculture. • Statement 2 is correct: Civil procedure, including all matters in the Code of Civil Procedure, falls under the Concurrent List (List III, Entry 13) of the Constitution of India. • The framers intended for a degree of uniformity in civil procedures across the country, while allowing both the Centre and states to legislate on it to

		suit regional needs if necessary, with the central law prevailing in case of conflict.
29.	A	<p>Ans: (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Shakti was the codename for India's first successful anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test, conducted by the DRDO on March 27, 2019. The mission involved using a modified anti-ballistic missile interceptor to hit and destroy a defunct Indian satellite (Microsat-R) in low Earth orbit (LEO) at an altitude of approximately 283 km. This demonstrated India's indigenous capability to defend its space assets and made it the fourth country in the world to possess such technology, after the USA, Russia, and China.
30.	C	<p>Ans: (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Mission on Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) primarily focuses on urban areas and has core thematic areas related to urban sustainability. The thematic area is "Urban Planning, Green Cover and Biodiversity" and not "Rural Planning, Green cover and Biodiversity"
31.	D	<p>Answer 31 - (d)</p> <p>UN General Assembly Voting Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UN General Assembly is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and is responsible for deliberating, policymaking, and representing all UN member states. Under Article 18 of the UN Charter, certain decisions require a two-thirds majority of the members present

and voting. These decisions include important questions such as the **admission of new members, election of non-permanent members of the Security Council, and election of members of the Economic and Social Council.**

- Admission of new members to the UN: According to **Article 4** of the UN Charter, the admission of new members to the UN requires a recommendation by the Security Council and a **two-thirds majority vote** in the General Assembly. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- **Election of the non-permanent members of the Security Council:** As per Article 23 of the UN Charter, the election of non-permanent members of the Security Council also requires a two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- **Election of members of the Economic and Social Council:** In accordance with Article 61 of the UN Charter, the election of members of the Economic and Social Council requires a two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Additional Information :

- The UN General Assembly meets annually in regular sessions and can also hold special and emergency sessions. Each of the 193 member states of the UN has one vote in the General Assembly. Decisions on important questions such as international peace and security, budgetary matters, and the admission of new members require a two-thirds majority, while other questions are decided by a simple majority. The Security Council consists of **15 members:** five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly.

		The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has 54 members elected for three-year terms by the General Assembly, with seats allocated based on geographical representation.
32.	B	<p>Ans: 32 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Just Society and Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, also known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, was a prominent Indian jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer. He was the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and played a vital role in advocating for the rights of the marginalized sections of the society, especially the Dalits. Ambedkar's vision of a just society was rooted in the principles of equality, liberty, and fraternity. The statement, "A just society is that society in which ascending sense of reverence and descending sense of contempt is dissolved into the creation of a compassionate society," emphasizes the eradication of social hierarchies and the establishment of a society based on mutual respect and compassion. This vision aligns with Ambedkar's lifelong struggle against the caste system and his efforts to promote social justice and human dignity.
33.	C	<p>Ans: 3 - (c)</p> <p>The agreements in chronological order are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indus Water Treaty (1960): Signed on September 19, 1960. Tashkent Declaration (1966): Signed on January 10, 1966, after the 1965 war.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Each Other's Nuclear Installations and Facilities (1988): Signed on December 31, 1988 (entered into force in 1991). • Agreement on Reducing the Risk from Accidents Relating to Nuclear Weapons (2007): Signed on February 21, 2007. <p>Therefore, the sequence is 2, 1, 3, 4.</p>
<p>34.</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>Ans: 34 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) is the only organization among the choices provided that has not been awarded the Nobel Prize. • It focuses on promoting collaboration in education, science, and culture to build peace, but has not received the specific Nobel award itself. <p>Why other options are incorrect?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFP (World Food Programme): Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020 for its work against hunger. • ILO (International Labour Organization): Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969 for its contributions to social justice and workers' rights. • UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): Received the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and 1981, for its humanitarian work.
<p>35.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Ans : 35 - (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chloride is the term used in option (a) to refer to the use of chlorine compounds in the paper bleaching process.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These agents effectively remove lignin, the color-causing component in wood pulp, to produce white paper. Modern industrial processes primarily use chlorine dioxide ClO₂ in an "elemental chlorine free" (ECF) process due to environmental concerns associated with elemental chlorine gas Cl₂. The options provided refer to a general chemical type/compound, and chloride is the only one among them that functions as a bleaching agent in this context.
36.	C	<p>Ans: 36 - (c)</p> <p>Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance. The SCO was founded in 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The official languages of the SCO are Russian and Chinese. Hence, statement 1 is correct. The SCO enjoys observer status in the UN General Assembly since 2005. Hence, statement 2 is correct. As of now, the SCO has 10 member states: China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect. <p>Additional Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SCO also has four observer states: Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia, which may seek full membership in the future. The SCO's main goals include strengthening mutual trust and neighborliness among the member countries, promoting effective cooperation in politics, trade,

		<p>economy, research, technology, and culture, and ensuring peace, security, and stability in the region. The SCO Secretariat is located in Beijing, China, and serves as the main permanent executive body of the organization. The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of the SCO, headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and focuses on addressing terrorism, separatism, and extremism. The SCO Summit is held annually, where heads of state discuss the organization's priorities and future direction. In 2017, India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO, expanding the organization's influence and reach in the region.</p>
37.	C	<p>Ans: 37 - (c)</p> <p>The correct answer is a global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Group of Seven (G7) countries. Its primary objective is to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory, and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing, and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. • The FATF is known as the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog because it monitors countries' progress in implementing the FATF Recommendations. The FATF has developed a series of Recommendations that are recognized as the international standard for combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. • The FATF conducts regular evaluations of its member countries to ensure they comply with its standards and can take actions such as placing non-

		compliant countries on a grey list or blacklist . The headquarters of FATF is located in Paris, France.
38.	C	<p>Ans: 38 - (c)</p> <p>The Information Technology Act, of 2000 is a landmark legislation in India that primarily aims to provide a legal framework for electronic governance by giving recognition to electronic records and digital signatures. The Act also aims to facilitate electronic commerce and mitigate cybercrimes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1: This Act provides that an electronic signature is legally valid in the same manner as a handwritten signature. Under the provisions of the Information Technology Act, of 2000, electronic signatures are considered legally valid and enforceable, similar to traditional handwritten signatures. The Act defines electronic signatures and provides a framework for their usage to ensure the authenticity and integrity of the documents. Hence, statement 1 is correct. • Statement 2: Both the Central Government and State Governments have been given the power to make rules with respect to electronic signatures. The Act empowers both the Central and State Governments to make rules and regulations related to electronic signatures, ensuring effective implementation and governance at multiple levels. This provision allows for a cohesive and comprehensive approach to the regulation of electronic signatures across the nation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
39.	A	Ans: 39 - (a)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The "ozone hole" refers to a severe, seasonal depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere, primarily located over the Antarctic region. This phenomenon is mainly caused by chemical reactions involving chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other man-made ozone-depleting substances. Specific meteorological conditions, such as the extremely low temperatures and the formation of polar stratospheric clouds within the isolated polar vortex, facilitate these reactions during the Southern Hemisphere's spring (September to November).
40.	B	<p>Ans: 40 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lysosomes are membrane-bound organelles that contain powerful digestive enzymes (hydrolytic enzymes). They function as the "waste disposal system" or "garbage disposal" of the animal cell. These enzymes can break down various macromolecules (proteins, lipids, nucleic acids, carbohydrates) and cellular debris. Crucially, they fuse with vesicles containing foreign materials like bacteria or viruses (a process called phagocytosis) and digest them, playing a key role in the cell's defense mechanisms and immunity.
41.	C	<p>Ans: 41 - (c)</p> <p>Vedanta Philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shankara was indeed the founder of Advaita Vedanta, a non-dualistic school of Hindu philosophy. Advaita Vedanta emphasizes the idea that the

		<p>individual self (Atman) and the universal self (Brahman) are one and the same. Shankara, also known as Adi Shankaracharya, lived in the 8th century and was a prominent philosopher and theologian. He wrote extensive commentaries on the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras to propagate his philosophy. Hence, statement 1 is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The philosophy of Dvaita was elaborated by Madhva. Madhva, also known as Madhvacharya, founded the dualistic (Dvaita) school of Vedanta in the 13th century. According to Dvaita, the individual soul (Atman) and the supreme soul (Brahman) are distinct and separate entities. Madhva's teachings were primarily focused on the worship of Vishnu as the supreme deity. Hence, statement 2 is correct. • Advaita Vedanta: Advaita Vedanta is one of the most influential schools of Hindu philosophy. Its primary tenet is that there is no distinction between the individual self (Atman) and the universal self (Brahman). Shankara's works include commentaries on major Hindu scriptures and numerous other philosophical texts. • Dvaita Vedanta: Dvaita Vedanta, or dualistic Vedanta, asserts that God (Vishnu) and individual souls are eternally distinct. Madhvacharya, the proponent of this philosophy, argued against the non-dualistic teachings of Shankara. His works include commentaries on the Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras, as well as independent treatises.
42.	B	<p>Ans: 42 - (b)</p> <p>Distribution of Charkhas</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The All India Congress Committee (AICC) played a crucial role in the Indian freedom struggle and was responsible for several key decisions. In 1921, the AICC decided to distribute charkhas (spinning wheels) on a wide scale among the Indian populace. This decision was influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's advocacy for the use of charkhas as a symbol of self-reliance and resistance against British colonial rule. The distribution of charkhas was intended to promote the Swadeshi movement, which encouraged the use of Indian-made goods and the boycott of British products. By promoting the use of charkhas, the AICC aimed to empower rural Indians, increase employment, and foster a sense of national pride and self-sufficiency. This initiative was a part of the larger Non-Cooperation Movement led by Gandhi, which sought to achieve Swaraj (self-rule) through non-violent means.
43.	A	<p>Ans: 43 - (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naz Foundation (India) Trust is a non-governmental organization focusing on HIV/AIDS and sexual health. In 2001, the Naz Foundation initiated a legal challenge to Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalized certain sexual acts, by filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Delhi High Court. The case eventually reached the Supreme Court. Although the Supreme Court initially reversed the Delhi High Court's ruling, a later landmark decision in 2018 ultimately decriminalized consensual homosexual acts among adults by partially overturning Section 377.
44.	C	<p>Ans: 44 - (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sixth Schedule Areas: The CAA does not apply to the tribal areas in the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram, as specified in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. These areas have Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) that govern land, resources, and cultural practices to protect the rights of the indigenous tribal communities. • Inner Line Permit (ILP) areas: Additionally, areas requiring an Inner Line Permit (ILP) are also exempted from the CAA's provisions. This includes the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Manipur.
45.	B	<p>Ans: 45 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xerophytes are plants adapted to dry environments and have developed features to minimize water loss (transpiration). A large number of stomata would increase water loss, which is counterproductive to their survival in arid conditions. <p>Why other options are incorrect</p> <p>(a) Smaller leaves: Smaller leaves reduce the surface area exposed to the sun and air, which helps to decrease the rate of water loss through transpiration. This is a common adaptation in xerophytes.</p> <p>(c) Waxy cuticle: A thick waxy cuticle on the leaves acts as a barrier, making the surface less permeable to water and thus significantly reducing evaporation.</p>

		(d) Stomata in pits: Sunken stomata (located in pits or grooves) trap a layer of humid air, which reduces the moisture gradient between the leaf and the outside air, thereby slowing down the rate of transpiration.
46.	A	<p>Ans: 46 - (a)</p> <p>The correct answer is Option 1. This question requires a nuanced understanding of 18th-century social reforms versus 19th-century movements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: Raja Sawai Jai Singh of Amber (1688–1743) was a progressive 18th-century ruler who attempted to introduce social reforms, including the promotion of widow remarriage. However, these attempts failed due to stiff opposition from the conservative priestly classes. • Statement 2 is correct: Maratha General Parshuram Bhau Kurundwad was a rare 18th-century figure who sought to marry off his young widowed daughter. He even consulted with the Peshwa and scholars to find religious sanctions for the act, representing early internal efforts for reform. • Statement 3 is incorrect in context: While Raja Ram Mohan Roy did oppose Sati, his major work and the subsequent ban occurred in the 19th century (Regulation XVII of 1829). The question specifically asks for conditions in the 18th century. • Therefore, only statements 1 and 2 represent 18th-century initiatives.
47.	A	<p>Ans: 47 - (a)</p> <p>Let us evaluate each statement:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: It is a body to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) to shortlist candidates for vacancies under "Group B" and "Group C" of the Government. The NRA is meant to conduct CET for recruitment to various Group "B" and "C" posts in the Government. • Employment in the private sector is facilitated in all the districts, particularly 117 aspirational districts. • Statement 2 is incorrect: The NRA is focused on government recruitment, not private sector employment. It was set up in 2014. • Statement 3 is incorrect: The Union Cabinet approved the NRA in 2020. • Statement 4 is incorrect: The NRA does not have Constitutional status. The National Recruitment Agency (NRA) is established as an independent body registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, not a constitutional body with statutory powers, but a government-approved organization to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for non-gazetted posts, aiming to streamline central government recruitment processes
48.	D	<p>Ans: 48 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article 371G of the Constitution of India provides special provisions for the state of Mizoram. Under this article, no Act of Parliament shall apply to Mizoram in respect of the following matters unless the Legislative Assembly of Mizoram decides by a resolution: Religious or social practices of the Mizos, Mizo customary law and procedure Administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Mizo customary law. • However, the matter of Ownership and transfer of natural resources is not covered under Article 371G. Hence, opt d is correct.

49.	D	<p>Ans: 49 - (d)</p> <p>Presbyopia is a common age-related vision condition that affects the ability to focus on close objects. As people age, the lens of the eye becomes less flexible, making it difficult to accommodate for near vision.</p> <p>People with presbyopia often need corrective lenses such as reading glasses, bifocal lenses, or progressive lenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is incorrect: They cannot distinguish colours. Presbyopia affects the ability to focus on close objects and does not impact color vision. Color vision issues are more related to conditions like color blindness or other retinal disorders. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect. • Statement 2 is correct: It usually develops with ageing. Presbyopia is primarily an age-related condition that affects most individuals as they get older, particularly after the age of 40. • Statement 3 is correct: People with presbyopia often use bifocal or progressive lenses to correct their vision. Bifocal lenses have two distinct optical powers for distance and close-up vision, while progressive lenses provide a gradual change in lens power for a more natural visual experience.
50.	B	<p>Ans: 50 - (b) Electrons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chemical properties of an element are determined by the configuration and number of electrons, especially those in the outermost shell, known as valence electrons.
51.	C	<p>Ans: 51 (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shivaji's administrative measures were formalized during his coronation in 1674 at Raigad. On this occasion, he officially announced the "Ashta Pradhan" (council of eight ministers), defining their specific duties and administrative departments to guide the nascent state. This council included roles like the Peshwa (Prime Minister) and Amatya. Furthermore, Shivaji actively promoted Marathi and Sanskrit to assert sovereignty and cultural identity. He commissioned the "Rajya-Vyavahāra-Koṣha", a treatise that provided Sanskrit equivalents for Persian administrative and diplomatic terms. This initiative significantly reduced the use of foreign loanwords in Maratha administration. The ministerial designations themselves were drawn from Sanskrit, replacing the previously dominant Persian terminology. Thus, both statements regarding the formalization of the Ashta Pradhan at the coronation and the linguistic shift from Persian to Marathi/Sanskrit are historically accurate.
52.	C	<p>Ans: 52 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the medieval period, the Ahoms were known for their advanced metal-casting skills. They were particularly famous for casting excellent matchlocks, which were a type of firearm. The Ahoms ruled in the northeastern part of India, particularly in Assam, and their expertise in metallurgy and weaponry was well recognized.
53.	A	<p>Ans: 53 - (a)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulonimbus clouds are large, towering clouds often associated with thunderstorms. They typically develop from an earlier stage cloud type known as cumulus congestus. <p>Cumulus congestus clouds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulus congestus is a tall, puffy cloud that can develop vertically. If atmospheric conditions are favorable, cumulus congestus can further develop into cumulonimbus clouds, which are the primary clouds responsible for thunderstorms and intense weather. Nimbostratus, Altostratus, or Cirrocumulus are not precursors to cumulonimbus clouds.
54.	C	<p>Ans: 54 - (c) Salt Crystal Growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salt crystal growth is a process of physical weathering, not chemical weathering. It involves the physical expansion of salt crystals within rock crevices, which exerts pressure and causes the rock to break apart, without changing the chemical composition of the minerals.
55.	D	<p>Ans: 55 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cabinet Mission was a high-level British delegation sent to India in March 1946, comprising Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Sir Stafford Cripps, and A.V. Alexander, to negotiate the peaceful transfer of power, devise a constitutional framework, and keep India united, but it ultimately failed to

reconcile the Congress and Muslim League's conflicting demands, setting the stage for partition.

- The mission proposed a federal structure for India, which included a **two-tiered federal plan** that allowed for significant regional autonomy. The plan included a federation of provinces and princely states, with a federal center.
- Additionally, the individual provinces were given the option to form regional unions and surrender some of their powers by mutual agreement.
- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Cabinet Mission was indeed sent to India in 1946 to negotiate the transfer of power with Indian leaders.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) proposed a two-tiered federal structure for India, aiming to balance central authority with significant regional autonomy, featuring a Union for defense/communications and groups of provinces for regional matters, thereby trying to keep India united while addressing Muslim League demands for autonomy, though it ultimately failed to prevent partition.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** The plan included a federation of provinces and states, alongside a federal center. Creating a Union of India with a weak center (handling only defense, foreign affairs, communications) and significant autonomy for provinces, allowing them to form groups with their own constitutions, aiming for a united, self-governing India and rejecting the idea of a separate Pakistan.
- **Statement 4 is Correct:** The individual provinces were allowed to form regional unions to which they could surrender some of their powers by mutual agreement.

All the statements are correct. Therefore, the correct answer is: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

56.	B	<p>Ans: 56 - (b)</p> <p>Let's check the location of each Ramsar site listed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hokera Wetland – Located in Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory). 2. Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary – Located in Tamil Nadu (State). 3. Tsomoriri Lake – Located in Ladakh (Union Territory). 4. Shallbugh Wetland– Located in Jammu and Kashmir (Union Territory). <p>Out of the options given, only Point Calimere Wildlife and Bird Sanctuary is situated in a state (Tamil Nadu) and not in any Union Territory.</p>
57.	C	<p>Ans: 57 - (c)</p> <p>Rangarajan Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rangarajan Committee was established in 2012 to review the methodology for measuring poverty in India. It aimed to provide a more comprehensive understanding of poverty by including various essential components in the measurement. • The committee's methodology incorporates the following elements: • A food component: The committee included a food component that ensures a minimum calorie intake necessary for sustaining a healthy life. This calorie intake is based on the recommendations of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). The food component ensures that the basic nutritional needs of individuals are met. Hence, statement 1 is correct. • A normative level of expenditure for essential non-food items: This includes the expenditure necessary for essential non-food items such as

		<p>clothing, shelter, education, and healthcare. It is based on a normative assessment of the requirements for a minimum standard of living. This ensures that the poverty line reflects not only food needs but also essential non-food necessities. Hence, statement 2 is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A behaviourally determined expenditure for other non-food items: The committee also considered the expenditure patterns of the population for other non-food items. This includes items that individuals spend on, based on their behaviour and preferences. This component ensures that the poverty line is realistic and reflects actual expenditure patterns. Hence, statement 3 is correct. • The Rangarajan Committee was chaired by C. Rangarajan, a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and a noted economist. The committee's report provided a revised approach to measuring poverty, differing significantly from the earlier Tendulkar Committee report. • According to the Rangarajan Committee, the new poverty line was set at Rs. 972 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 1,407 per capita per month in urban areas for the year 2011-12. The committee's approach was more holistic, considering both food and non-food expenditures, and aimed at providing a more accurate picture of poverty in India. The Rangarajan Committee's recommendations were intended to help policymakers design better-targeted poverty alleviation programs and allocate resources more effectively.
58.	C	<p>Ans: 58 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund was established specifically to assist sportspersons. Originally set up in 1982 as the

		<p>National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons, it was renamed in 2017 to honor Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary objective of the fund is to provide financial assistance to outstanding sportspersons who are currently living in indigent or impoverished circumstances. It also provides support to athletes who have sustained injuries or become disabled during training or international competitions, ensuring they receive necessary medical treatment. Furthermore, the fund extends assistance to the dependents of deceased sportspersons who are in financial distress. Administered by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the scheme aims to alleviate the hardships of those who have brought glory to the nation but lack the means for a dignified life.
59.	D	<p>Ans: 59 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stupas are Buddhist monuments that are often decorated with various motifs and symbols. The term 'Kinjalkini' refers to specific decorative elements used in these decorations. The term 'Kinjalkini' in the context of Stupa decoration refers to a garland of thousand lotus flowers. This is a specific type of decoration that is used to adorn Stupas, symbolizing purity and enlightenment in Buddhist art.
60.	D	<p>Ans: 60 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lithium is not typically stored under oil like the other alkali metals because it is less dense than mineral oil or kerosene and would float on the surface, exposing it to the air. While lithium is also a reactive alkali metal, it is less

		<p>reactive than sodium and potassium. It is usually stored in an inert atmosphere, a vacuum, or sometimes wrapped in paraffin wax to prevent reactions with air and moisture.</p>
61.	C	<p>Ans: 61 - (c)</p> <p>The following missions were major activities involving ISRO in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar): This was a major joint Earth observation mission with NASA, launched on July 30, 2025. • SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment): The two satellites for this mission were launched on December 30, 2024, and successfully performed docking and undocking maneuvers in space starting January 16, 2025, throughout the year. • Axiom Mission 4 (Ax-4): This was a private crewed mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with Axiom Space and NASA. Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was part of the crew, and the mission took place from June to July 2025. This mission provided valuable experience for India's Gaganyaan program. • Solar Mission Aditya-L1 was a major mission, but it was launched on September 2, 2023, and reached its final halo orbit around the L1 point in January 2024, before the year 2025. While ISRO released data and conducted analysis from this mission throughout 2025, the launch and orbital insertion occurred prior to that year. Therefore, it was an ongoing mission in 2025, not a major mission launched in 2025.

62.	C	<p>Ans: 62 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: The first All India Census was attempted in 1872 under Lord Mayo. However, it was not a synchronous census, meaning it was not conducted simultaneously across all regions at the same time. • Statement 2 is correct: The first synchronous and regular decennial (every ten years) census was conducted in 1881 under Lord Ripon. Since then, the census has been a regular feature, conducted uninterruptedly once every ten years.
63.	D	<p>Ans: 63 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1: The Chola period is well known for the aesthetic and technical finesse of its metal sculpture. • This statement is correct. The Chola dynasty, particularly during the 9th to 13th centuries CE in South India, is renowned for its bronze sculptures and metal icons, especially those depicting Hindu deities such as Shiva Nataraja. • Statement 2: The iconography and style of Chola metal images were similar to those of their stone counterparts. • This statement is also correct. The metal images of the Chola period typically followed the same iconographic conventions and styles as stone sculptures from the period. The artists translated the forms and symbolic details from stone to metal, maintaining consistency in religious and artistic expression. <p>Therefore, both statements 1 and 2 are correct.</p>

64.	A	<p>Ans: 64 - (a)</p> <p>The antariya, worn in the Mauryan period, was (a) an unstitched length of cloth draped around the body, functioning as a lower garment, similar to a dhoti, wrapped around the waist and legs, often secured with a sash (kayabandh) and paired with an upper cloth (uttariya).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description: It was a simple rectangular cloth, made from cotton, linen, or silk, that men and women wrapped and pleated around their lower body, extending from waist to ankle or calf. • Function: It served as the primary lower garment, with variations in length and draping indicating social status. • Context: It was part of a three-piece attire in ancient India, along with the uttariya (upper garment) and kayabandh (waistband).
65.	D	<p>Ans: 65 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creep is the slowest form of mass wasting, involving the gradual, almost imperceptible, downslope movement of soil and other loose, unconsolidated material (regolith). This process is typically driven by repeated expansion and contraction cycles of the material, such as freezing and thawing or wetting and drying, combined with the persistent force of gravity.
66.	C	<p>Ans: 66 - (C)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is incorrect because the first rock paintings in India were discovered at Sohaghat, Uttar Pradesh, by Archibald Carlleyle in 1867-68, not Alexander Burnes. • Statement 2 is correct; V.S. Wakankar discovered the Bhimbetka rock shelters in 1957 after spotting the unique rock formations from a train window while traveling from Bhopal to Itarsi. He subsequently explored the site, revealing one of the world's largest prehistoric complexes. • Statement 3 is incorrect because in the rock art of Odisha (Orissa), such as at sites like Gudahandi and Yogimatha, paintings and engravings frequently coexist within the same rock shelters. While rock paintings are widely distributed across Central India and Madhya Pradesh, the specific archaeological record of Odisha shows a significant overlap of both artistic mediums in several prehistoric shelters.
67.	A	<p>Ans: 67 - (a)</p> <p>The correct terms for cereals in the Rig Veda are (b) Yava and Dhanya, with Yava referring to barley (a staple) and Dhanya being a general term for grains, while terms like Godhuma (wheat) and Vrihi (rice) became prominent in later Vedic texts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yava (Barley): Frequently mentioned as a key cereal in the Rig Veda. 2. Dhanya (Grain/Cereal): A general term for grains used in the Rig Veda. 3. Godhuma (Wheat) & Vrihi (Rice): While important, these appear more in the Later Vedic period (Yajur Veda, Atharva Veda) rather than the Rig Veda. 4. Tila (Sesame) & Priyangu (Millet): Also appear more in later Vedic texts, with Tila being an oilseed, not a cereal.

68.	B	<p>Ans: 68 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lord Dalhousie was the Governor-General of India from 1848 to 1856. He is known for his expansionist policies and the implementation of the Doctrine of Lapse. The statement "A cherry that will drop into our mouth one day" reflects Dalhousie's belief that the kingdom of Awadh would eventually be annexed by the British East India Company without much effort. Awadh was a region in northern India that was known for its wealth and strategic importance. Dalhousie justified the annexation of Awadh on the grounds of misgovernance and the supposed inability of the Nawab to maintain order and proper administration. In 1856, Awadh was formally annexed by the British, leading to widespread discontent and contributing to the outbreak of the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
69.	C	<p>Ans: 69 - (c)</p> <p>Among the given peaks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dhaulagiri is in Nepal. Makalu is in Nepal (and partly in Tibet, China). Kamet is located in India (in Uttarakhand). Namcha Barwa is primarily in the Tibet Autonomous Region (China). However, due to its proximity to the Indian border, some texts mention it in discussions of the Indian Himalayan region.
70.	C	<p>Ans: 70 - (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Balance of Payments (BoP) is divided into the Current Account and the Capital Account. The Capital Account records transactions that alter the assets or liabilities of a country, such as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Commercial Borrowings (including External Commercial Borrowings), and External Assistance (loans and grants). In contrast, "Invisibles" are a primary component of the Current Account. Invisibles include trade in services (like travel, transportation, and software), income (interest, profits, and dividends), and unilateral transfers such as remittances and gifts. While FDI and loans represent capital flows that change the international investment position, invisibles represent the flow of value for current consumption or production and do not create future liabilities in the same manner. Therefore, Invisibles are not included in the Capital Account.
71.	C	<p>Ans: 71 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ghepang Ghat glacial lake is located in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh at an elevation of approximately 4,068 meters. Recent satellite-based studies conducted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) have highlighted significant changes in the Himalayan cryosphere. Specifically, the Ghepang Ghat lake has shown a 178% increase in size, expanding from 36.49 hectares in 1989 to 101.30 hectares by 2022. This rapid expansion, occurring at a rate of about 1.96 hectares per year, is attributed to glacial retreat and melting in the Indus River Basin. Such growth increases the risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), which pose a threat to downstream communities and infrastructure in the region.

72.	B	<p>Ans: 72 - (b)</p> <p>Somalia perfectly matches all the criteria mentioned in the query:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decades of Civil Strife: Somalia has faced continuous internal conflict and instability since the collapse of its central government in the early 1990s. • Severe Drought and Flooding: The country recently suffered its worst drought in 40 years, followed by "once-in-a-century" flooding that displaced millions. • Terrorism: The militant group Al-Shabaab remains a persistent threat, conducting frequent attacks and controlling significant territory. • UNSC Authorisation (AUSSOM): In August 2024, the UN Security Council authorized the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) to replace the previous transition mission (ATMIS) starting in 2025.
73.	D	<p>Ans: 73 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct as Singapore is a classic example of an entrepot, specializing in receiving and redistributing goods to neighboring countries. It also functions as a port of call, having developed as a refueling and watering point on main sea routes. • Statement 2 is correct because naval ports serve warships and have repair workshops; Karwar and Kochi are primary examples of such strategic ports in India. • Statement 3 is incorrect; Dover is classified as a packet station or ferry terminal, specializing in the transportation of passengers and mail across short water bodies like the English Channel. Outports are deep-water ports

		<p>built away from parent ports to accommodate large ships, such as Piraeus for Athens.</p> <p>Therefore, only statements 1 and 2 are accurate.</p>
74.	C	<p>Ans: 74 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belarus is the only country among the options that shares a land border with both Russia and Ukraine. Geographically, Belarus is situated to the north of Ukraine and to the west of mainland Russia. While Estonia and Latvia share borders with Russia, they do not border Ukraine. Poland shares a border with Ukraine and also borders the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, but it does not share a territorial boundary with mainland Russia. Historically, Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus were all constituent units of the Soviet Federation. Currently, Ukraine's longest international border is with Russia, spanning approximately 1,282 miles. Belarus serves as a critical transit point between mainland Russia and its neighbors, being the only common neighbor for several states in the region.
75.	D	<p>Ans 75 - (d) Mortality rate.</p>
76.	C	<p>Ans: 76 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements (a), (b), and (d) are all correct, but statement (c) is not correct because the vessel was given to the Maldivian Naval Force (as MCGS Huravee), not the Sri Lankan Naval Force. It was returned to the Indian Navy in May 2023 and recommissioned as INS Tarmugli in December 2023.

		<p>Explanation</p> <p>Statement (a) is correct: The INS Tarmugli is indeed a fast attack craft (FAC) commissioned by the Indian Navy, designed for high-speed operations.</p> <p>Statement (b) is correct: The ship was recommissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, after undergoing extensive refit and upgrades.</p> <p>Statement (d) is correct: As a fast attack craft, it is primarily used for coastal surveillance and protection along the east coast of India.</p> <p>Why statement (c) is incorrect</p> <p>Statement (c) claims the ship was given to the Sri Lankan Naval Force in 2006. This is incorrect. The ship (originally named INS Tillanchang) was transferred to the Maldivian Coast Guard (renamed MCGS Huravee) in April 2006 as part of diplomatic outreach. It was returned to India in May 2023.</p>
77.	C	<p>Ans: 77 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rate of inflation is defined as the percentage change in a price index between two specific periods. To calculate the inflation rate for 2023, we compare the price index of 2023 with the index of the preceding year, 2022. The formula for the annual inflation rate is: $((\text{Price Index in New Year} - \text{Price Index in Previous Year}) / \text{Price Index in Previous Year}) \times 100$. <p>Given the price index was 110 in 2022 and increased to 132 in 2023, the calculation is $((132 - 110) / 110) \times 100$.</p>

		This results in $(22 / 110) \times 100$, which equals 20%. While the cumulative inflation from the base year 2021 (index 100) to 2023 is 32%, the specific rate of inflation for the year 2023 is 20% based on the year-on-year change from 2022.
78.	C	<p>Ans: 78 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avantivarman (855-883 CE), the founder of the Utpala dynasty in Kashmir, is celebrated for prioritizing the economic welfare of his subjects over external conquests. His reign followed a period of devastating civil wars and floods, prompting him to focus on internal consolidation and agricultural recovery. • A pivotal figure in this effort was his minister and engineer, Suyya, who implemented sophisticated engineering operations to regulate the Jhelum River (Vitasta). Suyya's innovative desilting and drainage schemes effectively prevented recurring floods and reclaimed vast tracts of wasteland for cultivation. These reforms led to a dramatic increase in agricultural productivity, specifically paddy production, causing the price of grain to fall significantly—from 36 to 20 dinars per khari. Consequently, both statements accurately reflect the historical record of Avantivarman's developmental and engineering achievements.
79.	D	<p>Ans: 79 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In plants, the vascular bundle is a part of the transport system consisting primarily of xylem and phloem. Xylem is responsible for moving water and minerals from the soil, while phloem transports the products of

		<p>photosynthesis. In many plants, particularly dicots, the vascular bundle also contains the vascular cambium, a layer of meristematic tissue located between the xylem and phloem that facilitates secondary growth. While the endodermis is closely associated with the vascular system, it is defined as a specialized layer of cells that surrounds the vascular bundle rather than being a component of the bundle itself. The endodermis acts as a selective barrier in the root, regulating the movement of water and nutrients into the xylem. Therefore, the endodermis is not considered a part of the vascular bundle.</p>
80.	C	<p>Ans: (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philadelphi Corridor (or Philadelphi Route) is a narrow 14-kilometer-long, 100-meter-wide buffer zone located along the entire border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. It stretches from the Mediterranean Sea to the Kerem Shalom crossing, designed to control smuggling and movement in the region. <p>Therefore, the correct option is: (c) Egypt–Gaza border</p>
81.	A	<p>Ans: 81 - (a)</p> <p>Statement 1 talks about the Cultivation areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bajra Cultivation States: Bajra is a staple in the northwestern and western parts of India. Major cultivating states include Rajasthan, which is the largest producer, followed by Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ragi Cultivation States: Ragi is predominantly grown in the southern and certain hilly regions of India. Karnataka is the leading producer, followed by Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra. <p>Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Statement 2 talks about the suitable soil types for growing Bajra and Ragi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bajra Soil Needs: Bajra, also known as Pearl Millet, is a hardy crop that thrives in arid and semi-arid regions. It grows well in sandy soils and light sandy loams. It can also tolerate shallow black soils and is relatively adaptable to different soil conditions, provided they are well-drained. The statement mentions "sandy and shallow black soils", which aligns with its known soil preferences. • Ragi Soil Needs: Ragi, or Finger Millet, is another important millet crop. It prefers well-drained soils. It is known to grow well in sandy loams, light red soils, and shallow black soils. It can even grow on degraded soils, making it a valuable crop for marginal lands. The statement's mention of "red and shallow black soil" being suited for Ragi is accurate. <p>Therefore, Statement 2, which suggests Bajra grows well in sandy and shallow black soils, and Ragi is suited for red and shallow black soil, appears to be correct.</p> <p>Therefore, Both the statements are correct and statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement 1.</p>
82.	C	<p>Ans: 82 - (c)</p> <p>The 2025 edition marks 80 years of continuous forest resource monitoring</p>

		<p>Key Summary of GFRA 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Forest Extent: Forests now cover 4.14 billion hectares, with tropical zones (45%) leading, reflecting both rich biodiversity and intense deforestation pressures in these regions. • Top 5 Countries: Russia, Brazil, Canada, USA, and China together hold over half of global forest cover, showing how few nations dominate the planet's forest resources. • Statement 1 is incorrect and 2 is correct: India has climbed to the 9th position globally in total forest area and continues to rank 3rd in annual forest gain, according to the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 released by the FAO in Bali. <p>Statement 3 is also correct.</p>
<p>83.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Ans: 83 - (a)</p> <p>Eratosthenes measured the Earth's circumference by comparing the angle of the Sun's rays at noon on the summer solstice in two Egyptian cities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alexandria (in the north) 2. Syene (modern Aswan, further south) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He knew that at noon in Syene, the Sun was directly overhead, while in Alexandria, it made an angle of about 7.2° with the vertical. Using this angle and the distance between the cities, he calculated the Earth's circumference.
<p>84.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>Sol: 84 - (b)</p>

		<p>Let's consider each pair:</p> <p>Siachen - Nubra Valley Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct. The Siachen Glacier is located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Nubra Valley region of Ladakh, India. <p>Chungphar - Kumaon-Garhwal Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct. The Chungphar glacier is situated in the Kumaon-Garhwal Himalayas, Uttarakhand. <p>Zemu - Central Nepal Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect. Zemu Glacier is in Sikkim, India (Eastern Himalayas), not in Central Nepal. <p>Gasherbrum - Pir Panjal Range:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect. Gasherbrum is located in the Karakoram Range, not in the Pir Panjal Range. <p>Correct Answer: The correct pairs are 1 and 2.</p>
85.	A	<p>Ans: 85 - (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On November 4, 1948, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar formally introduced the final Draft Constitution in the Constituent Assembly. In his introductory speech, he specifically addressed the terminology used to describe the Indian polity. While the Drafting Committee proposed a federal structure, they deliberately chose the term "Union of States" in Article 1. • Ambedkar explained that this choice was significant because the Indian federation was not the result of an agreement by the states to join a

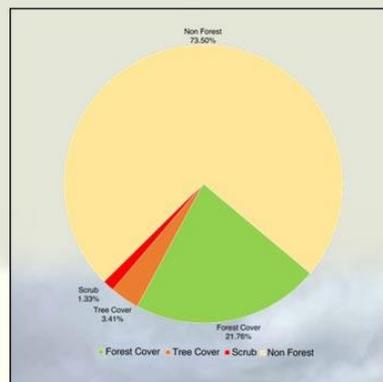
		<p>federation, and therefore, no state had the right to secede from it. He emphasized that although the government was federal in form, the federation was a "Union" because it was indestructible. This distinction was intended to clarify that the Indian Union was a permanent entity, unlike a loose confederation or a voluntary federation of sovereign states.</p>
86.	D	<p>Ans: 86 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is incorrect because the Barak River, the headstream of the Meghna, rises in the Manipur hills (specifically near Liyai Kullen in Senapati district), not the hills of Meghalaya. It flows through Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Assam before entering Bangladesh. • Statement 2 is correct as the Ghaggar is an ephemeral inland drainage river that rises in the Shiwaliks and eventually gets lost in the sands of the Thar Desert near Hanumangarh, Rajasthan. • Statement 3 is correct because both the Puthimari and Manas are significant tributaries of the Brahmaputra in the Assam valley. The Manas is a major transboundary right-bank tributary originating in Bhutan. <p>Therefore, only statements 2 and 3 are accurate.</p>
87.	B	<p>Ans: 87- (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the 18th India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR 2023). • ISFR is brought out by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) on a biennial basis since 1987.

Key findings of ISFR 2023

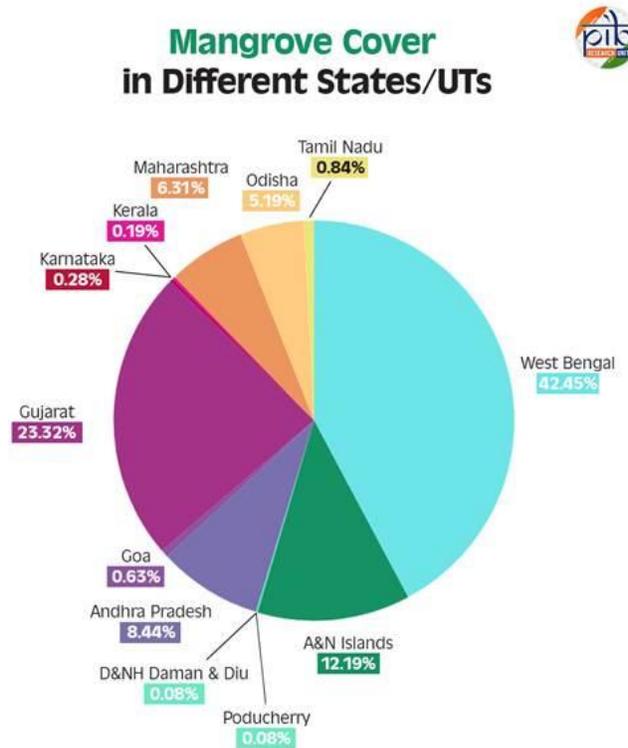
- **Forest and Tree Cover:** The total forest and tree cover of the country is 8,27,356.95 km² which is 25.17% of the geographical area (GA) of the country.
- The total Forest Cover has an area of 7,15,342.61 km² (21.76%) whereas the Tree Cover has an area of 1,12,014.34 km² (3.41%).

Statement 1 is incorrect:

Forest and Tree Cover of India		
		in km ²
Class	Area	Percentage of Geographical Area
Forest Cover	7,15,342.61	21.76
Tree Cover	1,12,014.34	3.41
Total Forest and Tree Cover	8,27,356.95	25.17
Scrub	43,622.64	1.33
Non Forest	24,16,489.29	73.50
Geographical Area	32,87,468.88	100.00



Statement 2 is correct:



88.

A

Ans: 88 - (a) 2 1 4 3

Speakers of Lok Sabha and their Tenures

- **Manohar Gajanan Joshi:** He served as the Speaker of the 13th Lok Sabha. His tenure was marked by his efforts to maintain decorum in the house and address various parliamentary challenges.
- **Somnath Chatterjee:** He was the Speaker of the 14th Lok Sabha. Chatterjee was known for his impartiality and efforts to strengthen parliamentary democracy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meira Kumar: She served as the Speaker of the 15th Lok Sabha. Meira Kumar was the first woman to hold the office of the Speaker in India, and her tenure focused on gender equality and social justice. • Sumitra Mahajan: She was the Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha. Mahajan's tenure was noted for her emphasis on discipline and smooth functioning of the parliamentary proceedings.
89.	C	<p>Ans: 89 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme, also known as the Self-Reliant India Scheme, was announced by the Government of India to boost economic growth and self-reliance by enhancing domestic capabilities and reducing dependency on imports. <p>Let's analyze the statements given in the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports across the industries: This is a key objective of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme. The government has introduced various incentives to boost local manufacturing and increase exports by promoting "Make in India". Therefore, this statement 1 is correct. • Incentivizing foreign investments for domestic production: Another critical component of the scheme is attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to enhance domestic production capabilities. The government has relaxed certain FDI norms and offered incentives to attract foreign companies to set up manufacturing units in India. Thus, this statement 2 is also correct.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since both statements accurately describe the objectives and strategies under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Scheme, the correct answer is: Both 1 and 2 are correct 																																							
90.	A	<p>Ans: 90 - (a)</p> <p>The correct option is (a) Sustainable and Inclusive Growth. The full theme of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012-2017) was "Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth".</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Five Year Plan</th> <th>Period</th> <th>Objective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>First Five Year Plan</td> <td>1951-56</td> <td>Overall development of agriculture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second Five Year Plan</td> <td>1956-61</td> <td>Industrial development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third Five Year Plan</td> <td>1961-66</td> <td>Self sufficiency in food , self sufficiency in economy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fourth Five Year Plan</td> <td>1969-74</td> <td>Self-reliance and sustained growth</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fifth Five Year Plan</td> <td>1974-79</td> <td>Removal of poverty</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sixth Five Year Plan</td> <td>1980-85</td> <td>Improvement in infrastructure in agriculture and industry.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seventh Five Year Plan</td> <td>1985-90</td> <td>Modernisation and increase in employment opportunities.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eighth Five Year Plan</td> <td>1992-97</td> <td>Human resource development</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ninth Five Year Plan</td> <td>1997-02</td> <td>Rural development and decentralized planning.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tenth Five Year Plan</td> <td>2002-07</td> <td>Increase in investment.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eleventh Five Year Plan</td> <td>2007-12</td> <td>Overall development of the people.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Twelfth Five Year Plan</td> <td>2012-17</td> <td>Sustainable development</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Five Year Plan	Period	Objective	First Five Year Plan	1951-56	Overall development of agriculture	Second Five Year Plan	1956-61	Industrial development	Third Five Year Plan	1961-66	Self sufficiency in food , self sufficiency in economy	Fourth Five Year Plan	1969-74	Self-reliance and sustained growth	Fifth Five Year Plan	1974-79	Removal of poverty	Sixth Five Year Plan	1980-85	Improvement in infrastructure in agriculture and industry.	Seventh Five Year Plan	1985-90	Modernisation and increase in employment opportunities.	Eighth Five Year Plan	1992-97	Human resource development	Ninth Five Year Plan	1997-02	Rural development and decentralized planning.	Tenth Five Year Plan	2002-07	Increase in investment.	Eleventh Five Year Plan	2007-12	Overall development of the people.	Twelfth Five Year Plan	2012-17	Sustainable development
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91.	A	<p>Ans: 91 (a)</p> <p>Hadley Cells and Wind Patterns</p> <p>Statement 1: Hadley cells are key to understanding the wind patterns of Earth.</p>																																							

- Hadley cells are large-scale atmospheric convection cells in which air rises at the equator and sinks at medium latitudes, typically about 30° north or south. They are crucial in determining the wind patterns and weather systems of the Earth, particularly in the tropics and subtropics. The rising warm air near the equator creates a low-pressure zone, and the sinking cooler air around 30° latitude creates a high-pressure zone, leading to the formation of trade winds, westerlies, and other wind patterns. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Statement 2: Hadley cells are formed because the Equator is heated more strongly by the Sun than other places, creating thermal circulations.

- The equator receives more direct sunlight throughout the year compared to other parts of the Earth, leading to higher temperatures. This intense heating causes air to rise at the equator, creating a low-pressure area. As the air rises, it cools and moves toward higher latitudes. At around 30° north and south, the air cools sufficiently to sink back to the surface, creating high-pressure areas. This movement forms the Hadley cells. The cycle of rising and sinking air masses drives the thermal circulations that are fundamental to the Hadley cell mechanism.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Statement 2 is the correct explanation of statement 1: The differential heating described in statement 2 is the direct cause of the air movement that creates the Hadley cells, which, in turn, dictates the primary tropical wind systems and global heat distribution (statement 1).

92.	D	<p>Ans: 92 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the law of demand, for a normal good, an increase in price leads to a decrease in the quantity demanded. This is driven by the substitution effect, where consumers switch to relatively cheaper alternatives, and the income effect, where the reduction in real purchasing power further reduces demand for normal goods. Regarding good Y, the impact depends on its relationship with good X. If X and Y are substitutes, an increase in the price of X will increase the demand for Y as consumers switch away from X. • Conversely, if they are complements, an increase in the price of X will decrease the demand for Y because they are consumed together. Since the relationship between X and Y (substitutes or complements) is not specified, the change in demand for Y remains indeterminate.
93.	A	<p>Ans: 93 - (b) Convection</p> <p>(a) Radiation (c) Radiation (d) Conduction</p>
94.	B	<p>Ans: 94 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Mauryan administrative hierarchy, the Samaharttri (or Samaharta) was the Chief Collector of Revenue, responsible for supervising the exchequer and managing revenue sources like mines, forests, and trade routes. • The Samnidhatri served as the Chief Treasurer, maintaining records of tax revenues and managing the state treasury.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Akshapatala (often spelled Ashtapalata in some contexts) was the Records-cum-Audit Officer responsible for maintaining the state's accounts. However, the Dauwarika (or Dauvarika) was the Chief of the Palace Attendants or the Chamberlain, not the Chief of Army. <p>The Chief of Army was known as the Senapati.</p> <p>Therefore, pairs 1, 3, and 4 are correctly matched, while pair 2 is incorrect.</p> <p>This bureaucratic structure, detailed in the Arthashastra, ensured a centralized system of governance and fiscal management across the empire.</p>
95.	D	<p>Ans: 95 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NIIFL (National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited) manages three primary funds: the Master Fund, the Fund of Funds, and the Strategic Opportunities Fund (also referred to as the Strategic Fund). A fund named the Global Investment Fund does not exist under the NIIFL's structure of funds.
96.	D	<p>Sol: 96 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) on March 10, 2024. EFTA is an intergovernmental organization currently consisting of four member states: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland. While England (as part of the United Kingdom) was a founding member of EFTA in 1960, it left the association in the early 1970s to join the European Economic Community (EEC). Today, the UK is considered a separate

		<p>economic block from both the EU and EFTA. The TEPA agreement specifically targets the four current EFTA nations, offering significant tariff reductions and investment commitments of USD 100 billion over 15 years. Therefore, England is not a member of the group that signed the TEPA with India.</p>
97.	D	<p>Ans: 97 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In perfect competition, a profit-maximizing firm's equilibrium is defined by three specific conditions. First, the market price must equal marginal cost ($P = MC$). • Second, for the firm to continue production, the price must be greater than or equal to the average variable cost ($P \geq AVC$) in the short run to avoid the shutdown point. • Third, in the long run, free entry and exit ensure that the market price equals the minimum average cost ($P = \min AC$), resulting in zero economic profit. • The incorrect statement is (d) that marginal cost decreases at equilibrium. For profit maximization, the marginal cost must be non-decreasing (upward-sloping) at the equilibrium output level. If MC were decreasing, the firm could increase profit by producing more, as the cost of the next unit would be lower than the price received.
98.	B	<p>Sol: 98 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India's Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), submitted under the Paris Agreement, focuses on several strategic pillars. It

		<p>emphasizes a transition from fossil fuels in a just, smooth, and sustainable manner, ensuring energy security while shifting to cleaner sources. The strategy explicitly includes the increased use of biofuels, particularly through the ethanol blending program and the promotion of the Global Biofuels Alliance. Furthermore, it envisions climate-resilient urban development through smart city initiatives, integrated planning, and mainstreaming adaptation into urban infrastructure. While Green Bonds are a significant tool for climate finance in India, the core LT-LEDS document focuses on sectoral transitions and adaptation strategies rather than being defined by a specific financing instrument like Green Bonds alone.</p> <p>Therefore, statements 1, 2, and 3 are the primary components of the vision.</p>
99.	D	<p>Ans: 99 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kabini River (also known as Kabani or Kapila) is a major tributary that flows into the Kaveri River. It originates in the Western Ghats in the Wayanad district of Kerala and flows eastward into Karnataka, where it joins the main Kaveri river at Tirumakudalu Narasipura. <p>Why other options are incorrect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Godavari: The major tributaries of the Godavari include the Purna, Pranhita, and Indravati; the Kabini is not part of this system. • Krishna: Key tributaries of the Krishna River include the Bhima and Tungabhadra; the Kabini is not a tributary of the Krishna. • Mahanadi: The prominent tributaries of the Mahanadi are the Seonath, Jonk, and Hasdeo; the Kabini is not associated with the Mahanadi basin.

100.	C	<p>Ans: 100-(c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1: X-rays can be used to inspect welded joints between two metal parts of a machine. • This is correct. X-rays are used in non-destructive testing to check for internal flaws in welded joints. • Statement 2: X-rays can be used to study the structure of crystals. • This is also correct. X-ray crystallography is a technique used to determine the atomic and molecular structure of crystals.
101.	C	<p>Ans: 101 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct as a Vostro account (from the Latin "vostro" meaning "yours") is an account held by a domestic bank on behalf of a foreign bank in the domestic currency. It enables foreign banks to provide international banking services and settle cross-border transactions in Indian Rupees without having a physical presence in India. • Statement 2 is also correct, Insurance density is defined as the ratio of premium to total population (per capita premium). In India, this metric fails to accurately reflect the actual protection or financing gap because a significant portion of life insurance products are savings-linked or investment-oriented (like ULIPs or endowment plans) rather than pure term insurance. Consequently, while the premium paid (density) might appear high, the actual life cover or "protection" component remains low,

		leaving a substantial financing gap in the event of the policyholder's premature death.
102.	A	<p>Ans: 102 - (a)</p> <p>Let's analyze each statement about Antarctica:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 1 is correct: Antarctica (about 14 million sq km) is larger than Europe (about 10 million sq km). • Statement 2 is correct: Antarctica's mean elevation is the highest among all continents due to its thick ice sheets. • Statement 3 is Incorrect: The highest peak is Mount Vinson, not Mt. Ross. • Statement 4 is Incorrect: The West Wind Drift (Antarctic Circumpolar Current) moves in a clockwise direction (from west to east) around Antarctica in the Southern Ocean. <p>Correct Answer: Only statements 1 and 2 are correct.</p>
103.	B	<p>Ans: 103 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement 2 is incorrect because S-waves are actually more destructive to structures than P-waves. While surface waves are the most destructive overall, among body waves, S-waves cause more damage than P-waves because they have greater amplitudes and produce both vertical and horizontal ground motion. S-waves exert lateral or shear forces on structures like buildings and overpasses, which are often designed to withstand vertical gravity but not strong horizontal loading.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other statements are correct: S-waves are approximately 1.7 times slower than P-waves. They are transverse waves that require rigid bonds to propagate, meaning they can only travel through solids and are blocked by the liquid outer core. This specific limitation—the S-wave shadow zone—provided the primary seismological evidence that the Earth's outer core is liquid.
104.	C	<p>Ans: 104 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the medieval political landscape of South India, specific regnal titles were used to signify the military strength and divine associations of various rulers. • The term "Gajapati", meaning "lord of elephants", refers to the powerful Suryavamsi dynasty that ruled Orissa (modern Odisha) during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries . • In the popular traditions of the Vijayanagara Empire, the Deccan Sultans (specifically the Bahmani rulers) were referred to as "Ashvapati" or "lord of horses", reflecting their superior cavalry. • Conversely, the Rayas of Vijayanagara were known as "Narapati" or "lord of men", emphasizing their vast human resources and infantry. These titles were part of a broader cultural and political nomenclature where "Pati" (lord) was combined with the primary military asset of the state to denote sovereignty and stature . Thus, all three pairs are correctly matched.
105.	C	<p>Ans: 105 - (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential plant nutrients are classified into macronutrients and micronutrients based on the quantity required for growth. Macronutrients are needed in larger amounts and include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. Specifically, magnesium (Mg) is categorized as a secondary macronutrient. In contrast, micronutrients are required in very small or trace amounts. The primary micronutrients include iron (Fe), manganese (Mn), boron (B), copper (Cu), molybdenum (Mo), zinc (Zn), nickel (Ni), and chlorine (Cl). While iron, manganese, and chlorine are explicitly listed as micronutrients across multiple sources, magnesium is consistently grouped with the macronutrients because it is a central component of the chlorophyll molecule and is required in higher concentrations for plant structural and metabolic functions. Therefore, magnesium is not a micronutrient.
106.	A	<p>Ans: 106 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement 1 is correct as ocean surface circulation is dominated by five major subtropical gyres driven by global surface wind patterns, specifically the trade winds and westerlies. These gyres are formed by the frictional drag of persistent climatological winds on the ocean surface. Statement 2 is false because equatorial currents, driven by trade winds, move warm water westward from the eastern side of ocean basins. Upon reaching the western edge of the ocean basin (the east coast of continents), these waters are deflected poleward as western boundary currents. These western boundary currents, such as the Gulf Stream or Kuroshio, are characterized as warm, fast-flowing currents that transport heat from the

		tropics toward higher latitudes. In contrast, cold water moves equatorward along the west coasts of continents as eastern boundary currents.
107.	C	<p>Ans: 107- (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arc volcanoes are primarily associated with convergent plate boundaries, specifically subduction zones, rather than divergent boundaries. Statement 1 is therefore incorrect. • Statement 2 is correct as arc volcanism typically produces stratovolcanoes (composite cones) characterized by steep, cone-shaped profiles and explosive eruptions. Classic examples include Mount Fuji in Japan and Mayon in the Philippines, which are part of the Japanese and Philippine island arcs respectively. • Statement 3 is also correct; the Andes Mountains, a prime example of a continental volcanic arc formed by the subduction of the Nazca plate, contain some of the highest volcanoes on Earth. Specifically, Nevado Ojos del Salado, located in the Chilean Andes, is recognized as the world's highest active volcano. Thus, only statements 2 and 3 are accurate.
108.	C	<p>Ans: 108 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ganga basin is the largest river basin in India, covering approximately 8.6 lakh sq. km, which is about 26.3% of the country's total geographical area. It is an extensive drainage system that encompasses 11 states and the Union Territory of Delhi. Specifically, Chhattisgarh is part of the basin as the Son river (a major right-bank tributary of the Ganga) drains portions of the state.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himachal Pradesh is included because the Yamuna, the largest tributary of the Ganga, has catchment areas in the state. Rajasthan is also a basin state because the Chambal river, which originates in Madhya Pradesh and flows through Rajasthan, is a major tributary of the Yamuna, which eventually joins the Ganga. <p>Therefore, all three states—Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Rajasthan—are integral parts of the Ganga basin.</p>
109.	B	<p>Ans: 109 - (b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement 1 is incorrect because government spending (G) has a larger multiplier effect than transfer payments. Government spending directly increases aggregate demand in the first round, whereas transfers (like tax cuts) only increase income after being filtered through the marginal propensity to consume (MPC). Since households save a portion of transfers, the initial impact on spending is less than the full amount of X. Statement 2 is correct due to the "crowding out" effect. If government spending is not accompanied by an expansion in money supply (monetary accommodation), the increased demand for money to finance the spending leads to higher interest rates. This reduces private investment and consumption, thereby dampening the overall impact on national income compared to a scenario where the money supply expands to keep interest rates stable.
110.	C	<p>Ans: 110 - (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Unani system of medicine is an integral part of the Ministry of Ayush, which is an acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Homoeopathy. The Ministry was established in 2014 to ensure the development and propagation of these traditional systems. Therefore, the statement that Unani has been dissociated from the Ministry is incorrect. Regarding other options, the Siddha system is indeed a holistic system of medicine. Sowa-Rigpa, also known as the Amchi system, is widely practiced in the Himalayan regions of India, including Ladakh, Sikkim, and Himachal Pradesh. Finally, the Sushruta Samhita is a foundational text and major source of Ayurveda, focusing on surgical techniques and holistic healing.
111.	C	<p>Ans: 111 - (c)</p> <p>The correct statement is (c) It is a scheme of the Government of India for benefitting every member of the tribal community from Government schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM-JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) was launched in November 2023 to uplift Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The scheme aims to ensure that marginalized tribal communities, who have often been left out of mainstream development, are reached by 11 critical interventions across 9 ministries. Its primary goal is to achieve 100% saturation of basic facilities like housing, clean drinking water, sanitation, education, and healthcare in PVTG habitations.
112.	C	<p>Ans: 112 - (c)</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ghepang Ghat glacial lake is located in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh at an elevation of approximately 4,068 meters. Recent satellite-based studies conducted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) have highlighted significant changes in the Himalayan cryosphere. Specifically, the Ghepang Ghat lake has shown a 178% increase in size, expanding from 36.49 hectares in 1989 to 101.30 hectares by 2022. This rapid expansion, occurring at a rate of about 1.96 hectares per year, is attributed to glacial retreat and melting in the Indus River Basin. Such growth increases the risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), which pose a threat to downstream communities and infrastructure in the region.
113.	A	<p>Ans: 113 - (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The common state involved in the Bru-Reang Agreement, NLFT (SD) Agreement, and the Tripartite Agreement with TIPRA is (a) Tripura. These agreements were all focused on the security, rehabilitation, and socio-political development of indigenous communities within the state of Tripura. Bru-Reang Agreement (2020): Permanent settlement of 37,000 displaced people in Tripura. NLFT (SD) Agreement (2019): Peace accord with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (Sabir Debbarma).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripartite Agreement with TIPRA (2024): Agreement involving the Government of India, Government of Tripura, and TIPRA Motha for indigenous rights.
114.	C	<p>Ans: 114- (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The correct option is (c) It was given by the Government of India to Sri Lankan Naval Force in 2006 and returned to the Indian Navy in May 2023. • Statement (c) is incorrect because the vessel was gifted to the Maldives National Defence Force, not the Sri Lankan Naval Force. Originally commissioned into the Indian Navy as INS Tillanchang in 2001, it was transferred to the Maldives in April 2006 and renamed MCGS Huravee. After being decommissioned by the Maldives in May 2023, it was returned to India, refitted, and recommissioned as INS Tarmugli at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, in December 2023.
115.	A	<p>Ans: 115 - (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final agreement at COP28 (the UAE Consensus) specifically calls for "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science".
116.	C	<p>Ans: 116 - (c)</p>

117.	D	<p>In early 2025, India designated four new wetlands as Ramsar Sites, bringing the national total to 89.</p> <p>The sites added in this period include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu) 2. Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand) 3. Therthangal Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu) 4. Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) <p>As both Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary (1) and Udhwa Lake (2) were added in 2025, while the others were not, the correct code is 1 and 2 only.</p> <p>Why other options are incorrect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rudrasagar Lake (3): This site, located in Tripura, was designated as a Ramsar Site much earlier, on November 8, 2005. • Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary (4): This sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh was added to the Ramsar list on June 29, 2021 (officially announced for World Wetlands Day 2022).
117.	D	<p>Ans: 117 - (d)</p> <p>While all the listed nutrients (Calcium, Nitrogen, Phosphate, Potash) are typically found in low quantities in Laterite soils, the question asks what it is "rich in". This implies a comparison among the given options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nitrogen and Phosphate are almost universally considered severely deficient. • Calcium is also significantly depleted due to acidity.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potash, although deficient, might be relatively less depleted compared to Nitrogen and Phosphate in certain soil profiles or parent materials, or specific forms might be present. In the context of typical agricultural assessments for these soil types, Potash is often cited as a limiting factor but sometimes considered in discussions about relative availability compared to extremely low levels of N and P. Considering the options and the common understanding of Laterite soil limitations, the nutrient that might be relatively considered in discussions of 'richness' (or rather, least severe deficiency among the choices) is Potash.
118.	C	<p>Ans: 118 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The India Meteorological Department (IMD) was officially established by the Government of India on January 15, 1875, to centralize meteorological observations in the country. Consequently, the organization completed 150 years of dedicated service to the nation on January 15, 2025. To commemorate this milestone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 150th Foundation Day celebrations and launched "Mission Mausam" along with a commemorative postage stamp and coin.
119.	C	<p>Ans: 119 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphocytes are the type of white blood cell primarily responsible for producing and secreting large numbers of antibodies during an immune response. Specifically, a subtype known as B-lymphocytes (B-cells) performs this role. When a B-cell encounters a specific antigen, it

		<p>differentiates into a specialized effector cell called a plasma cell. These plasma cells act as "antibody factories," capable of secreting thousands of antibody molecules per second to neutralize pathogens like bacteria and viruses.</p> <p>Why other options are incorrect</p> <p>(a) Neutrophils: These are the most abundant white blood cells and serve as the first line of defense. They primarily fight infection through phagocytosis (engulfing and digesting pathogens) and releasing antimicrobial enzymes, but they do not produce antibodies.</p> <p>(b) Eosinophils: These cells are specialized for combating parasitic infections and are heavily involved in allergic reactions. While they release toxic proteins to destroy invaders, they are not responsible for antibody secretion.</p> <p>(d) Monocytes: These are the largest type of white blood cell. They migrate into tissues to become macrophages or dendritic cells, where they focus on phagocytosis and presenting antigens to other immune cells rather than secreting antibodies.</p>
120.	B	<p>Ans: 120 - (b)</p> <p>The correct option is (b) 1 and 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alaska Current: It is a warm ocean current in the North Pacific Ocean. It flows northward along the west coast of North America and turns westward at the Gulf of Alaska, bringing relatively warmer water from lower latitudes to higher latitudes.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agulhas Current: It is a major warm western boundary current in the South-West Indian Ocean. It transports warm tropical waters from the equatorial Indian Ocean southward along the southeast coast of Africa.
121.	C	<p>Ans: 121 - (c)</p> <p>Statement 1 Analysis: Categories of Soil Formation</p> <p>The first statement asserts that translocation, enrichment, removal, and transformation represent different classifications of soil-forming processes.</p> <p>Let's examine these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation: This process involves the chemical weathering of parent materials and the decomposition and synthesis of organic matter, leading to changes in the soil's mineralogy and organic content. • Translocation: This refers to the physical movement of soil constituents (like clay particles, organic matter, iron, and aluminum oxides) from one soil horizon to another, typically carried by water. • Addition: This involves the incorporation of new materials into the soil profile, such as organic matter inputs from vegetation or atmospheric deposition. • Removal (or Depletion): This process signifies the loss of substances from the soil profile, primarily through leaching by percolating water or surface erosion. <p>While 'enrichment' might be seen as a consequence of translocation or transformation (a concentration of certain elements), the listed terms broadly cover the major ways soil properties are modified over time. Therefore, Statement 1 is considered correct as it identifies key categories of soil forming processes.</p>

Statement 2 Analysis: **Understanding Translocation Mechanisms**

The second statement defines translocation in terms of eluviation and illuviation.

Let's clarify these terms:

- **Eluviation:** This is the process where water percolating through the upper soil layers washes out or dissolves fine particles, such as clay, organic matter, and mineral compounds like iron and aluminum oxides. This often results in lighter-colored **horizons (like the E horizon)**.
- **Illuviation:** Conversely, this is the process where the materials removed by eluviation are deposited and accumulate in the lower soil horizons (typically the B horizon). This often leads to the formation of darker or more distinct layers.
- Translocation is indeed the overall movement of soil components within the profile. Eluviation describes the departure of these components from upper layers, and illuviation describes their arrival and buildup in lower layers. This downward movement is a fundamental aspect of how distinct soil horizons develop. **Hence, Statement 2 accurately describes these processes. Therefore, Statement 2 is correct.**

Final Conclusion

- Based on the analysis, both Statement 1, which correctly identifies major classes of soil-forming processes, and Statement 2, which accurately explains translocation through eluviation and illuviation, are correct. Consequently, the option stating that both are correct is the appropriate choice.

122.	C	<p>Ans: 122 - (c)</p> <p>In the Harappan Civilization, traces of canals have been found at (c) Shortughai.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shortughai: Located in modern-day Afghanistan, this site is the only Harappan settlement where definitive archaeological evidence of ancient irrigation canals has been discovered. Because Shortughai is situated in a semi-arid region near the Oxus River, canal irrigation was essential for supporting agriculture at this trading outpost.• General Pattern: While the Harappans were experts in water management, traces of large-scale canals are absent in the core regions of Punjab and Sindh. This is likely because ancient canals in those river valleys have either silted up over millennia or the inhabitants relied more on seasonal flooding and wells.
123.	D	<p>Ans: 123 - (d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement 1 is incorrect: The first BRIC (later BRICS) Summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, on June 16, 2009. Brazil hosted the second summit in 2010.• Statement 2 is incorrect: India has hosted the BRICS Summit on three occasions (2012, 2016, and 2021), but they were not all held in New Delhi:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2012 (4th Summit): Held in New Delhi.2. 2016 (8th Summit): Held in Goa.3. 2021 (13th Summit): Hosted by India virtually (chaired from New Delhi, but not physically held there).

124.	B	<p>Ans: 124 - (b)</p> <p>The Pitt's India Act of 1784 was enacted by the British Parliament to rectify the defects of the Regulating Act of 1773 and to establish a more effective system of oversight over the East India Company.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of the Board of Control: The Act created a new body called the Board of Control (consisting of six commissioners) to supervise and control the Company's civil, military, and revenue affairs.• Dual System of Control: It introduced a "dual system of governance" where the Court of Directors managed commercial activities, while the Board of Control managed political and administrative matters.• Government Oversight: This marked the first time the British government assumed direct control over the political affairs of the Company in India, officially referring to the territories as "British possessions in India".
125.	C	<p>Ans: 125 - (c)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ramacharita (or Ramacharitam) is a famous example of dvyasrya-kavya (double narrative poetry) written in Sanskrit by the 12th-century poet Sandhyakara Nandi. This literary work is unique because it uses slesha (double entendre) to simultaneously narrate two distinct stories in each verse:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The mythological story of the Ramayana (the life and deeds of Lord Rama).2. The historical account of the Pala King Ramapala of Bengal and the recovery of his ancestral homeland, Varendra, from the Kaivarta rebellion.

