



drishti

## Prelims Refresher Programme: Day 41 (Test-12)

### QUESTION 1:

Which of the following statements is/are correct about Raja Rammohan Roy?

1. He was in the opposition of inter-caste and inter-racial marriages.
2. He established a new religious society based on the twin pillars of 'reason' and 'the Vedas and Upanishads'.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

Raja Rammohan Roy is regarded as the greatest **leader of modern India**. He was against the perceived **polytheism, idolatry and superstitions** of Hinduism whereas he was a firm believer of the Advaita philosophy. He accepted the **concept of one God as propounded by the Upanishads**. For him **God was shapeless, invisible, omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient**.

- Raja Rammohan Roy rejected the caste system. He thought it to be illogical to assess the worth of an individual on the basis of birth and not on his merits. He was in favour of inter-caste and inter-racial marriages, which he thought, could effectively break the barriers of the caste divisions. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- In 1828, he founded a new religious society, the Brahmo Sabha, later known as the Brahmo Samaj, whose purpose was to purify Hinduism and to preach mono-theism or the worship of one God. The new society was based on the twin pillars of 'reason' and 'the Vedas and Upanishads'. It incorporated the teachings of other religions also. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### QUESTION 2:

Who of the following was/were economic critics of colonialism in India?

1. Romesh Chandra Dutt
2. Dadabhai Naoroji
3. Prithwis Chandra Ray

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

The Indian national movement was deeply rooted in an understanding of the nature of colonial economic domination and exploitation. Its early leaders, known as Moderates, were the first to develop an economic critique of colonialism.

- **R.C. Dutt, Dadabhai Naoroji, Prithwis Chandra Ray** etc. analysed every aspect of the colonial economic policies.



- Naoroji in his book Poverty and Un-British Rule in India brought attention to the drain of India's wealth into Britain. Romesh Chandra Dutt published The Economic History of India in which he examined the entire economic record of colonial rule since 1757.
- The Poverty Problem in India: Being a Dissertation on the Causes and Remedies of Indian Poverty was a book published in 1895 by Prithwis Chandra Ray that analyzed various factors that were leading India to become increasingly impoverished under British rule.
- The early leaders understood that the essence of British imperialism lay in the subordination of the Indian economy to the British economy. They delineated the colonial structure in all its three aspects of domination through trade, industry and finance. They organized powerful intellectual agitations against nearly all the important official economic policies. **Hence, option D is correct.**

### QUESTION 3:

Consider the following pairs:

#### Organisation

1. All India Women's Conference
2. Ladies Social Conference
3. Arya Mahila Samaj

#### Leader

- Ramabai Ranade
- Margaret Cousins
- Pandita Ramabai Saraswati

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

**Answer: (b)**

### Explanation

All India Women's Conference (AIWC) was founded by Margaret Cousins in 1927. Its first conference was held at Fergusson College, Pune. Its objective was to work for a society based on principles of social justice, integrity, equal rights etc. The AIWC worked towards various legislative reforms like Sarda Act, Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act, Dowry Prohibition Act etc. **Hence, pair 1 is NOT correctly matched.**

- Ramabai Ranade founded the Ladies Social Conference/ Club, under the parent organisation National Social Conference, in 1904 in Bombay. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Arya Mahila Samaj was founded by Pandita Ramabai Saraswati to serve the cause of women. She pleaded for improvement in the educational syllabus of Indian women before the English Education Commission which was referred to Queen Victoria. This resulted in medical education for women which started in Lady Dufferin college. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

### QUESTION 4:

Consider the following statements regarding Nehru Report:

1. It demanded dominion status instead of complete independence.
2. The report rejected the provision of separate electorates and proposed for joint electorates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

An All-Parties Conference, presided over by Dr. M.A. Ansari, was convened at Bombay in May, 1928 and a committee was constituted under Motilal Nehru's Chairmanship to consider and determine the principles of a constitution for India.

- The Nehru Report confined itself to British India, as it envisaged the future link-up of British India with the princely states on a federal basis. It recommended:
  1. Dominion status on lines of self-governing dominions like Canada, Australia as the form of government desired by Indians. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  2. Rejection of separate electorates which had been the basis of constitutional reforms so far; instead, a demand for joint electorates with reservation of seats for Muslims at the Centre and in provinces where Muslims were in minority with right to contest additional seats. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  3. Linguistic provinces
  4. Fundamental Rights
  5. Complete dissociation of State from religious etc,

### QUESTION 5:

Which of the following were the initial aims and objectives of the Indian National Congress?

1. To create public interest in political questions.
2. To organize mass movement against the British.
3. To develop and propagate anti-colonial nationalist ideology.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

The Indian National Congress was founded by **Allan Octavian Hume in 1885**. The Indian National Congress represented an urge of the politically conscious Indians to set up a national organization to work for their betterment.

**Following were the initial aims and objectives of the Indian National Congress-**

- To start a democratic, nationalist movement;
- Politicise and politically educate people;
- Establish headquarters for a movement;
- Promote friendly relations among nationalist political workers from different parts of the country;
- **Develop and propagate anti-colonial nationalist ideology;**
- Formulate and present popular demands before the government with a view to unifying the people over a common economic and political programme;
- Develop and consolidate a feeling of national unity among people irrespective of religion, caste or province.
- Carefully promote and nurture Indian nationhood.
- **Creation of public interest in political questions.**

Hence, statements 1 and 3 are correct.

- Early national leaders **did not organize mass movements against the British**. Their agenda was the arousal of national feeling, consolidation of this feeling, bringing large numbers of people into the vortex of nationalist politics, and their training in politics and political agitation. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 6:

Consider the following events:

1. Ilbert Bill
2. Royal Titles Act
3. The Vernacular Press Act

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

**Royal Titles Act, 1876:** After the Indian mutiny in 1857, sovereignty in India was transferred to the crown and the governor-general became a viceroy. During the viceroyalty of Lord Lytton, the Royal Titles Act was passed by the Parliament of Britain conferring the title of the 'Empress of India' on the queen. A magnificent Delhi Darbar was organized in 1877 in which queen Victoria was adorned with the title Qaiser-i-Hind.

- **Vernacular Press Act, 1878:** It was introduced by Lord Lytton. By this act, the magistrates of the districts were empowered, without the prior permission of the Government, to call upon a printer and publisher of any local/vernacular newspaper to enter into a Bond, undertaking not to publish anything which might "rouse" feelings of disaffection against the government.
- The magistrate was also authorized to deposit a security, which could be confiscated if the publisher/printer of the newspaper violated the Bond.
- If a publisher/printer repeated the violation, the press could be seized.
- The Vernacular Press Act was later repealed by Lord Ripon in 1882.
- **Ilbert Bill was introduced by Lord Ripon in 1883.** A major agitation was organized during 1883 in favour of the bill which would enable Indian magistrates to try Europeans. This Bill was successfully thwarted by the Europeans. **Hence, option A is correct.**

#### QUESTION 7:

With reference to Champaran Satyagraha, consider the following statements:

1. It resulted in abolishing tinkathia system and released cultivators from the obligation of cultivating Indigo.
2. The Government appointed a committee to enquire the whole issue and Gandhiji was nominated as its member.

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

**Champaran Satyagraha was India's first Civil disobedience movement** launched by Mahatma Gandhi to protest against the injustice meted out to tenant farmers in Champaran district of Bihar. The European planters forced the peasants to grow Indigo on 3/20th part of the total land (called tinkathia system).

- Raj Kumar Shukla persuaded Gandhi ji at Lucknow session in 1916, to come to Champaran and to investigate the problem. Gandhiji, joined by Rajendra Prasad, Mazhar-ul-Haq, Mahadeo Desia, Narhari Parekh, and J.B. Kiplani reached Champaran to probe into the matter and toured the villages to record the statements of peasants.
- Meanwhile, the Government appointed a committee to enquire about the issue, and also nominated Gandhiji as one of its members.
- Gandhiji convinced the authorities that the tinkathia system should be abolished and that the peasants should be compensated for the illegal dues extracted from them as such it resulted in abolishing the tinkathia system and released cultivators from the obligation of cultivating Indigo. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

### QUESTION 8:

Consider the following statements:

1. Syed Ahmed Khan popularized the ideas of the Wahabi movement in India.
2. Wahabi Movement was a revivalist movement which tried to purify Islam by eliminating all the un-Islamic practices.
3. Wahabi's played an important role in the revolt of 1857 in spreading anti-British feelings.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- Wahabi Movement was an Islamic movement aimed at establishment of Dar-ul-Islam (land of Islam). It was popularized by Shah Abdul Aziz and Syed Ahmed Bareilvi in India. Syed Ahmed Khan was the founder of Aligarh Movement. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Wahabi Movement was a revivalist movement which tried to purify Islam by eliminating all the un-Islamic practices. The teachings of Abdul Wahab of Arabia and the preachings of Shah Waliullah inspired this essentially revivalist response to Western influences and the degeneration which had set in among Indian Muslims and called for a return to the spirit of Islam. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Initially, the movement was directed at the Sikhs in Punjab but after the British annexation of Punjab (1849), the movement was directed against the British. During the Revolt of 1857, Wahabi's played an important role in spreading anti-British feelings. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Syed Ahmed condemned all accretions to and innovations in Islam and advocated a return to the pure Islam.
- India was considered to be dar-ul-Harb ( land of the kafirs) and it needed to be converted to dar-ul-Islam (land of Islam).

### QUESTION 9:

Which of the following was/were not the outcomes of Congress Nagpur Session of 1920?

1. A congress working committee of 15 members was set up to look after day to day affairs.
2. It committed the Congress to a programme of extra-constitutional mass struggle.
3. C.R Das and Motilal Nehru resigned from the presidentship and secretaryship respectively from the Congress.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

In **Nagpur Session (December 1920)** C.R Das moved the main resolution of Non-Cooperation. Gandhiji declared that if the non-cooperation programme was implemented completely, swaraj would be ushered in within a year.

- In Nagpur Session some organizational changes were made like, a Congress working committee of 15 members was set up to lead the Congress from now onwards, provincial congress committee on linguistic basis were organised, ward committee was organised, and entry fee was reduced to four annas. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- An important change was made in the Congress, instead of having the attainment of self-government through constitutional means as its goal, the Congress decided to have the attainment of swaraj through peaceful and legitimate means, thus committed itself to an extra-constitutional mass struggle. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - At this stage, some leaders like Ali Jinnah, Annie Besant, G.K Kharpade and B.C Pal left the congress as they believed in a constitutional and lawful struggle.
- It was the Gaya Session(1922), when the difference over the question of council entry between the two schools of thought resulted in the defeat of the Swarajists. As a result C.R Das and Motilal Nehru resigned from presidentship and secretaryship respectively from the Congress and announced formation of Congress-Khilafat Swarajya Party. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

### QUESTION 10:

Consider the following statements with reference to Non-Cooperation Movement:

1. According to a resolution passed by the Congress Working Committee it was religiously unlawful for the Muslims to continue in the British Army.
2. The Congress granted permission to the provincial congress committee to sanction mass civil disobedience.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

- The Non-Cooperation movement was the first mass movement organized by Gandhiji in 1920. Lord Chelmsford was the viceroy of British India during the Non-Cooperation Movement. CR Das passed the main resolution on Non- Cooperation Movement during the annual session of the Congress in Nagpur of 1920. The programme of non- cooperation included-
  - Boycott of government schools and colleges,
  - Boycott of legislative councils and law courts
  - Boycott of foreign cloth and use of khadi instead,
  - Renunciation of government honours and titles etc,
- In 1921, Mohammed Ali at the All India khilafat Conference declared that it was 'religiously unlawful for the Muslims to continue in the British Army'. As a result, Mohammed Ali was immediately arrested. The next day, the Congress Working Committee passed a similar resolution and held meetings at which the same resolution was passed. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Congress granted permission to the provincial congress committee to sanction mass civil disobedience wherever they thought the people were ready. In areas, such as Midnapur district in Bengal, a movement against Union Board Taxes has already been started. Provincial congress committees were allowed to ratify mass civil disobedience and not to ban. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 11:

Consider the following statements:

1. Lord Buddha gave his sermons in pali.
2. Buddhist literature is available in both Pali and Sanskrit languages.

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

**Answer: (c)**

#### Explanation

- **Pali and Prakrit** were the spoken languages of Indians after the Vedic period. Prakrit in the widest sense of the term, was indicative of any language that in any manner deviated from the standard one, i.e. Sanskrit.
- **Pali is archaic Prakrit.** In fact, Pali is a combination of various dialects. These were adopted by Buddhist and Jain sects in ancient India as their sacred languages. Lord Buddha (500 B.C.) used Pali to give his sermons. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- All the Buddhist canonical literature is in Pali which includes **Tipitaka (threefold basket)**. Buddhist literature is also **abundantly available in Sanskrit**, which includes the great epic Buddhacharita by Aswaghosha (78 A.D.). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 12:

With reference to the Lion-Capital at Sarnath, consider the following statements:

1. It is built in commemoration of the Dhamma Chakra Pravartan by the Buddha.
2. The entire image of lion-capital is adopted as the National Emblem of Independent India.

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

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



- (c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- The **Lion-Capital at Sarnath** was built by Ashoka in commemoration of the historical event of the first sermon, the Dhamma Chakra Pravartan by the Buddha at Sarnath. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The capital originally consisted of five component parts:
  - The shaft
  - A lotus bell base,
  - A drum on the bell base with four animals proceeding clockwise.
  - The figures of four majestic lions, and
  - The crowning element, Dhammachakra, a large wheel.
- The **capital is not wholly adopted as the National Emblem** of Independent India. The crowning wheel and the lotus base are left aside and the rest modified components of this capital are adopted as the Nation Emblem. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

### QUESTION 13:

With reference to the schools of Indian philosophies, consider the following statements:

1. The school of Nyaya believes that clear thinking and logical argument are the essential means of the highest bliss.
2. Shankaracharya, who introduced the “Doctrine of advaitvad”, was the exponent of Vedanta.

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

There are six schools of philosophies found in Hinduism. These are:

#### 1. Nyaya:

- It believed in the analysis.
- Logic was taken as the means of salvation.
- It propounded that clear thinking and logical argument are essential means to the highest bliss. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It gave religious basis to the system of reasoning.

#### 2. Vaishesika:

- It was interested in the physical universe.
- **Uluka Kanad**, the greatest teacher of this school introduced the theory of atoms.
- It connotes that atoms are distinct from the soul.
- Each individual has its own characteristics (visesas) which distinguish it from the four non-atomic substances (dravyas) which are time, space, soul and mind.
- It postulated a dualism of matter and soul.

#### 3. Sankhya:





- It was founded by Kapila, but the earliest surviving text of the system **Sankhyakarika** belongs to Isvara Krsna.
- It resembles Jainism in its rigid dualism and fundamental atheism.
- It teaches the existence of twenty five basic principles and also introduces the “doctrine of gunas”- sattva (virtue), rajas (passion) and tamas (dullness).

#### 4. Yoga:

- It deals with “spiritual discipline”.
- It emphasised psychic training as the chief means of salvation.
- The basic text of this school is the **Yoga Sutra of Patanjali**.
- The course of training is divided into eight stages- Self control (Yama), observance (niyam), posture (asana), control of the breath (pranayam), restraint (pratyahara), steadying the mind (dharana), meditation (dhyana), and deep meditation (samadhi).

#### 5. Mimamsa:

- It was based on enquiry, and hence was more a school of exposition than salvation.
- Its original purpose was to explain the Vedas
- The earliest work of this school is **Sutras of Jaimini**, which shows that the Vedas are eternal, self-existent and wholly authoritative.
- **Sabarashvamin** was the greatest scholar of **Mimamsa** who said a lot about law.

#### 6. Vedanta:

- It is called Uttara Mimamsa, which produced the characteristic feature of modern intellectual Hinduism.
- The basic text of the system is the **Brahma Sutra** of **Badarayana**.
- The Doctrine of **Vedanta** is based on **Upanishads**.
- Its greatest exponent was **Shankaracharya**, who introduced the theory of **advaitvad** (“allowing no second”, i.e., monism) or **kewal adwaita** (strict monism). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 14:

As per Bhakti tradition of Southern India, Alvars were:

- (a) Devotees of Shiva
- (b) Devotees of Vishnu
- (c) Temple Dancers
- (d) Moneylenders

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

- The Bhakti movement in Tamil Nadu started during the sixth century C.E. Some of the earliest devotees were called the Alvars and the Nayanars.
- **Alvars were the devotees of Vishnu** while Nayanars were the ones who were devotees of Shiva.
- They travelled from place to place singing hymns in Tamil in praise of their gods.
- During their travels the Alvars and Nayanars identified certain shrines as abodes of their chosen deities; large temples were later built at these sacred places.
- They hailed from diverse social backgrounds ranging from Brahmans to artisans and cultivators and even from castes considered untouchable.
- They initiated a movement of protest against the caste system and the dominance of Brahmins. **Hence, option B is correct.**

### QUESTION 15:

Consider the following statements regarding Harshavardhana:

1. His biography 'Harshacharita' was written by Banabhatta.
2. He took steps to publicize the doctrines of Hinayana.

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

- **Harshavardhana**, an Indian emperor ruled North India from 606 to 647 CE. He made Kanauj his seat of power and extended his authority in all directions.
- **Hiuen Tsang**, a Chinese traveller and **Banabhatta**, his court poet, have given detailed accounts of Harsha's reign. According to Hiuen Tsang, king Harshavardhana had an efficient government. Banabhatta wrote Harsha's famous biography, Harshacharita as well as the literary piece Kadambari. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Harsha governed his empire on the same lines as did the Guptas, but his administration had become feudal and decentralized. Land grants continued to be made to priests for special services rendered to the state.
- According to the Chinese pilgrim, **Hiuen Tsang Harsha's** revenues were divided into four parts. One part was earmarked for the expenditure of the king, a second for scholars, a third for the endowment of officials and public servants, and a fourth for religious purposes.
- Harsha followed a tolerant religious policy. A Shaiva in his early years, he gradually became a great patron of Buddhism. **As a devout Buddhist he convened a grand assembly at Kannauj to widely publicize the doctrines of Mahayana and not Hinayana. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

### QUESTION 16:

Consider the following statements:

1. The occurrences of solar eclipse and lunar eclipse were explained by Aryabhatta.
2. "Meghdutam" is the lyrical composition by Kalidas.

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

- The Gupta period witnessed a brilliant activity in the sphere of mathematics, astronomy, astrology and medicine.
- **Aryabhatta** was a great mathematician and astronomer of this period who wrote "Aryabhatiya" in 499 A.D., which dealt with mathematics and astronomy. It scientifically explained the occurrences of solar and lunar eclipse. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The court of Chandragupta-II was adorned by the celebrated navaratnas, among which Kalidas



remains the foremost. He wrote some plays like “Abhijnana Shakuntalam”, “Malavikagnimitram” and “Vikromorvasiyam”. His two well-known epics are- “Raghuvansham” and “Kumarasambhavam”.

- **“Ritusamhara” and “Meghdutam”** are his two lyrical compositions. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- One among these prominent poets was Bharavi, who was known for his special handling of the meaning of words. His **“Kiratarjuniyam”** narrates the story of the conflict between Arjuna and Shiva.

#### QUESTION 17:

Consider the following statements:

1. Vimana, ardha mandapa, maha mandapa and nandi mandapa are the chief characteristics of Brihadeshwara Temple of Tanjore built by Rajaraja-I.
2. Vesara style of architecture was developed by Cholas.

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

- Cholas adopted the Dravidian style of art and architecture. The chief feature of the Chola temple is vimana.
- The Big Temple (Brihadeshwara) at Tanjore built by Rajaraj-I is a master-piece of South Indian art and architecture. It consists of Vimana, Ardha Mandapa, Maha Mandapa and a large pavilion in the front known as Nandi Mandapa. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **vesara style** of architecture was developed by **Chalukyas**, who were great patron of art and architecture. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- This style of architecture reached its zenith only under the Rashtrakutas and Hoysalas. The structural temples of Chalukyas exist in Aihole, Badami and Pattadakal.

#### QUESTION 18:

Consider the following statements about ‘Mardani Khel’:

1. It is a martial art indigenous to the Marwar region of Rajasthan.
2. It is practiced only by women.
3. It is a weapon-based martial art form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

- ‘Mardani Khel’ is a martial art indigenous to the Kolhapur region of Maharashtra. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- This martial art form is characterized with use of weapons such as swords, katyar (dagger), and lathi-kathi (bamboo sticks), veeta (darts), bhala (javelin) and dand and patta (long-bladed swords).



It is, therefore, a weapon-based martial art form. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- The weapons and tactics in Mardani Khel flourished during the Marathas rule.
- This art form is practiced by men, women as well as children. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 19:

Consider the following pairs;

Festival	State
1. Hori Habba	Karnataka
2. Goura Gouri	Uttarakhand
3. Surti	Chhattisgarh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

**Answer: (b)**

#### Explanation

- **'Hori Habba', is a popular bull-catching event in Karnataka.** It is held during the harvest season. It is an ancient folk game native to Haveri district, and played on the lines of Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu and Kambala in Dakshina Kannada district. **Hence, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Goura - Gauri festival celebrates the pastoral life of the people of Chhattisgarh. The gathering sees the rituals of 'gedi', 'raut nacha' and 'panthi nritya' in the traditional attire.
  - Gedi is a form of dance of the Gond people, who are spread widely throughout Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and is one of India's prominent tribal groups. **Hence, Pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Surti, Hareli, Pola and Teeja are some other festivals of the state of Chhattisgarh. **Hence, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

#### QUESTION 20:

With respect to Ecological-Flow norms for Ganga river, consider the following statements:

1. These were notified by the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. These ensure that the river has the minimum required environmental flow even after the river flow gets diverted.

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

**Answer: (b)**

#### Explanation

- A river's **Ecological-Flow (e-flow)** is the quantity and timing of water that is essential for the river to perform its ecological functions and also important from the social and cultural standpoint.
- Recently, the Central Government under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** has notified that the **minimum environmental flows** for the River Ganga have to be maintained at various locations

on the river. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Ecological-Flow Norms ensure that the river has the minimum required environmental flow of water even after the river flow gets diverted by projects and structures for purposes like irrigation, hydropower, domestic and industrial use etc. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### QUESTION 21:

With reference to 'Medicine science' in ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The earliest mention of medicines has been found in the Atharva Veda.
2. For the treatment of diseases, Sushruta lays special stress on diet and cleanliness.
3. Charaka Samhita is useful for the study of flora and chemistry.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

- The ancient Indian physicians studied anatomy. They devised methods to diagnose diseases and prescribed medicines for their cure. The earliest mention of medicines is to be found in the **Atharva Veda**, but, as in other ancient societies, the remedies recommended were replete with magical charms and spells, and medicine was not developed along scientific lines. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In the second century AD, India produced two famous scholars of Ayurveda, **Sushruta and Charaka**. In the Sushruta Samhita, Sushruta describes the method of operating cataract, stone disease, and several other ailments. He mentions as many as 121 implements to be used for surgery. In the treatment of disease, he lays special stress on diet and cleanliness. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Charaka's **Charaka Samhita** is like an encyclopaedia of Indian medicine. It describes various types of fever, leprosy, hysteria (mirgi), and tuberculosis. Possibly Charaka was not aware that some of these are infectious. His book contains the names of a large number of plants and herbs that could be used as medicines. The book is thus useful not only for the study of Indian medicine but also for that of ancient Indian flora and chemistry. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### QUESTION 22:

With reference to the administration of the Mauryan empire, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The sannidhata was the highest officer-in-charge of assessment and collection of revenue.
2. Ashoka appointed dhamma mahamatras to propagate dharma among various social groups.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

The Great span of Mauryan empire relied on large number of officials for management of large empire:-

- As agents of the king, the officials had the responsibility to take care of the people. **Ashoka appointed dhamma mahamatras to propagate dharma among various social groups, including women.** He also appointed Rajukas for the administration of justice in his empire; they were vested with the authority not only to reward people but also to punish them when necessary. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The administrative mechanism was backed by an elaborate system of espionage. Various types of spies collected intelligence about foreign enemies and kept an eye on numerous officers. They also promoted superstitious practices to collect money from credulous people.
- Important functionaries were called tirthas.
- Most of the functionaries were paid in cash, the highest among whom, the minister (Mantrin), the high priest (purohita), commander-in-chief (Senapati) and crown prince (Yuvaraja), were paid generously.
- The Maurya period constitutes a landmark in the system of taxation in ancient India, the Mauryas attached greater importance to tax assessment than to storage and deposit. The samaharta was the highest officer in charge of assessment and collection of revenue, and the sannidhata was the chief custodian of the state treasury and storehouse. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 23:

With reference to Indo-Greek rule in ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Greeks introduced Hellenistic art in the northwest frontier of India.
2. Even before Indo-Greeks, the Kushans were the first to issue gold coins in India.
3. 'Milinda Panho' is a question and answer discourse between Buddhist monk Nagasena and Greek king Menander.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

- The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was Menander (165–45 BC), also known as Milinda. He had his capital at Sakala (modern Sialkot) in the Punjab; and invaded the Ganga–Yamuna doab. He was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena, who is also known as Nagarjuna. Menander asked Nagasena many questions relating to Buddhism. These questions and Nagasena's answers were recorded in the form of a book known as Milinda Panho or the Questions of Milinda. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Indo-Greek rule is important in the history of India because of the large number of coins that the Greeks issued. The Indo-Greeks were the first rulers in India to issue coins that can be definitively attributed to particular kings. The Indo-Greeks were also the first to issue gold coins in India, and these increased in number under the Kushans. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Greek rule introduced features of Hellenistic art in the north-west frontier of India, but this was not purely Greek but the outcome of Greek contact with non-Greek conquered peoples after Alexander's death. The best example of this was Gandhara art. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 24:



With reference to Language and Literature in ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Greek, Prakrit, and Sanskrit languages were in prevalence during the Kushan period.
2. Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman was written in the kavya style.
3. 'Buddhacharita', biography of the Buddha was written in Prakrit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (b)**

### Explanation

#### Language, Literature, in Ancient India

- The Kushans were conscious of the fact that the people used various scripts and languages in their dominions, and therefore issued their coins and inscriptions in the Greek, Kharoshthi, and Brahmi scripts.
- Similarly, they used Greek, Prakrit, and Sanskrit-influenced Prakrit, and towards the end of their rule pure Sanskrit. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The rulers thus officially recognized three scripts and four languages and Kushana coins and inscriptions suggest the commingling and coexistence of different scripts and languages. The Kushan method of communicating with the people also indicates literacy in their times.
- Mauryas and Satavahanas patronized Prakrit, some Central Asian princes patronized and cultivated Sanskrit literature. The earliest specimen of the kavya style is found in the Junagadh inscription of Rudradaman in Kathiawar in about AD 150. From then onwards, inscriptions began to be composed in chaste Sanskrit, although the use of Prakrit in composing inscriptions continued till the fourth century and even later. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Ashvaghosha enjoyed the patronage of the Kushans, he wrote the Buddhcharita, which is a biography of the Buddha and is a fine example of Sanskrit kavya. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

### QUESTION 25:

With reference to 'Avadanas' in ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. These are texts on the life history and teachings of Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Mahavastu and Divyavadana are important books of this genre.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (c)**

### Explanation

- The development of Mahayana Buddhism led to the composition of numerous **avadanas**; these are texts on life history and teachings of Buddhism.
- Most of these texts were composed in what is now known as Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit with the sole objective of communicating the teachings of Mahayana Buddhism to the people.



- Examples of important books of this genre were **Mahavastu and Divyavadana. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Divyavadana comprises 38 legends, including some about the great Buddhist emperor Ashoka. The most famous and largest work is classified as Mahavastu, it includes miraculous events in the life and former lives of the Buddha.

#### QUESTION 26:

Consider the following statements regarding the Satavahana phase:

1. Satavahana Kings excavated cave temples and monasteries along the Western Coast of India and erected several Buddhist stupas.
2. They were the first rulers to make land grants to brahmanas.
3. The districts were called as ahara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (d)**

#### Explanation

- The Satavahanas, were the political successors of the Mauryas in the Deccan and ruled from Dhanyakataka (Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh) approximately from 2nd century B.C – 2nd century A.D.
- The most famous Satavahana king, Gautamiputra Satakarni described himself as brahmana and claimed to have established the four fold varna system. The Satavahanas were also the first rulers to make land grants to brahmanas. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The most interesting detail about the Satavahanas relates to their family structure. They show traces of a matrilineal social structure. It was customary for their king to be named after his mother ex. Gautamiputra and Vashishti Putra. However, the Satavahana ruling family was basically patriarchal because succession to the throne passed to male members.
- The Satavahanas retained some administrative structures of Ashokan times. They studded their empire with several splendid monuments which were richly embellished.
- **They excavated cave temples and monasteries along the Western Coast of India and erected several Buddhist stupas. Their district was called ahara**, as it was known in the time of Ashoka, and their officials were known as amatyas and mahamatras, as was the case in Maurya times. However, their administrative divisions were also called rashtra, and their high officials were known as maharashtrians. **Hence, statement 1 and 3 are correct.**

#### QUESTION 27:

The term 'Dhammaghosha' mentioned in Major Rock Edict, is related to:

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Chandragupta Maurya
- (c) Udayin
- (d) Gautamiputra Satakarni

**Answer: (a)**

#### Explanation

- The ideology of Buddhism guided Ashoka's state policy at home and abroad. After his accession to

the throne, Ashoka fought only one major war called the Kalinga war.

- Ashoka was deeply moved by the massacre in this war, the war caused great suffering to the brahmana priests and Buddhist monks, and this, in turn, brought upon Ashoka much grief and remorse.
- He, therefore, abandoned the policy of physical occupation in favour of one of cultural conquest. It was in keeping with this policy, that he stopped the beating of war drums (Bherighosha) and replaced it with Dhammaghosha. The details are mentioned in the Thirteenth Major Rock Edict of Ashoka.

Hence, option A is correct.

#### QUESTION 28:

With reference to 'Kalabhra Revolt' in ancient India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Kalabhras are tribal people who captured power, by defeating the Cholas and other neighbouring contemporaries in the sixth century.
2. The revolt was directed against the existing social and political order in south India at that time.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c)

#### Explanation

##### The Kalabhra Revolt

- After the eclipse of the Cholas, the Cheras, and the Pandyas, the only important event is a revolt led by the **Kalabhras in the sixth century**. The Kalabhras were tribal people who captured power, particularly by **defeating the Cholas**, and ruled for seventy five years. Their rule **also affected the Pallavas** as well as their neighbouring contemporaries. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Kalabhras are called **evil rulers**, who overthrew innumerable kings and established their hold on the Tamil land. The Kalabhra revolt was a powerful peasant protest directed against the landed brahmanas. They put an end to the brahmadeya rights(land grants) granted to the brahmanas in numerous villages. It appears that the Kalabhras were of Buddhist persuasion as they patronized Buddhist monasteries.
- The Kalabhras' revolt was so widespread that it could be quelled only through the joint efforts of the Pandyas, the Pallavas, and the Chalukyas of Badami. By the last quarter of the sixth century, according to a tradition, the Kalabhras had imprisoned the Chola, the Pandya, and the Chera kings, which underlines how formidable their revolt was.
- The confederacy of the kings formed against the Kalabhras, who had revoked the land grants made to the brahmanas, shows that the revolt was **directed against the existing social and political order in south India**. The **Sangam texts** tell us that villages were granted to the warriors by the chief for their acts of bravery. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 29:

With reference to Literature during Gupta Era, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Amarakosha is a Sanskrit lexicon compiled by Patanjali.
2. Mrichchhakatika by Shudraka is a love story.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

- (c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

### Explanation

#### Literature

- The Gupta period is remarkable for the production of secular literature, which consisted of a fair degree of ornate court poetry. Bhasa was an important poet he wrote in Sanskrit, and was the author of a drama called Daridra charudatta, which was later refashioned as **Mrichchhakatika or the Little Clay Cart by Shudraka**.
  - The play deals with the **love affair of a poor brahmana trader with a beautiful courtesan**, and is considered one of the best works of ancient drama. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Gupta period is particularly famous for the work of Kalidasa, He was the greatest poet of classical Sanskrit literature and wrote Abhijnanashakuntalam which is very highly regarded in world literature. It relates the love story of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala, whose son Bharata appears as a famous ruler.
- The plays produced in India during the Gupta period have two common features. First, they are all comedies; no tragedies are found. Secondly, characters of the higher and lower classes do not speak the same language; women and shudras featuring in these plays use Prakrit whereas the higher classes use Sanskrit.
- The Gupta period also saw the development of **Sanskrit grammar** based on the work of **Panini and Patanjali**. This period is particularly memorable for the **compilation of Amarakosha by Amarasimha**, who was a luminary in the court of Chandragupta II. This lexicon is learnt by heart by students learning Sanskrit in the traditional way. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 30:

With reference to administration during Gupta Era, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The most important officers in the Gupta Empire were the Kumaramatyas.
2. The empire was divided into divisions called vishayas, which were placed under the charge of a vishayapati.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a)

### Explanation

- In the Gupta bureaucracy the most important officers in the Gupta empire were the **kumaramatyas**. They were appointed by the king for administration in the home provinces and possibly paid in cash. As the Guptas were possibly vaishyas, recruitment was not confined to the upper varnas only, but several offices were combined in the hands of the same person, and posts became hereditary. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This naturally weakened royal control. The Guptas organized a system of provincial and local administration. The empire was **divided into divisions called bhuktis**, and each bhukti was placed under the charge of an **uparika**. The bhuktis were divided into **districts (vishayas)**, which were placed under the charge of a vishayapati. In eastern India, the vishayas were divided into vithis, which again

were subdivided into villages. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

### QUESTION 31:

With respect to Archaea, consider the following statements:

1. These are a primitive group of microorganisms found in extreme habitats.
2. They are not associated with humans in any forms.

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

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- **Archaea (singular archaeon)** are a primitive group of microorganisms that thrive in extreme habitats such as hot springs, cold deserts and hypersaline lakes. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- These organisms are present in the human gut and have a potential relationship with human health. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
  - They are known for **producing antimicrobial molecules** and for antioxidant activity with applications in eco-friendly waste-water treatment.
  - Scientists all over the world are working on the taxonomy of archaea but the studies on archaea are outnumbered and very little is known about how archaea behave in the human body.
  - Based on mandatory genome analysis, researchers found that the organism has potential gene clusters that help maintain the metabolism of the archaea to survive in extremely harsh conditions.
  - This particular organism also harbours **specific pathways** for DNA replication, recombination and repair.
- Recently, scientists at the National Centre for Microbial Resource under National Centre for Cell Science (NCCR-NCCS) in Pune have reported a new archaeon, which they discovered in **Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan**.
- The new archaeon has been named *Natrialba swarupiae*, after Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary of the Department of Biotechnology, for her initiative in supporting microbial diversity studies in the country.

### QUESTION 32:

Recently in news, the 'Peace Forest Initiative' has been launched by?

- (a) South Korea  
(b) India  
(c) Brazil  
(d) Bhutan

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

- The **Peace Forest Initiative** is an initiative of **South Korea** to use ecological restoration as a peace-building process. It aims at addressing the issue of land degradation in conflict-torn border areas and would go a long way in alleviating tensions and building trust between communities living there and between enemy countries in particular.
- A global initiative to promote peace through land restoration was signed today by the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** and the **Korea Forest Service (KFS)**.

- The initiative was launched at the UNCCD COP14 in New Delhi.
- Hence, option A is correct.

### QUESTION 33:

Consider the following statements:

1. Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) were created by Dhebar Commission.
2. The highest number of vulnerable PTGs are found in Odisha.

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

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

Answer: (d)

### Explanation

- In India, tribal population makes up for **8.6% of the total population**.
- **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.** Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)** as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics - they are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change etc.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar including Jharkhand (9) Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh (7) Tamil Nadu (6) Kerala and Gujarat having five groups each. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

### QUESTION 34:

'Willingdon island', the largest artificial island of India is located in?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Assam
- (d) Gujarat

Answer: (a)

### Explanation

- **Willingdon Island** is a seaport located in the city of **Kochi, Kerala**.
- It is the **largest man-made/artificial island** of India and is surrounded by backwaters (a part of a river in which there is little or no current).
- It was carved out of **Vembanad Lake** and is connected via road and rail. The island is connected to the mainland by the Venduruthy Bridge.
- It is a major commercial centre and is home to the Kochi Naval Base of the Indian Navy, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the Port of Kochi.
- It was named after the Viceroy Lord Willingdon and was created artificially in 1936 during his rule

to improve the trade relations of British India with the rest of the world.

- Hence, option A is correct.

#### QUESTION 35:

With reference to the 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India', consider the following statements:

1. It documents the concentration and distribution of the chemical elements in the soils.
2. It was released for the first time in 2019 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

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

Answer: (c)

#### Explanation

- The Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India aims to document the **concentration and distribution of the chemical elements in the soils of India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - It consists of 44 maps of metals, oxides, and elements present in top and bottom soils across India.
- **CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI)** has released the first 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India' for environmental management in 2019. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
  - It will help the country to assess the presence of toxic chemicals in soil and how it varies from place to place. It also helps in identifying how soil pollution is contributing to groundwater contamination
  - Further, the map will also support in choosing the right soil that's rich in certain micronutrient elements required for each plant growth.
  - The geochemical data presented in these maps will be a part of the global map to be prepared by the **International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGC).**

#### QUESTION 36:

Deaucha Panchami coal block, recently seen in the news is located in which of the Indian states?

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) Odisha
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Chhattisgarh

Answer: (c)

#### Explanation

- **Deaucha Panchami coal block** of Birbhum Coalfield Area is **World's Second Largest Coal Block** situated in **West Bengal. Hence, option C is correct.**
- This coal mine is the **largest coal mine or coal block in Asia**, due to the number of coal reserves. It is the **newest coal mine in West Bengal.**
- **The proposed mining project at Birbhum coalfield Area has been recently in the news due to expected environmental concerns and displacement of the people from the same area.**

#### QUESTION 37:

Which of the following countries are the members of Benelux Union?

1. Belgium
2. Luxembourg
3. Norway
4. Netherlands

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (d)**

#### Explanation

- The **Benelux Union**, also known as simply Benelux, is a **politico-economic union** and formal international intergovernmental cooperation of three neighboring states in **western Europe: Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg**.
- In 1958, the Treaty of the Benelux Economic Union was signed; it became operative in 1960.
  - Benelux became the first completely free international labour market; the movement of capital and services was also made free.
  - Postal and transport rates were standardized, and welfare policies were coordinated. In 1970 border controls were abolished.
- **Hence, option D is correct.**

#### QUESTION 38:

Hajong, Koch, and Rabha tribes are predominantly found in which region of India?

- (a) West Himalayan region
- (b) Western Ghats region
- (c) Chhota Nagpur Plateau region
- (d) North-Eastern Region

**Answer: (d)**

#### Explanation

- The five minor tribes namely **Bodo-Kachari, Hajong, Koch, Mann, and Rabha** are clubbed together as 'unrepresented tribes' for nomination in Meghalaya's autonomous tribal councils.
  - These minor tribes are indigenous to Meghalaya and have been living in the state much before its creation in 1972.
  - These tribal councils are in the names of Garo, Jaintia, and Khasi district councils, that form the State's three major autonomous councils (predominantly the matrilineal communities).
- These minor tribes predominantly reside in the **North-Eastern states of India** like Assam, Meghalaya, etc. **Hence, option D is correct.**

#### QUESTION 39:

Consider the following statements:

- (a) Qubit is the computation unit of Quantum computers.
- (b) Quantum computers are slower as compared to supercomputers.

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

- **Quantum computers** are different from binary digital electronic computers that are based on transistors (a semiconductor device used to amplify or switch electronic signals and electrical power).
  - The common digital computing requires the data to be **encoded into binary digits (bits), each of which is always in one of two definite states (0 or 1).**
  - Quantum computers perform computation using quantum bits (**qubits**). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Supercomputers are slower than the quantum computers.** For example, the quantum computer took 200 seconds to perform a calculation that would have been accomplished in 10,000 years by one of the world's **fastest supercomputers 'Summit'.** **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

### QUESTION 40:

With reference to the Bombay blood group, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare blood group that is deficient in antigen H.
2. The individuals with the Bombay blood group can only be transfused blood from individuals having hh blood.

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

- Under **the ABO blood group system**, blood group are classified into four common blood groups i.e. **A, B, AB and O.**
  - Each Red Blood Cell (RBC) has antigen over its surface, which helps determine which group it belongs to.
  - For instance, in the AB blood group, both antigens A and B are found. A will have A antigens; B will have B antigens. In O, there are no A or B antigens.
- The **Bombay blood group (also called hh)**, is deficient in expressing antigen H.
  - It means the RBC of Bombay blood group **has no antigen H. Hence, statement 1 is correct**
  - Often the hh blood group is confused with the O group. The difference between the both is that the **O group has Antigen H**, while the Bombay group does not.
  - The rare Bombay blood group was first discovered in Mumbai (then Bombay) in 1952 by Dr Y M Bhende.
- The individuals with Bombay blood group can only be transfused blood from individuals of Bombay hh phenotype only, which is very rare to find.
  - In India, one person in 7,600 to 10,000 is born with this type.
  - Due to the rarity of the Bombay blood group, patients face problems during a blood transfusion, often leading to death due to non-availability of hh blood. Rejection may occur if they receive

blood from A, B, AB or O blood group. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 41:

With reference to the recently launched Mani- app, consider the following statements?

1. It helps the visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes.
2. It accurately authenticates a currency note as being either genuine or counterfeit.

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched a mobile app- Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI) to **help visually-impaired people to identify the denomination of currency notes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Some of the features of this app are:
  - It is capable of identifying the denominations of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series banknote by checking front or reverse side/part of the note including half folded notes at various holding angles and broad range of light conditions (normal light/day light/low light/ etc.).
  - It could identify the denomination through audio notification in Hindi/English and non-sonic mode such as vibration (suitable for those with vision and hearing impairment).
  - After installation, the mobile application does not require internet and works in offline mode.
  - This mobile application **does not authenticate a currency note as being either genuine or counterfeit. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**

#### QUESTION 42:

With reference to criteria of vulnerability of language recognized by UNESCO, consider the following statements:

1. A language is categorised as definitely endangered if the children no longer learn the language as mother tongue in the home.
2. None of the Indian languages have been recognised as critically endangered.

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

##### Government of India On Languages:

The Government of India currently defines a language as one that is marked by a script and effectively neutering oral languages. Therefore, the government recognizes 122 languages which is far lower than the 780 counted by the People's Linguistic Survey of India (along with a further 100 suspected to exist).



This discrepancy is caused primarily because the Government of India doesn't recognise any language with less than 10,000 speakers. **UNESCO has recognised 42 Indian languages as Critically Endangered.** **Criteria adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** a language becomes extinct when nobody speaks or remembers the language. UNESCO has categorized languages on basis of endangerment as follows:-

#### QUESTION 43:

With reference to the Swachh Survekshan 2020 report, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. This survey was conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
2. It is evaluated annually on basis of monthly updation of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban.
3. West Bengal was among the top five performing states in the category of cleanliness.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the results of the first (April-June) and second (July- September) quarters of **Swachh Survekshan 2020**.
- Swachh Survekshan 2020 is the **5<sup>th</sup> edition** of the annual urban cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Swachh Survekshan 2020 is evaluated for **each quarter (and NOT annually)** on the basis of monthly updation of **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)** online Management Information System (MIS) by cities along with citizen's validation on the 12 service level progress indicators. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
- Ranks for Swachh Survekshan 2020 have been assigned based on the population in two categories of the cities : 1 lakh and above with sub-categories of 1-10 lakh and 10 lakhs and above and Less than 1 lakh (under this category, the rankings are given zone and population-wise).
- It includes five zones namely, North, East, Northeast, South and West.

#### Findings of the report:

- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) have topped the cleanliness charts for two consecutive quarters among cities with over 10 lakh population and with 1 lakh to 10 lakh population respectively.
- Kolkata ranked at the bottom of the ranking of 49 major cities across both quarters as West Bengal did not participate in the nationwide exercise. **Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.**
- Among cantonment boards, Tamil Nadu's St.Thomas Mount Cantt was ranked 1st in quarter 1 whereas Delhi Cantt ranked first in the 2nd quarter. Secunderabad Cantonment Board in Hyderabad is the worst performer among other cantonment boards.

#### QUESTION 44:

With reference to Yakshagana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a theatre tradition prevalent mainly in the state of Kerala.
2. It is strongly influenced by the Bhakti movement.

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

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Recently, the Yakshagana committee hosted the 60th annual Yakshagana in the Padmanur village, Karnataka. It is a multi-faith committee consisting of Hindus, Christians and Muslims and it hosts Yakshagana every year.

#### Yakshagana

- It is perhaps the oldest theatre tradition, which is prevalent till date in the regions of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**
- It originated in the royals courts of the Vijaynagar empire and was performed by a
- a particular community known as Jakkula Varu.
- Originally, it was largely a descriptive dance-drama enacted by a single artist. Later forms adopted further variations and became a typical dance drama. Some of the popular variants of Yakshagana are Lalita in Maharashtra, Bhavai in Gujarat and Gandharva Gana in Nepal.
- Yakshagana is strongly influenced by the **Bhakti movement**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### Other Similar Traditions:

- **Bayalata:** It is an open-air theatre tradition of Karnataka that is performed during the worship of the local deity. The stories are based on the love of Radha-Krishna. Parijata and Yakshagana are narrated by a single Sutradhar while the other three forms are performed in a chorus of three-four, aided by a Vidushaka.
- **Tal Maddale:** Tal is a kind of cymbal and Maddale is a kind of drum. It is generally considered as the predecessor of Yakshagana. The play is performed while sitting and without any costumes, dance or acting. The narration is done by a Bhagavata who is aided by a group of Arthadharis.
- **Theyyams** are performed in Kerala. It is similar to a practice in Karnataka, called Bhuta Kola. It is an open theatre and is performed in front of the local temples to mainly honour the spirit of the ancestors besides gods. Themes of Vaishnavism, Shaktism and Shaivism are now common.
- **Burra Katha** is a popular dance-drama tradition of Andhra Pradesh. It derives its name from Burra – the percussion instrument used extensively during the performance. The performance consists of a main artist or narrator and two vanthas or co-artists who provide the rhythm as well as the chorus.

### QUESTION 45:

With reference to Oslo Accords, which of the following is correct?

- (a) They are the final terms of agreement between the United Kingdom and European Union.
- (b) They are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.
- (c) It is a multilateral missile technology export control regime.
- (d) It is a mutual agreement of peace and cooperation between Scandinavian countries.

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

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- Palestine has threatened to withdraw from key provisions of the Oslo Accords if the US announces its Middle East Peace Plan. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- It is being said that the plan will turn Israel's temporary occupation of Palestinian territory into a permanent occupation.

### Oslo Accords

- Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s.
- Oslo I (1993) is formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP). The pact established a timetable for the Middle East peace process. It planned for an interim Palestinian government in Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank.
- Oslo II is officially called the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza (1995), expanded on Oslo I.

### QUESTION 46:

With reference to color codes based weather warning system issued by Indian Meteorological Department, consider the following statements:

1. Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days.
2. Orange indicates that no advisory has been issued.

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

- In collaboration with the stakeholders and government departments like NDMA involved in the management of weather related disastrous events, IMD issues weather warnings using color codes. The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** had issued a yellow weather warning for heavy rain and snowfall in Himachal Pradesh in December 2019.

### Colour- Coded Weather Warning

- It is issued by the IMD whose objective is to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life. Warnings are updated daily. The IMD uses 4 colour codes are:
  - ◆ **Green (All is well):** No advisory is issued.
  - ◆ **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - ◆ **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply. **Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.**
  - ◆ **Red (Take Action):** When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.
- These alerts are universal in nature and are also issued during floods, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall. For instance, when the water in a river is 'above normal' level, or between the 'warning' and 'danger' levels, a yellow alert is issued

### QUESTION 47:

The 'Santusht portal' was recently launched by which of the following ministries?

- (a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

(c) Ministry of Labour and Employment

(d) Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

- 'Santusht' - Implementation Monitoring Cell (IMC) has been constituted in the Office of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour and Employment in January 2020.
- The objective of 'Santusht' is to promote transparency, accountability, effective delivery of public services and implementation of policies, schemes of the Ministry of Labour and Employment at grassroot level through constant monitoring.
- The government aims to implement **all four codes on wages**, industrial relations, social security and occupational safety, health and working conditions. These are expected to improve ease of doing business and safeguard the interest of workers.
- For public grievances, the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal is already functional.

### Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)

- It is an online web-enabled system developed by **National Informatics Centre** (Ministry of Electronics & IT [MeitY]), in association with Directorate of Public Grievances (DPG) and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions.
- It aims to receive, redress and monitor the grievances of the public.
- It provides the facility to lodge a grievance online from any location.
- It enables the citizen to track online the grievance being followed up with Departments concerned and also enables DARPG to monitor the grievance.

### QUESTION 48:

Anguilla island which was recently seen in the news is located in ?

- (a) Indian Ocean
- (b) North Atlantic Ocean
- (c) South Atlantic Ocean
- (d) Pacific Ocean

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- Anguilla island is situated in the Caribbean Sea, which lies in the **North Atlantic Ocean**, is a British overseas territory. It is the most northerly of the Leeward islands in the lesser Antilles.
- This island is a financial beneficiary of two latest trends in technology: **Artificial intelligence (AI)** and vanity URL (Uniform Resource Locator) or internet addresses. **Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- AI is the country code of Anguilla and it is also an acronym for Artificial Intelligence.
- Every time an internet address which ends with ".ai" is registered or renewed by AI startups or big companies or investors, the island collects a \$50-a-year fee, which goes mostly to the government treasury.
- **Vanity URL** is a unique web address that is branded for marketing purposes. Vanity URLs are a type of custom URL that exists to help users remember and find a specific page of one's website.

### QUESTION 49:

With reference to Vyom Mitra, consider the following statements:



1. It is a mini satellite to assist in tracking the GSLV rockets.
2. It is one of the components of Gaganyaan mission.

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- Recently, **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** unveiled its first ‘woman’ astronaut, named Vyom Mitra who will ride to space in the first test flight of the human space mission, **Gaganyaan**. **Hence, statement 2 is correct and statement 1 is NOT correct.**

### Key Points

- It is a **half-humanoid** and its body stops at the torso and has no legs. It is capable of switching panel operations, performing Environment Control and Life Support Systems (ECLSS) functions, conversations with the astronauts, recognising them and solving their queries.
- The humanoid can detect and give out warnings if the environment changes within the cabin.
- It will simulate the human functions required for space before real astronauts take off before August 2022. It will be sent in a space capsule around the end of 2020 or early 2021 to study how astronauts respond to living outside earth in controlled zero-gravity conditions.
- The humanoid has been developed by the ISRO Inertial Systems Unit, Thiruvananthapuram.

### QUESTION 50:

With reference to SUTRA-PIC India programme, consider the following statements:

1. Its main objective is to promote scientific research in Biopharma.
2. The Ministry of Science and Technology is in charge of the programme.

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- Recently, the Ministry of Science and Technology has launched the “Scientific Utilization through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows” (SUTRA-PIC India).
  - It is one of the research programmes into indigenous cattle announced during the 2019-20 Union Budget, which aims to develop products as well as improve the genetic quality of indigenous cattle breeds. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**

### Key Points

- It is a collaborative effort of the Department of Biotechnology, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Ministry for AYUSH (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy) and the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- **The department of the Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED), under the Ministry of Science and Technology, is in charge of the programme. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**



- It can be noted that SEED had also constituted a National Steering Committee to initiate a National Programme on “Scientific Validation and Research on Panchagavya” (SVAROP) in 2017.
- **Panchagavya** is an Ayurvedic panacea and is a mixture of five (pancha) products of the cow (gavya) — milk, curd, ghee, dung and urine. Its proponents believe it can cure, or treat a wide range of ailments.
- The programme consists of five themes:
  - Uniqueness of Indigenous Cows,
  - Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Medicine and Health,
  - Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Agricultural Applications,
  - Prime-products from Indigenous Cows for Food and Nutrition,
  - Prime-products from indigenous cows-based utility items.
- The above themes aim to perform:
  - Scientific research on the complete characterisation of milk and milk products derived from Indian indigenous cows.
  - Scientific research on nutritional and therapeutic properties of curd and ghee prepared from indigenous breeds of cows by traditional methods.
  - Development of standards for traditionally processed dairy products of Indian-origin cows, etc

#### QUESTION 51:

With reference to Vernacular Press Act of 1878, consider the following statements:

1. The Act was directed against Indian language newspapers.
2. The purpose of the Act was to control the printing and circulation of seditious materials.
3. The magistrate’s action was final and no appeal could be made in a court of law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (d)

#### Explanation

The Vernacular Press Act was passed in 1878 under the Viceroyalty of Lord Lytton. It was directed only against Indian language newspapers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The purpose of the Act was to control the printing and circulation of seditious materials producing disaffection amongst the masses against the British. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Vernacular Press Act empowered the district magistrate to call upon the printer and publisher of any vernacular newspaper to enter into a bond with the government. The purpose of this bond to prevent disaffection against the government or antipathy between persons of different religions, caste, race etc.
- The magistrate could further require a publisher to deposit security and to forfeit it if the newspaper contravened the regulation. If the offence reoccurred, the press equipment could be seized. The magistrate’s action was final and no appeal could be made in a court of law. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- A vernacular newspaper could get exemption from the operation of the Act by submitting proofs to a government censor.
- Under the Vernacular Press Act, proceedings were instituted against Som Prakash, Bharat, Mihir, Dacca Prakash and Samachar.

### QUESTION 52:

Consider the following statements about Rowlatt Act:

1. It allowed political activists to be tried without juries or even imprisoned without a trial.
2. The object of the Act was to replace the repressive provisions of the wartime Defence of India Act by a permanent law.
3. It was opposed by the members of the Home Rule League.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

Rowlatt Act (1919) officially known as the **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act** was headed by the British judge, Sir Sidney Rowlatt. The purpose of the act was to investigate the 'seditious conspiracy' of Indian people. The Act allowed political activists to be tried without juries or even imprisoned without a trial. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- The object of the government was to replace the repressive provisions of the wartime Defence of India Act (1915) by a permanent law. So the wartime restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly were to be re-imposed in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Due to failure of constitutional protests, Gandhiji stepped in and suggested that a Satyagraha be launched. A Satyagraha Sabha was formed, and the younger members of Home Rule League who were keen to express their disenchantment with the Government flocked to join it.
  - The old lists of the addresses of the Home Rule League members were taken out, contact was established and propaganda begun. Hence the Rowlatt Act was opposed by the members of the Home Rule League. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### QUESTION 53:

With reference to the Eka Movement of the early 20th century, which among the following statements is /are correct?

1. It was essentially a peasant struggle which aimed at abolishing the zamindari system.
2. Congress and Khilafat leaders provided the initial thrust to the movement.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

Eka Movement or Unity Movement which surfaced in Hardoi, Bahraich and Sitapur district of Avadh was essentially a peasant movement however, it showed no inclination towards abolishing the zamindari system, it only wanted zamindars to stop illegal cesses and arbitrary rent enhancements. In fact, one of the items of the oath that was taken by peasants who joined the Eka movement was that they would pay rent regularly. **Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.**

- It was supported by Congress and Khilafat leaders and they provided the movement initial thrust. The main reason for the movement was higher rent, which was generally higher than 50% of recorded rent in some areas. Oppression of thekedar (those who were responsible for collecting and sharing rents) also contributed to this movement. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The earlier Kisan Sabha movement was based almost solely on tenants, on the other hand Eka Movement included in its rank many small zamindars who found themselves disenchanted with the government because of its heavy land revenue.

#### QUESTION 54:

With reference to the three Round Table Conferences held during the pre independence period, consider the following statements:

1. Mahatma Gandhi and other Congress leaders participated in all the three conferences.
2. Ramsay MacDonald announced the “Communal Award” after the end of the second round table conference.
3. Britishers issued the White Paper after the end of the Third Round Table Conference.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

To solve the constitutional problems in India, Ramsay MacDonald the then British Prime Minister in 1932 invited the round table conference to London.

- The first Session of the Indian Round Table Conference was held between 12th November, 1930, and 19th January, 1931. It was held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.
- Prior to the first Conference, M. K. Gandhi had initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement on behalf of the Indian National Congress. Consequently, since then many of the Congress’ leaders including Gandhi were in jail.
- **Congress and Gandhi didn’t participate in the first conference**, but representatives from all other Indian parties and a number of Princes did. Gandhi and Congress leaders participated in the second round table conference. However, the third conference was again not attended by the Indian National Congress and Gandhi. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- During the Second Round Table Conference, **Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and Jinnah demanded concession for their own caste and community**. As a result of which Ramsay MacDonald, the then British Prime Minister, announced the “Communal Award” after the end of the second round table conference.
- The Communal Award of 1932 allowed separate electorates and reservation of seats to the depressed classes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Third Round Table Conference was held in 1932. After the Third Round Table Conference, White Paper was issued by the Britishers, on the basis of which The Government of India Act, 1935 was passed. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 55:

Consider the following statements about Indian Social Conference:



1. It was founded by the same person who was also a founding member of the Indian National Congress.
2. It advocated inter-caste marriages, opposed polygamy.
3. It launched the Pledge Movement to inspire people to take a pledge against child marriage.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

- Indian Social Conference was **founded by M.G. Ranade and Raghunath Rao**, the conference met annually from its first session in Madras in 1887 at the same time and venue as the Indian National Congress. M.G. Ranade and Raghunath Rao were also the founding members of the Indian National Congress. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The conference advocated inter-caste marriages, opposed polygamy and kulinism. It focused on the social issues of importance. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Pledge Movement was launched by Indian Social Conference to inspire people to take a pledge against child marriages. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

### QUESTION 56:

With reference to provincial elections of 1937, consider the following statements:

1. The elections to the provincial legislatures were held for the first time under the Government of India Act of 1935.
2. Muslim league didn't win the absolute majority in any of the provinces.
3. In the United Provinces, the Muslim League formed a joint government with the help of Congress.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

- The 1937 provincial election in British India was held under the Government of India Act of 1935. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Only about 10 to 12 percent of the population enjoyed the right to vote during the elections. The Congress did well in the elections, winning an absolute majority in five out of eleven provinces. Bihar, Bombay, Central Provinces, Madras and Odisha were the provinces where congress won an absolute majority.
- Muslim league didn't win the absolute majority in any of the eleven provinces. It failed badly, getting only 4.4 per cent of the total Muslim vote cast in this election.
- The league failed to win a single seat in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and could capture only two out of 84 reserved constituencies in the Punjab and three out of 33 in Sindh. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In the United Provinces, the Muslim League wanted to form a joint government with the Congress

but the Congress refused to join Muslim League as it had already won the absolute majority in the province.

- Congress rejected the proposal for a coalition government partly because the League tended to support landlordism, which the Congress wished to abolish. In the United Provinces, Congress formed the majority government. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 57:

Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Dandi Satyagraha?

1. Women didn't participate in Dandi Satyagraha.
2. It was an act of non-violent civil disobedience in colonial India.
3. The event was covered by the Indian press but lacked foreign press coverage.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

- The Civil Disobedience Movement of Indian freedom struggle began with the Dandi March on March 12, 1930. Mahatma Gandhi Covered the distance of 386 km from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi on foot.
- Mahatma Gandhi then broke the salt law on the coastal town of Dandi on the Arabian Sea on April 5. Dandi March is also known as Namak Satyagrah or Salt Satyagraha or Dandi Satyagraha.
- The launching of the Civil Disobedience Movement under the ideology and leadership of Gandhiji was to be initially carried out without participation of women in it. But the women who were already charged with the new concept of equal rights arose to the resentment and participated in the movement.
- In fact, it became the first nationalist activity in which women participated in large numbers. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Most remarkable of all was the attitude of women towards the movement. It was marked by many Indian ladies of good families, high intellectuals, middle and upper class women who were mobilized into action.
- Dandi March is regarded as an act of non-violent civil disobedience in colonial India led by Gandhi as it involved non-violent means of protest. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Dandi Satyagraha or the Salt March got national and international recognition and shook the Britishers with its non-violent nature. It was covered by the European and American press along with Indian press. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 58:

Which of the following is not a feature of the Government of India Act of 1935?

- (a) Dyarchy at the Centre
- (b) All-India Federation
- (c) Provincial autonomy
- (d) Dyarchy in the provinces

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

- The Government of India Act of 1935 marked a milestone towards a completely responsible government in India. It was a lengthy and detailed document having 321 Sections and 10 Schedules.

#### Features of the Act:

- It **provided for the establishment of an All-India Federation** consisting of provinces and princely states as units. The Act divided the powers between the Centre and units in terms of three lists—Federal List (for Centre, with 59 items), Provincial List (for provinces, with 54 items) and the Concurrent List (for both, with 36 items). Residuary powers were given to the Viceroy. However, the federation never came into being as the princely states did not join it.
- It **abolished dyarchy in the provinces and introduced 'provincial autonomy'** in its place. The provinces were allowed to act as autonomous units of administration in their defined spheres. Moreover, the Act introduced responsible governments in provinces, that is, the governor was required to act with the advice of ministers responsible to the provincial legislature. This came into effect in 1937 and was discontinued in 1939. **Hence, option D is correct.**
- It provided for the adoption of dyarchy at the Centre. Consequently, the federal subjects were divided into reserved subjects and transferred subjects. However, this provision of the Act did not come into operation at all.
- It introduced bicameralism in six out of eleven provinces. Thus, the legislatures of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces were made bicameral consisting of a legislative council (upper house) and a legislative assembly (lower house). However, many restrictions were placed on them.
- It further extended the principle of communal representation by providing separate electorates for depressed classes (scheduled castes), women and labour (workers).
- It abolished the Council of India, established by the Government of India Act of 1858. The secretary of state for India was provided with a team of advisors.
- It extended the franchise. About 10 percent of the total population got the voting right.
- It provided for the establishment of a Reserve Bank of India to control the currency and credit of the country.
- It provided for the establishment of not only a Federal Public Service Commission but also a Provincial Public Service Commission and Joint Public Service Commission for two or more provinces.
- It provided for the establishment of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937.

### QUESTION 59:

Nagoba Jatara, recently in the news, is celebrated in:

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Telangana
- (d) West Bengal

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

- Nagoba Jatara is a tribal festival held in Keslapur village, Telangana. It is a huge religious and cultural event of the Boigutta branch of Mesram clan of the aboriginal Raj **Gond and Pardhan tribes**. **Hence, option C is correct.**

#### Gond Tribe

- Gonds are one of the largest tribal groups in the world.
- They mostly live in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand,

Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha.

- It has been notified as a **Scheduled Tribe**.

#### Pradhan tribe

- Pradhans are considered to be the junior branch of Gond tribe and are traditional bards to Gonds and recite mythologies, folk tales and songs of their gods and goddesses at various festivals, ceremonies and fairs for which service they are paid in cash or kind.

#### QUESTION 60:

Consider the following statements:

1. Mesothelioma is a form of cancer that occurs in the infection-fighting cells of the immune system.
2. Asbestos exposure is the primary risk factor for mesothelioma.
3. Asbestos is a chemical by-product of talcum manufacturing.

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

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

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

- Mesothelioma is an aggressive and deadly form of cancer that occurs in the thin layer of tissue that covers the majority of internal organs (mesothelium). **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Mesothelioma is divided into different types based on what part of the mesothelium is affected.
  - Pleural mesothelioma- affects the tissue that surrounds the **lungs** (pleura).
  - Peritoneal mesothelioma- affects the tissue in the **abdomen**.
  - Pericardial mesothelioma- affects the tissue around the **heart**.
  - Mesothelioma of tunica vaginalis- affects the tissue surrounding the **testicles**.
- **Asbestos exposure is the primary risk factor** for mesothelioma and reducing exposure to asbestos may lower the risk of the disease. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Asbestos is a mineral that is found naturally in the environment. Asbestos fibres are strong and resistant to heat, making them useful in a wide variety of applications, such as in insulation, brakes, shingles, flooring and many other products. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 61:

With reference to Bharatnatyam, consider the following statements:

1. It starts with mangalam, an invocation to the god for blessings.
2. It is a classical dance form of Tamil Nadu.
3. The 'Tanjore Quartet' of the nineteenth century is related to it.

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

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation



- Bharatnatyam Dance is considered to be over two thousand years old classical dance form of Tamil Nadu. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The “**Abhinaya Darpana**” by Nandikesvara is one of the main sources of textual material, for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatnatyam Dance.
- Bharatnatyam is known to be ekaharya, where one dancer takes on many roles in a single performance.
- A Bharatanatyam performance ends with a tillana which has its origin in the tarana of Hindustani music.
- The finale of the piece is a series of well designed rhythmic lines reaching a climax. The performance ends with a mangalam, invoking the blessings of the Gods. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The accompanying orchestra consists of a vocalist, a mridangam player, violinist or veena player, a flautist and a cymbal player.
- The person who conducts the dance recitation is the Nattuvanar.
- Bharatnatyam as a folk art was codified into structured performance in the nineteenth century by four brother’s Tanjaur, well known as the **Tanjore Quartette. – Ponniah, Chinniah, Sivanandan and Vadivelu**. They hailed from the dance lineage of Brihadeshwara temple of Tanjore. They were patronized by Raja Serfoji. Thus, it is associated with Bharatnatyam. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 62:

Consider the following statements:

1. The theatre-dance forms ‘Yakshagana’ and ‘Theyyam’ narrate legends of local heroes, kings and deities.
2. ‘Kalaripayattu’ and ‘Chhau’ are special forms of dance derived from martial arts.

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

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

- In different regions of India, there are religious festivals, fairs, gatherings, ritual offerings, prayers, almost throughout the year. During these occasions, traditional theatre forms are presented.
- They reflect the common man’s social attitudes and perceptions. In this social portrayal, there is also the individual’s role which is given due importance
- There are several forms of dance-drama or folk theatre, such as the Nautanki of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the Bhavai of Gujarat, the irreverent Tamasha of Maharashtra, and the Bengali Jatra.
- The Yakshagana of Karnataka and Theyyam of Kerala are also some of the spectacular theatre-dance forms. All of the above said dance forms narrate legends of local heroes, kings and deities. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Martial art forms throughout the country have been stylized to quasi-dance forms.
- Some of the notable martial dances of the North-eastern hill tribes are the Lazim dances of Maharashtra, the Kalaripayattu of Kerala, and the highly stylized masked Chhau dances of Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

#### QUESTION 63:

Consider the following statements:

1. The “Natyashastra” of Bharat Muni deals with dramaturgy only.
2. Jaydeva’s “Gita Govinda” is based on the love of Radha and Krishna.

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

- **“Natya Shastra” of Bharata Muni** Is an important landmark in the history of Indian music. It is supposed to have been written sometime between the 2nd century B.C. and the 2nd century A.D.
- The “Natyashastra” is a comprehensive work mainly dealing with **dramaturgy** (the theory and practice of dramatic composition), but a few chapters of this **deal with music** also, giving information on scales, melodic forms, tala and musical instruments. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Right from ancient times, musical forms can be divided into two broad categories. These were the anibaddha and the nibaddha sangeeta. The first may be called the open or free form and the second as the closed or bound form.
- Anibaddha sangeeta is one which is not restricted by meaningful words and tala. It is free improvisation. The finest form is the alap.
- Of the nibaddha variety the earliest available is the prabandha giti. Indeed, prabandha is often used as a generic term to indicate any nibaddha song or musical composition. They were set to definite ragas and talas.
- Jayadeva’s “Gita Govinda”, a Sanskrit work with songs and verses, is one of the prabandha giti varieties of sangeeta. It describes different dimensions of love between Krishna and Radha— longing jealousy, hope, disappointment, anger, reconciliation and fruition. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The songs are ashtapadis, that is, each song has eight couplets.

### QUESTION 64:

The Pala school of art flourished in which of the following regions?

- (a) Magadha region
- (b) Deccan region
- (c) Kutch region
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

The Pala dynasty came to power around 750 A.D. The Pala school of art first flourished **in the Magadha region of Southern Bihar**, the homeland of Buddhist religion.

- The majority of early Pala-period remains are Buddhist. Due to intense religious activity during the Pala Sena period, many religious structures were built or renovated.
- During the Pala-period, a number of monasteries and religious sites that had been founded in earlier periods grew into prominence.
- Although the first two hundred or so years of Pala-period art were dominated by Buddhist art, the Hindu remains also exist in some quantities in that phase and clearly dominate in the last two hundred years of the Pala-period.

**QUESTION 65:**

Under which of the following variety of musical instruments Veena and Santoor fall?

- (a) Tata Vadya
- (b) Sushira Vadya
- (c) Avanaddha Vadya
- (d) Ghana Vadya

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation**

In the Natya Shastra, compiled by Bharat Muni dated 200 B.C.-200 A.D., musical instruments have been divided into four main categories on the basis of how sound is produced-

- The Tata Vadya or Chordophones- Stringed instruments
  - The Sushira Vadya or Aerophones- Wind instrument.
  - The Avanaddha Vadya or Membranophones- Percussion instruments
  - The Ghana Vadya or Idiophones- Solid instruments which do not require tuning.
- The **Tata vadya** is a category of instruments in which sound is produced by the **vibration of a string or chord**. These vibrations are caused by plucking or by bowing on the string which has been pulled taut. Examples-**veena, the Santoor**, Sarangi, the Ravanhastaveena, the Banam, the Violin etc. **Hence, option A is correct.**
- In the Sushira Vadya group, the sound is produced by blowing air into a hollow column. The simplest of these instruments is the flute.
- In the Avanaddha Vadya category of instruments, the sound is produced by striking the animal skin which has been stretched across an earthen or metal pot or a wooden barrel or frame. For eg., Tabla, mridangam etc.
- The earliest instruments invented by man are said to be the Ghana Vadya. They are principally rhythmic in function and are best suited as an accompaniment to folk and tribal music and dance. For eg., Jhanj Player.

**QUESTION 66:**

With reference to traditional theatre-forms of India, consider the following statements:

1. Yakshagana, traditional theatre form of Karnataka, is based on mythological stories and Puranas.
2. In Tamasha, the female actress is the chief exponent of dance movements in the play.
3. Dashavtar is the developed theatre form of North-eastern India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation**

**Different Forms of Traditional Theatre**

- **Yakshagana**, traditional theatre form of Karnataka, is based on mythological stories and Puranas. The most popular episodes are from the Mahabharata i.e. Draupadi swayamvar, Subhadra vivah etc. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- **Tamasha** is a traditional folk theatre form of Maharashtra. It has evolved from folk forms such as Gondhal, Jagran and Kirtan. In Tamasha the female actress is the chief exponent of dance movements in the play. She is known as Murki. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- In **Dashavatar**, the performers personify the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu-the god of preservation and creativity. The ten incarnations are Matsya (fish), Kurma (tortoise), Varaha (boar), Narsimha (lion-man), Vaman (dwarf), Parashuram, Rama, Krishna (or Balram), Buddha and Kalki. Apart from stylized make-up, the Dashavatar performers wear masks of wood and papier mache. It is the most developed theatre form of the Konkan and Goa regions and is not related to North-Eastern India. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### QUESTION 67:

Consider the following pairs:

##### Puppet Forms

1. String Puppets
2. Shadow Puppets
3. Rod Puppets
4. Glove Puppets

##### Example

- Kathputli  
Togalu Gombeyaata  
Yampuri  
Pavakoothu

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

**Answer: (d)**

#### Explanation

Puppetry is mostly based on epics and legends. Puppets from different parts of the country have their own identity. There are mainly four different forms of puppets -

- **String Puppets**-Having jointed limbs controlled by strings allow far greater flexibility and are, therefore, the most articulate of the puppets. Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are some of the regions where this form of puppetry has flourished. Its kinds are-**Kathputli**, (Rajasthan), Kundhei, (Odisha), Gombeyatta, (Karnataka), Bommalattam, (Tamil Nadu) etc. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **Shadow Puppets**- Shadow puppets are flat figures. They are cut out of leather, which has been treated to make it translucent. Shadow puppets are pressed against the screen with a strong source of light behind it. The manipulation between the light and the screen makes silhouettes or colourful shadows, as the case may be, for the viewers who sit in front of the screen. This tradition of shadow puppets survives in Orissa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. It's different kinds are - **Togalu Gombeyatta**, (Karnataka), Tholu Bommalata (Andhra Pradesh), Ravanachhaya, (Orissa) etc. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Rod Puppets**-Rod puppets are an extension of glove- puppets, but often much larger and supported and manipulated by rods from below. This form of puppetry now is found mostly in West Bengal and Orissa. Its different kinds are- Putul Nautch (West Bengal), **Yampuri** (Bihar) etc. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **Glove Puppets**-Glove puppets are also known as sleeve, hand or palm puppets. Their head is made of either cloth or wood, with two hands emerging from just below the neck. The rest of the figure consists of a long flowing skirt. The manipulation technique is simple: the movements are controlled by the human hand, the first finger inserted in the head and the middle finger and the thumb are the two arms of the puppet. One of its kind is-**Pavakoothu** (Kerala). **Hence, pair 4 is correctly**

matched.

#### QUESTION 68:

Consider the following statements:

1. Mughal painting was primarily secular whereas paintings in Central India, Rajasthan and the Pahari region were deeply influenced by the religion of the land.
2. Basohli, a miniature painting, belongs to the Pahari school of painting.
3. Mughal school of painting originated in the era of Jahangir.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

Unlike Mughal painting which is primarily secular, the art of painting in Central India, Rajasthani and the Pahari region etc. is deeply rooted in the Indian traditions, taking inspiration from Indian epics, religious texts like the Puranas, love poems in Sanskrit and other Indian languages, Indian folk-lore and works on musical themes.

The cults of Vaishnavism, Saivism and Sakti exercised tremendous influence on the pictorial art (paintings) of these places. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The Pahari region comprises the present State of Himachal Pradesh, some adjoining areas of Punjab, the area of Jammu and area of Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh.

Basohli, a miniature Painting, is one of the famous examples of Pahari School of Painting. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The origin of the Mughal School of Painting is considered to be a landmark in the history of painting in India. With the establishment of the Mughal Empire, the Mughal School of painting originated in the reign of Akbar in 1560 A.D. The Mughal style evolved as a result of a happy synthesis of the indigenous Indian style of painting and the Safavid school of Persian painting. The Mughal style is marked by supple naturalism based on close observation of nature and fine and delicate drawing. It is of high aesthetic merit. It is primarily aristocratic and secular. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

#### QUESTION 69:

Lomas Rishi cave, excavated during the reign of Ashoka, is dedicated to:

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Ajivika sect
- (d) Hinduism

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

The Lomas Rishi cave in the Barabar Hills of Bihar was excavated for the Ajivika sect in the time of Ashoka. Hence, option C is correct.

This is an excellent example showing the development from earlier shapes in timber translated into stone. The period is the 3rd century B.C.



A carved frieze of elephants is a stone imitation of similar work in wood along with a stone imitation of trellis work made of small sticks of bamboo.

The entrance of the cave is a representation in stone of a hut entrance, with the end of the roof constructed of bent timber supported by cross beams, the ends of which are shown protruding.

#### QUESTION 70:

In Medieval India, various sarais were built around the city. Which of the following statements is not correct regarding them?

- (a) They provided refuge to foreign travellers.
- (b) They helped in intermingling people of diverse backgrounds.
- (c) They acted as a safe rest house for merchants and traders.
- (d) They were used as a storehouse of imperial goods.

**Answer:** (d)

#### Explanation

---

SARAI of Medieval India.

They provided temporary accommodation to Indian and foreign travellers, pilgrims, merchants, traders, etc.

They ringed the city and dotted the vast space of the Indian subcontinent.

They were largely built on a simple square or rectangular plain.

They provided safe accommodation to traders, merchants and hence promoted trade and commerce.

They were public areas which were thronged by people of varied cultural backgrounds.

This led to cross-cultural interaction, influences and fusion of different belief systems and tendencies in the cultural characteristics of the times and at the level of the people.

These are not related to storage of imperial or military goods. Hence, option D is correct.

#### QUESTION 71:

Megasthenes visited India during the reign of which of the following rulers?

- (a) Chandragupta II
- (b) Kumaragupta I
- (c) Chandragupta Maurya
- (d) Samudragupta

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

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Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador sent by Seleucus to the court of Chandragupta Maurya.

He lived in the Maurya capital of Pataliputra and wrote an account not only of the administration of the city of Pataliputra but also of the Maurya empire as a whole.

Megasthenes's account does not survive in full, but quotations from it occur in the works of several subsequent Greek writers.

These fragments have been collected and published in the form of a book entitled Indika, which throws valuable light on the administration, society, and economy of Maurya times. Hence, option C is correct.

#### QUESTION 72:

With reference to tripartite struggle for Kannauj, consider the following statements:

1. It was fought amongst the Palas, the Rashtrakutas and the Pratiharas.

2. Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva occupied Kannauj by defeating Pala king Dharamapala in this struggle.
3. Arab visitor Sulaiman gave a depiction of the struggles amongst these three kingdoms.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

Between AD 750 and 1000, there rose large states in North India and in the Deccan. These were the Palas, the Pratiharas and the Rashtrakutas.

Palas king Gopala was succeeded by Dharamapala in AD 770, whose reign is marked by a tripartite struggle for the control of Kanauj amongst the Palas, the Rashtrakutas and the Pratiharas. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It was the Pratihara ruler who was defeated at the hands of the Rashtrakuta ruler, Dhruva and resultantly the Pratihara ruler was forced to seek refuge in the deserts of Rajasthan.

The Rashtrakuta ruler Dhruva, after defeating the Pratihara, returned to the deccan. This left the field free for Dharamapala, who finally occupied Kanauj. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

The Arab visitor Sulaiman, who visited India in the middle of the 9th century, wrote a vivid account of the struggles which were fought amongst these three kingdoms. He attested the power of the Palas and said that these rulers were at war with their neighbours like the Rashtrakutas and the Pratiharas. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

### QUESTION 73:

With reference to Delhi Sultanate in Medieval India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Muizzuddin played an important role in the battle of Tarain and in establishing Turkish rule in Northern India.
2. Qutbuddin Aibak died in a heroic conquest against Bhatti Rajputs of Jaisalmer.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

Qutbuddin Aibak(1206-1210) was the founder and first ruler of Delhi Sultanate.

He was a favourite slave of Muizzuddin. Muizzuddin had played an important role in the battle of Tarain and in the subsequent Turkish conquests in North India. He had been enthroned at Lahore in 1206 on the basis of the support of the local notables and amirs. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Aibak hardly had time to add to the Turkish conquests in India, and died in 1210, on account of a fall from his horse while playing chaugan (medieval polo). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

But his brief reign is considered significant because it marked the rise of the first independent Turkish ruler in India.

He was kind hearted and is supposed to have given away lakhs in public donations as such was called



lakhbaksh. Also he was brutal and slaughtered lakhs of enemies in wars. This combination of liberality, emphasis on justice, and brutality in war were typical of many of the early Turkish rulers in India.

#### QUESTION 74:

With reference to Ministries of Akbar, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Diwan looked after the department of Imperial establishments.
2. Mir Bakshi headed the military department.
3. The Sadr was responsible for judicial and revenue-free (inam) grants.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

The Ministries of Akbar:

Akbar tackled the problem of organizing the ministries by compartmentalizing them.

These were four in number;

The most powerful of the ministers was wakil or wazir, the revenue department was headed by the diwan or the wazir.

The military department was headed by Mir Bakshi.

The department of Imperial establishments (karkhanas) and the royal household was under Mir Saman.

The judicial and revenue-free (inam) grants department was under Sadr. Hence statement 1 is not correct while 2 and 3 are correct.

Although four was a traditional figure suggested by Ibn Khaldun, all departments were not equal in power or importance.

In course of time, the wazir's position became the most powerful and influential, closely matched by that of Mir Bakhshi.

According to Abul Fazl, the person who headed the department of income and expenditure was referred as the wazir, also called diwan.

#### QUESTION 75:

With reference to the administrative structure of Delhi Sultanate, which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

- |                    |   |                                 |
|--------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Diwan-i-arz     | - | Military Department             |
| 2. Diwan-i-kohi    | - | Agriculture Department          |
| 3. Diwan-i-insha   | - | Department of Religious Affairs |
| 4. Diwan-i-risalat | - | Finance Department              |
| 5. Diwan-i-wizarat | - | Department of Correspondence    |

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

Under the Delhi sultanate, the Sultan was assisted by a number of departments and officials in his administration. The post of Naib was the most powerful one. The Naib enjoyed all the powers of the Sultan and exercised general control over all the departments. Next to him was the Wazir, who was heading the Finance Department, called Diwan-i-wizarat.

The Military Department, called Diwan-i-arz, was headed by Arz-i-mumalik. He was responsible for recruiting the soldiers and administering the military department. He was not the commander in chief of the military. Sultan himself was the commander in chief of the military.

Diwan-i-risalat was the department of religious affairs. It was headed by chief sadr. Grants were made by this department for the construction and maintenance of mosques, tombs and madrasas.

The head of the Judicial Department was Qazi. Muslim personal law Sharia was followed in civil matters, whereas the criminal law was based on the rules and regulations made by the Sultans.

The Department of Correspondence was called Diwan-i-Insha. All the correspondence between the ruler and the officials was dealt with by this department.

To encourage the growth of agriculture, Muhammad-bin- Tughlaq created a separate agriculture department called Diwan-i-kohi. Hence, option A is correct.

### QUESTION 76:

Which of the following statements regarding Amir Khusrow are correct?

1. He introduced a rag called sanam rag.
2. He evolved a style of light music, qawwali, by blending Hindu and Iranian systems.
3. The invention of Sitar was attributed to him.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

During Medieval India, music, art and literature flourished rapidly. Amir Khusrau (1252-1325) was a well known Persian writer of that period.

He introduced many new ragas such as ghora and sanam and also evolved a new style of light music known as qawalis by blending the Hindu and Iranian systems. He was also known for inventing a musical instrument called sitar. Hence, statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

### QUESTION 77:

Consider the following pairs:

#### Book

1. Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi
2. Tabaqat-i-Nasari
3. Khazain-ul-Futuh
4. Kitab-ul-Hind

#### Author

- Minhaj-us-Siraj
- Ziauddin Barani
- Amir Khusrau
- Alberuni

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

---

The Delhi Sultanate patronized learning and literature. The Sultans had great love for Arabic and Persian literature. Many historians, such as Hasan Nizami, Minhaj-us-Siraj, Ziauddin Barani, and Shams-Siraj Afif adorned the courts of the Sultan.

Ziauddin Barani's 'Tarikh-i-Firoz Shahi' contains the history of Tughlaq dynasty, whereas Minhaj-us-Siraj's 'Tabaqat-i-Nasari' narrates a general history of Muslim dynasties upto 1260. Hence, pairs 1 and 2 are not correctly matched.

Amir Khusrau's 'Khazain-ul-Futuh' speaks about Alauddin's conquest and his 'Tughlaq Nama' deals with the rise of Ghiasuddin Tughlaq, whereas Kitab-ul-Hind, a book in Arabic language, was written by Alberuni. Hence, pairs 3 and 4 are correctly matched.

### QUESTION 78:

Which of the following statements is/are correct about Sufism?

1. It emphasised on meditation, pilgrimages and fasting.
2. It believed that love of god meant love of humanity.
3. It stressed on external conduct instead of inner purity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

---

Sufism was a liberal reform movement within Islam. It had its origin in Persia and spread into India in the eleventh century.

The most famous of the Sufi saints of India was Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti, whose disciples were called Sufis of the Chishti order.

Another well known Sufi saint was Bahauddin Zakariya who came under the influence of another famous mystic Shihabuddin Suhrawardi. His branch of Sufi saints was called as sufis of Shihabuddin Suhrawardi Order. Yet another famous Sufi saint was Nizamuddin Aulia who belonged to the Chishti order and who was a mighty spiritual force.

Sufism stressed the elements of love and devotion as effective means of the realisation of God. Love of God meant love of humanity and so the sufis believed service to humanity was tantamount to service to God. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

In Sufism, self-discipline was considered an essential condition to gain knowledge of God by sense of perception.

While orthodox Muslims emphasised on external conduct, the sufis stressed on inner purity. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

Other ideas emphasised by Sufism are meditation, good actions, repentance of sins, performance of prayers and pilgrimages, fasting, charity and suppression of passions by ascetic practices. Hence,

statement 1 is correct.

**QUESTION 79:**

Which among the following characterise the Bhakti Movement of Medieval India?

1. Equal importance to women.
2. Condemnation of caste system.
3. Emphasis on rituals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation**

Medieval India witnessed the bhakti movement, in which various preachers like Ramanuja, Madhava, Guru Nanak etc., spoke and wrote in the regional languages.

The Bhakti movement thus provided an impetus for the development of regional languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, etc. and through these languages they made direct appeal to the masses.

Caste system was condemned by the Bhakti saint and the lower classes were raised to a position of great importance. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

The importance of women in society was also increased because the Bhakti movement gave equal importance to women. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Moreover, the Bhakti movement gave to the people a simple religion, without complicated rituals. They were required to show sincere devotion to God. The new idea of a life of charity and service to fellow people was developed. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

**QUESTION 80:**

With respect to Bhuvan Panchayat 3.0, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the advanced Space-based Information Support for Decentralised Planning project.
2. The Bhuvan portal named Srishti-Drishti is an e-learning portal for the students.

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

**Answer:** (a)

**Explanation**

Bhuvan Panchayat 3.0 is part of the advanced Space-based Information Support for Decentralised Planning project. It is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Department of Space, ISRO. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Srishti-Drishti is an Integrated Watershed Development Program on Bhuvan portal, while School Bhuvan is an e-learning portal for the students. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

**QUESTION 81:**



Consider the following statements regarding Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994 :

1. The Act provides for complete prohibition of use of prenatal diagnostic techniques.
2. The Act allows termination of pregnancy only up to 20 weeks.

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

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 provides for the Prohibition of prenatal diagnostic techniques for sex selection, before or after conception, and Regulation of prenatal diagnostic techniques for the purposes of detecting genetic abnormalities or metabolic disorders or chromosomal abnormalities or certain congenital malformations or sex-linked disorders and for the prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 provides for termination of pregnancy only up to 20 weeks. If an unwanted pregnancy has proceeded beyond 20 weeks, women have to approach a medical board and courts to seek permission for termination. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

### QUESTION 82:

Which of the following submarines have been built under the Indian Navy's Project 75?

1. INS Kalvari
2. INS Shakti
3. INS Karanj
4. INS Vela

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

Project-75 is a programme by the Indian Navy that entails building six Scorpene Class attack submarines. The submarines that have been built under the project are INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj and INS Vela.

The fifth Scorpene-class submarine INS Vagir and sixth Scorpene-class submarine INS Vagsheer are in advanced stages of manufacturing and will be launched soon.

INS Shakti is a tanker and supply ship. Hence, option C is correct.

### QUESTION 83:

'Trimeresurus arunachalensis', sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to:

- (a) Tribal art of Arunachal Pradesh

- (b) A new species of rare pit viper
- (c) The state bird of Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Primitive tribe of eastern Himalayas

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

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*Trimeresurus arunachalensis* is a new species of reddish-brown pit viper with the unique heat-sensing system from the forest of West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. Hence, option B is correct.

#### QUESTION 84:

The 'Urkund', sometimes mentioned in the news is-

- (a) Anti-plagiarism software
- (b) Women safety App
- (c) Russia's Mars Mission
- (d) Unmanned aerial vehicle

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

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'Urkund' is Swedish anti-plagiarism software.

Recently, the University Grants Commission (UGC) announced that all universities in India will get a final subscription to access the 'Urkund' from September 1, 2019. Hence, option A is correct.

The Urkund software was chosen through a global tender process.

While Turnitin (US anti-plagiarism software) is more commonly used by global academics, it was found to be 10 times more expensive without a proportionate increase in features or reliability.

#### QUESTION 85:

Consider the following statements related to 'Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology' in India:

1. It operates under the aegis of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
2. It is a premier research organization which conducts high quality basic research and training in frontier areas of modern biology.
3. It has been designated as "Center of Excellence" by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

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The Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) is located in Hyderabad and operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The CCMB is a premier research organization which conducts high quality basic research and training in frontier areas of modern biology, and promotes centralized national facilities for new and modern techniques in the interdisciplinary areas of biology. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It has been designated as "Center of Excellence" by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network,

UNESCO. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

#### QUESTION 86:

With reference to the 'Blue Dot Network', consider the following statements:

1. It is a multi-stakeholder initiative of India, Japan, Australia and the US.
2. It will serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for major infrastructure projects with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region.

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.

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

The Blue Dot Network (BDN) is led by the US along with Japan and Australia. India is not a part of BDN. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development.

BDN is expected to serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for roads, ports and bridges with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Infrastructure projects would be graded on debt, environmental standards, labour standards etc.

This system would apply to projects in any citizen-centric country where citizens would like to evaluate such projects.

#### QUESTION 87:

With reference to World Wetlands Day, consider the following statements:

1. World Wetlands Day marks the date of establishment of the 'Wetlands International'.
2. The theme for World Wetlands Day, 2020 was 'Wetlands and Climate Change'.

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

**Answer:** (d)

#### Explanation

World Wetlands Day is celebrated every year on the 2nd February. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

'Wetlands International' is the only global not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands. Its genesis goes way past the adoption of the Ramsar Convention. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The theme for 2020 was 'Wetlands and Biodiversity'. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

**Wetlands:** Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They include mangroves, marshes, rivers, lakes, deltas, floodplains and flooded forests, rice-fields, coral reefs, marine areas no deeper than 6 metres at low tide, as well as human-made wetlands such as



waste-water treatment ponds and reservoirs.

Though they cover only around 6% of the Earth's land surface, 40% of all plant and animal species live or breed in wetlands.

#### QUESTION 88:

Consider the following statements:

1. Stripe Rust is a fungal disease that affects wheat crops.
2. Punjab is the largest wheat producing state in India.

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

**Answer:** (a)

#### Explanation

Yellow rust or stripe rust is a fungal disease which attacks the leaves of wheat crops by forming yellow stripes and affects their photosynthesis that causes shrivelling of grain size. Hence, statement 1 is correct. It is a disease of cool weather in the northern hills and north-western plains zone.

The rains in the region coupled with a slight increase in the temperature and humid conditions are favourable for yellow rust.

Uttar Pradesh is the largest wheat producing state in India. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

Top Wheat Producing States: Uttar Pradesh > Punjab > Madhya Pradesh > Haryana > Rajasthan.

It is a rabi (winter) crop, sown between late October till December while the harvesting of the crop starts from April onwards.

India is the second-largest producer after China.

#### QUESTION 89:

Consider the following statements about the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018:

1. The rules are not applicable to village panchayats.
2. The rules laid special emphasis on the phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP).
3. The idea of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is introduced for the first time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer:** (b)

#### Explanation

Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018

Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 were amended in 2018. The rules have been extended to village Panchayats as well. Earlier, it was limited to municipal districts. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

It laid special emphasis on the phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP), which are 'non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use'. Hence, statement 2 is correct.



The idea of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) was introduced in the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. It is also part of Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

#### QUESTION 90:

Consider the following statements:

1. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 regulates the mining sector in India.
2. The state governments have the power to regulate the exploration and extraction of all minor minerals.

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

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

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 regulates the mining sector in India and specifies the requirement for obtaining and granting mining leases for mining operations. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

All-State governments have the power to frame policy and regulate the exploration, extraction and processing of all minor minerals such as building stones, clay and sand. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

**Constitutional/ Legal Framework of Mining Sector in India**

The entry no. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India mandates the state governments to own the minerals located within their boundaries.

The entry no. 54 of List I (Central List) mandates the central government to own the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ). In pursuance to this Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act of 1957 was framed.

Also, the Central Government notifies certain minerals as 'minor' minerals from time to time for which the absolute powers for deciding on procedures of seeking applications for and granting mineral concessions, fixing rates of royalty, dead rent, and power to revise orders rest only with the State Government.

Examples of minor minerals include building stones, gravel, ordinary clay, ordinary sand.

#### QUESTION 91:

Which of the following statements are correct?

1. Asian elephants are naturally found in Bangladesh too.
2. Great Indian Bustards are listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. In India the population of Bengal Florican is limited to the state of West Bengal only.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (c)

## Explanation

The Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican have been included in Appendix I of the UN Convention on Migratory Species at the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) in Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

India's proposal to include all the three species in the Appendix I was unanimously accepted by the 13th COP to the CMS.

A migratory species may be listed in Appendix I provided that the best scientific evidence available indicates that the species is endangered.

### Asian Elephant

India is the natural home of the largest population of Asian elephants. It is also found in Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Myanmar. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

It usually resides in shrublands, artificial/terrestrial forests and grasslands.

It is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. It is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

The challenges confronting Asian elephant conservation in most elephant Range States are habitat loss and fragmentation, human-elephant conflict, and poaching and illegal trade of elephants.

### Great Indian Bustard

The Great Indian Bustard is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world.

It usually resides in dry grasslands and scrublands on the Indian subcontinent; its largest populations are found in the Indian state of Rajasthan. The Great Indian Bustard is the state bird of Rajasthan.

It is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List. It is also listed in Appendix I of CITES and Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

90% of its population has been reduced within 50 years (six generations) majorly due to poaching.

### Bengal Florican

The species has two disjunct populations, one in the Indian Subcontinent, the other in South-East Asia. The former occurs in Indian Subcontinent mainly in India (Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh) and terai region of Nepal. Hence, statement 3 is NOT correct.

It inhabits lowland dry, or seasonally inundated, natural and semi-natural grasslands, often interspersed with scattered scrub or patchy open forest.

It has been listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List. The bird is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972 and Appendix I of CITES

It has a very small, rapidly declining population largely as a result of widespread loss of its grassland habitat.

## QUESTION 92:

Jivhala initiative, which was recently in the news, is related to?

- (a) Child Rights and Prevention of Sexual Harassment
- (b) Early Flood Warning System
- (c) Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Promotion
- (d) An Anti-Corruption Movement

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

Jivhala initiative was launched in Nagpur (Maharashtra) which aims to Create Awareness About Child Rights And Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Tribal Ashram schools. Hence, option A is correct.

### QUESTION 93:

Consider the following statements:

1. India has signed but not ratified the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).
2. The Australia group aims to stop the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons.

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

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

**Answer:** (b)

### Explanation

A biological attack or bioterrorism is the intentional release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs that can sicken or kill people, livestock, or crops. For example *Bacillus anthracis* (the bacteria that causes anthrax), is one of the most likely agents to be used in a biological attack.

India had signed the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in 1973 and ratified it in 1974. It effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons and is a key element in the international community's efforts to address the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.

The Australia group was established in 1985, with an aim to stop the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons. India was admitted as the 43rd member of the Australia Group. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

### QUESTION 94:

With reference to Mission Purvodaya, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to make India self reliant in coal production.
2. It is being implemented throughout India from fiscal year 2020.

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

Mission Purvodaya

This has been recently launched for the accelerated development of eastern India through the establishment of an integrated steel hub in Kolkata, West Bengal. Hence, statement 1 is NOT correct.

The focus will be on eastern states of India (Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal) and northern part of Andhra Pradesh which collectively hold ~80% of the country's iron ore, ~100% of coking coal and significant portion of chromite, bauxite and dolomite reserves. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.

The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on 3 key elements:

Capacity addition through easing the setup of Greenfield steel plants.

Development of steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centres.

Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the East.

The objective of this hub would be to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers both in terms of cost and quality.

### QUESTION 95:

With reference to Gender Parity Index, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
2. India's GPI indicates that the number of girls is more than the number of boys at all levels of school Education.

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

**Answer:** (c)

### Explanation

Gender Parity Index in primary, secondary and tertiary education is the ratio of the number of female students enrolled at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education to the number of male students in each level.

In short, GPI at various levels reflect equitable participation of girls in the School system.

GPI is released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a part of its Global Education Monitoring Report.

A GPI of 1 indicates parity between the sexes; a GPI that varies between 0 and 1 typically means a disparity in favour of males; whereas a GPI greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of females.

India's GPI for the year 2018-19 at different levels of School Education is as under:

Primary Education: 1.03

Upper Primary Education: 1.12

Secondary Education: 1.04

Higher Secondary Education: 1.04

India's GPI indicates that the number of girls is more than the number of boys at all levels of school Education.

In 2018-19, the Ministry of Human Resource Development launched the 'Samagra Shiksha' scheme. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

It is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class XII and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

One of its objectives is to bridge social and gender gaps in school education.

To provide quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups, Kasturba Gandhi BalikaVidyalayas (KGBVs) have been sanctioned in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) under SamagraShiksha.

KGBVs are residential schools from class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

**QUESTION 96:**

The term NEONs, which was recently seen in the news is?

- (a) A new category of stars discovered by NASA.
- (b) Computationally created virtual humans.
- (c) The category of self destroying satellites.
- (d) Energy efficient bulbs that use hydrofluorocarbon.

**Answer:** (b)

**Explanation**

NEON was one of the most-discussed concepts at the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held in Las Vegas in 2020.

NEONs, being called the world's first artificial humans, have been created by Samsung's Star Labs headed by an India born scientist.

NEONs are computationally created virtual humans — the word derives from NEO (new) + humaN. They look and behave like real humans, and could one day develop memories and emotions. Hence, option B is correct.

For now the virtual humans can show emotions when manually controlled by their creators. But the idea is for NEONs to become intelligent enough to be fully autonomous, showing emotions, learning skills, creating memories, and being intelligent on their own.

A virtual human is a Computer Generated (CG) human simulation with artificial intelligence. A virtual human can have a CG human body, and CG voice and computer empowered senses. Virtual humans can be applied in various domains such as education, marketing, branding, training & sales.

**QUESTION 97:**

Consider the following pairs:

Product	State
1. Chak-Hao	Meghalaya
2. Saffron	Himachal Pradesh
3. Tirur vettiya	Kerala

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

**Answer:** (c)

**Explanation**

Chak-hao:

Chak-hao, the black rice of Manipur has recently got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This scented glutinous rice is characterised by its special aroma and nutritional content of vitamins and minerals, the black rice is also rich in an antioxidant called Anthocyanin. It is also great for hair and skin, and is loaded with fibre and iron. Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.

Kashmir Saffron:

Recently, the Kashmir saffron got Geographical Indication (GI) tag status. It has been associated with traditional Kashmiri cuisine and represents the rich cultural heritage of the region. It is a very precious



and costly product. In ancient Sanskrit literature, saffron is referred to as 'bahukam'. Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

It is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.

Uniqueness: The features which differentiate it from other saffron varieties available the world over are:

It is the only saffron that is grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level.

It has longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing.

It also has a high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness).

Tirur Vettilla

Recently, Tirur vettilla has obtained a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Tirur Vettilla is a type of betel leaf which is grown in Tirur and nearby areas of Malappuram district of Kerala. It is unique for its significantly high content of total chlorophyll and protein in fresh leaves. Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.

Other GI Products from Kerala: Kaipad rice, Pokkali rice, Wayanad Jeerakasala rice, Wayanad Gandhakasala rice, Vazhakulam pineapple, Marayoor jaggery, Central Travancore jaggery and Chengalikodan nendran.

#### QUESTION 98:

With reference to Financial Bills, consider the following statements:

1. It can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President.
2. They are governed by the same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill.

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

**Answer:** (c)

#### Explanation

Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the Finance Bill, 2020 without any debate due to the situation arising out of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Finance Bill

Rule 219 of the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha states: 'Finance Bill' means the Bill ordinarily introduced in each year to give effect to the financial proposals of the Government of India for the following financial year and includes a Bill to give effect to supplementary financial proposals for any period.

It is introduced in Lok Sabha after the presentation of the annual Budget is passed by the House. It is also certified as a Money Bill.

The Constitution defines financial legislation into two categories: Money Bills and Financial Bills.

Money Bills –Article 110

Financial Bills (I)– Article 117 (1)

Financial Bills (II)– Article 117 (3)





All Money bills are Financial bills but all Financial bills are not Money bills.

Only those financial bills are Money bills which contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution.

Money bills are certified by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

Financial Bills (I)

A financial bill (I) contains not only any or all the matters mentioned in the Money Bill, but also other matters of general legislation. It is dealt under Article 117 (1) of the Constitution.

It is similar to a money bill in two respects–

Both of them can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.

Both of them can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

In all other respects, a financial bill (I) is treated as an ordinary bill. ie.

it can be either rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha.

In case of a disagreement between the two Houses over such a bill, the President can summon a joint sitting of the two Houses to resolve the deadlock.

When the bill is presented to the President, he can either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill or return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses.

Financial Bills (II)

A financial bill (II) contains provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, but does not include any of the matters mentioned in Article 110. It is dealt under Article 117 (3) of the Constitution.

It is governed by the same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Such Bills can be introduced in either House of Parliament. However, recommendation of the President is essential for consideration of these Bills by either House and unless such recommendation is received, neither House can pass the Bill.

In other words, the recommendation of the President is not required at the introduction stage but is required at the consideration stage.

### QUESTION 99:

With reference to Huntington Disease, consider the following statements:

1. It is a genetic disorder that affects the brain.
2. It can be cured by vaccination.

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

**Answer:** (a)

### Explanation

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Huntington Disease (HTT)

A team of scientists from the National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune studied the HTT gene in fruit flies.

Mutations in the HTT gene (also called Huntington or HD gene) cause Huntington Disease (HD).

Huntington Disease (HD) is a progressive genetic disorder which affects the brain.

It causes uncontrolled movements, impaired coordination of balance and movement, a decline in cognitive abilities, difficulty in concentrating and memory lapses, mood swings and personality changes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

The HTT genes are involved in the production of a protein called huntingtin. They provide the instruction for making the protein.

Mutated genes provide faulty instructions leading to production of abnormal huntingtin proteins and formation of clumps.

These clumps disrupt the normal functioning of the brain cells, which eventually leads to death of neurons in the brain, resulting in Huntington disease.

No cure exists, but drugs, physiotherapy and talk therapy can help manage some symptoms. Hence, statement 2 is NOT correct.

### QUESTION 100:

With which of the following journals, B.R. Ambedkar was associated?

1. Mooknayak
2. Bahishkrit Bharat
3. Samatha
4. Janata

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer:** (d)

### Explanation

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Dr. B R Ambedkar's Birth Anniversary is observed every year on 14th April.

**Key Points**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born in 1891 in Mhow, Central Province (now Madhya Pradesh).

He is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution and was India's first Law Minister.

He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution.

Dr. Ambedkar was a social reformer, jurist, economist, author, polyglot (knowing or using several languages) orator, a scholar and thinker of comparative religions.

He led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 against Hindus who were opposing the decision of the Municipal Board. In 1926, Municipal Board of Mahad (Maharashtra) passed an order to throw open the tank to all communities. Earlier, the untouchables were not allowed to use water from the Mahad tank.



He participated in all three Round Table Conferences.

His ideas before the Hilton Young Commission served as the foundation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

He converted to Buddhism. He passed away on 6th December 1956. Chaitya Bhoomi is a memorial to B. R. Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.

Contributions of Dr. Ambedkar

Journals: Dr. Ambedkar launched various journals like:

Mooknayak (1920)

Bahishkrit Bharat (1927)

Samatha (1929)

Janata (1930)

Books:

Annihilation of Caste

Buddha or Karl Marx

The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables

Buddha and His Dhamma

The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women

Organisations:

Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923)

Independent Labor Party (1936)

Scheduled Castes Federation (1942)





