

Competition Care®

FREE FLT – 5

ANSWER KEY & EXPLANATION

1. Consider the following statements related to Mission Prakrit:
Environmental Awareness in Assam Schools.
- (i) It has been launched by WWF- India and Samagra Shiksha Assam.
 - (ii) Its objective is to raise awareness of Mother Nature among students.

Choose the correct option from given below.

- a) Only i
- b) Only ii
- c) Both I and ii
- d) Neither I nor ii

Answer – C

Initiative Launched by WWF-India and Samagra Shiksha Assam.

Objective: Raise awareness of Mother Nature among students.

Coverage: Launched in Assam, following Tamil Nadu.

Program Nature: Student-led environmental education and movement.

Focus: Greening schools and communities in Assam.

Key Themes: Biodiversity, water, waste, food, and energy.

Implementation Tool: Mission Prakriti handbook.

Action Plan: Formation of a Green Cabinet by students, led by teachers, to execute activities and projects.

2. Under Article 360 of the Constitution, the power to proclaim financial emergency is vested under
- (a) Ministry of Finance
 - (b) Parliament
 - (c) President
 - (d) Comptroller and Auditor General of India

Answer – C

- Article 360 empowers the President to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened. The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the President in declaring a Financial Emergency final and conclusive and not questionable in any court on any ground. But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the President is not beyond judicial review.
- Hence, option (c) is correct.

3. Consider the following statements:
- i. There is no limit to the power of the Parliament to amend the Constitution.
 - ii. Only the President can decide whether any matter forms a part of the basic structure of the Constitution
- 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

- In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in Kesavananda Bharati case that there is a basic structure of the Constitution and nobody—not even the Parliament (through amendment)—can violate the basic structure. The Court did two more things. First, it said that right to property (the disputed issue) was not part of basic structure and therefore could be suitably abridged. Secondly, the Court reserved to itself the right to decide whether various matters are part of the basic structure of the Constitution. This case is perhaps the best example of how judiciary uses its power to interpret the Constitution.

4. Which of the following would fall under the definition of State as defined in Article 12 of the Constitution?
- i. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
 - ii. Unique Identification Authority of India
 - iii. NITI Aayog
 - iv. RBI

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer – D

- The state has been defined in a wider sense so as to include all its agencies. It is the actions of these agencies that can be challenged in the courts as violating the Fundamental Rights.
- According to the Supreme Court, even a private body or an agency

working as an instrument of the State falls within the meaning of the 'State' under Article 12.

- DMRC has equal equity participation from GOI and GNCTD.
- RBI, UID Authority are statutory bodies.
- NITI Aayog performs important public functions like recommending the poverty line.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

5. Which of the following fall within the purview of Freedom of Speech and Expression as guaranteed under Article 19 of the Indian constitution?

- Freedom of Silence
- Right to Strike
- Right to telecast
- Right to know about government activities

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- 1, 3 and 4 only
- 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer – A

- Freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed under Article 19(1) of the Indian constitution. It implies that every citizen has the right to express his views, opinions, belief, and convictions. The Supreme Court held that the freedom of speech and expression includes the following :-
 - Right to propagate one's views as well as views of others.
 - Freedom of press
 - Freedom of Commercial advertisements

- Right against tapping of telephonic conversation
- Right to telecast
- Freedom of silence
- Right to know about government activities
- Right against the imposition of pre-censorship
- Right to demonstration or picketing but not right to strike

6. Consider the following statements with reference to the idea of liberalism in the context of the Indian Constitution:

- i. Indian liberalism gives primacy to the rights of the individuals over the rights of the community.
- ii. Reservations for SC/ST community in the constitution are an example of Indian liberalism.

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

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Indian liberalism is different from classical or western liberalism. Classical liberalism is more concerned with individual freedom. While in India, an individual identifies himself with the community to which he/she belongs. So Indian liberalism gives primacy to the rights of the individuals over the demands of social justice and community values.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The reservation to deprived classes to meet their demands for social justice signifies the idea of Indian liberalism.

7. What is Vostro Account?
- (A) It is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's currency (rupee in case of India).
 - (B) It is held for street vendors under PM SVANidhi scheme.
 - (C) Both option A and B correct
 - (D) All the options are wrong

Answer – A

It is an account that domestic banks (India) hold for foreign banks (like Russian Banks) in the former's (domestic) currency, in this case, the Indian Rupee. Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs. Vostro Accounts can be used to handle trade invoiced and settled in Indian Rupee.

8. Which of the following Directive Principles was added by the 42nd amendment of the Indian Constitution?
- i. To secure opportunities for the healthy development of children.
 - ii. To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor.
 - iii. To minimize inequalities in income, status, facilities, and opportunities.
 - iv. To promote the development of the Hindi language.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2, and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer - A

- Directive Principles added/changed by 42nd Constitution amendment,

1976-

- To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39)
- To promote equal justice and to provide free legal aid to the poor (Article 39 A)
- To take steps to secure the participation of workers in the management of industries (Article 43 A)
- To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39) To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life (Article 48 A). 44th, 1978 • The State shall, in particular, **strive to minimize the inequalities in income, and endeavor to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities**, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations (Article 38(2)) 97th, 2011
- The State shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies. (Article 43-B) 86th, 2002 • The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years. (The subject of article 45 changed).

9. Consider the following statements in the context of Annie Besant:
1. She came to India to work for the Theosophical Society.
 2. She launched a campaign through her two papers, New India and Commonweal.
 3. She set up her Home Rule League headquarters in Mumbai.
 4. She became the first woman president of the Indian National Congress.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer – C

- Annie Besant, already sixty-six in 1914, had begun her political career in England as a proponent of Free Thought, Radicalism, Fabianism, and Theosophy, and had come to India in 1893 to work for the Theosophical Society. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- In early 1915, Annie Besant launched a campaign through her two papers, *New India* and *Commonweal*, and organized public meetings and conferences to demand that India be granted self government on the lines of the White colonies after the War. From April 1915, her tone became more peremptory and her stance more aggressive. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Annie Besant had gone ahead with the formal founding of her League in September 1916. Most of the work was carried on by Annie Besant and her lieutenants — Arundale, C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, and B.P. Wadia — from her headquarters at Adyar. Hence statement 3 is not correct.
- Annie Besant was the first woman President of the Indian National Congress. She presided over the 1917 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. The president of the 1916 Lucknow session was Ambika Charan Mazumdar. Hence statement 4 is correct.

10. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two?

(a) Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks

(b) Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks

(c) Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it

(d) There is no material difference between the two

Answer: B

11. Which village in Assam has been chosen as the Best Tourism Village of India for the year 2023?

- a) Biswanath Ghat
- b) Chunbari Gaon
- c) Ranthali
- d) Sarthebari

ANSWER- A

Biswanath Ghat in Assam has been chosen as the Best Tourism Village of India in 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism.

12. With reference to the Finance Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It is a quasi-judicial body.
2. The members hold office for five years or till 65 years of age.
3. The members are eligible for reappointment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer – C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission. It is a quasi judicial body. The Finance Commission shall have **all powers of civil court under Code of Civil Procedure (1908) in matters of summoning & enforcing attendance and requisitioning any public record from any court of office.** Also Finance Commission shall be deemed to be a civil court for purposes of sections 480 and 482 of the CrPC provided under Finance Commission Act.
- It is constituted by the President of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he considers necessary.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President. They hold office for such period as specified by the President in his order.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** They are eligible for reappointment.

13. “It is a compilation of artificial images and audio put together with machine- learning algorithms to spread misinformation and replace a real person's appearance, voice, or both with similar artificial likenesses or voices.”

Here, on what kind of technology the passage talked about?

- A) Super Computer
- B) Quantum technology

- C) Deepfakes and Artificial Intelligence
- D) None of the above

Answer – C

Deepfakes are a compilation of artificial images and audio put together with machine-learning algorithms to spread misinformation and replace a real person's appearance, voice, or both with similar artificial likenesses or voices. It can create people who do not exist and it can fake real people saying and doing things they did not say or do.

14. Which of the following functions is/are performed by the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes?
1. To suggest measures to be taken overconferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce to STs living in forest areas.
 2. To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the STs.
 3. To suggest measures to be taken to ensure full implementation of the provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - D

- The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was established under

Article 338-A of the Constitution with the objective of monitoring the safeguards provided for STs under the Constitution or other laws. The functions of the National Commission for STs include:

- To inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the STs.
 - To suggest measures to be taken over conferring ownership rights in respect of minor forest produce to STs living in forest areas.
 - To suggest measures to be taken to ensure full implementation of the Provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
- Hence, all the statements are correct.

15. Which of the following is/are push factors for migration?

- (i) Unpleasant climate.
- (ii) Natural disasters and epidemics.
- (iii) Better job opportunities.
- (iv) Peace and stability.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A) i and ii only
- B) iii and iv only
- C) iii only
- D) i, ii, iii and iv

Answer – A

- Push factors are negative things that make people want to move to a new area. Reasons include less economic opportunities, poor living conditions, political turmoil, unpleasant climate, epidemics, natural disasters, etc.
Hence options 1 and 2 are correct.
- Pull factors are positive aspects that attract people to move to a place. It includes better job opportunities and living conditions, peace and stability,

security of life and property, and a pleasant climate. Hence options 3 and 4 are not correct.

16. Which of the following criteria are used to identify biodiversity hotspots?
- i. Species richness.
 - ii. Presence of invasive species.
 - iii. High endemism.
 - iv. Threat perception.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: C

- Conservation International was a pioneer in defining and promoting the concept of hotspots. In 1989, just one year after scientist Norman Myers wrote the paper that introduced the hotspots concept, Conservation International adopted the idea of protecting them as the guiding principle of their investments.
- Hot spots are regions with very high levels of species richness and a high degree of endemism (that is, species confined to that region and not found anywhere else) that are under constant threat.
- To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must meet two strict criteria:
 - o It must have at least 1,500 vascular plants as endemics — which is to say, it must have a high percentage of plant life found nowhere else on the planet. A hotspot, in other words, is irreplaceable.

o It must have 30% or less of its original natural vegetation. In other words, it must be threatened.

- The mere presence of invasive species is not a criteria to identify biodiversity hotspots.

- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

17. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the Cabinet Mission?

1. It was sent to India in 1946 to discuss the terms for the transfer of power to Indians.

2. It proposed a federation of the provinces and the States, with the federal center controlling only defense, foreign affairs, and communication.

3. Both Indian National Congress and Muslim League rejected the Cabinet Mission plan.

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

- Cabinet Mission was a high-powered mission sent in February 1946 to India by the Atlee Government, It comprised Sir Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State for India, Sir Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade, V Alexander, the First Lord of the Admiralty. It was sent to negotiate with the Indian leaders the terms of the transfer of power to Indians. Hence statement 1 is correct.

- Major recommendations:

- It recommended an undivided India. There shall be a Union of India. It will deal with the defense, foreign affairs, and communications. It also restricted Communal representation.
- All the members of the Interim cabinet would be Indians and there would be minimum interference by the Viceroy.
- Formation of the constituent assembly on the democratic principle of population.
- It recognized India's right to cede from the Commonwealth.
- There was to be a federation of the provinces and the States, with the federal center controlling only defense, foreign affairs, and communications. The union would have the powers necessary to raise the finances to manage the subjects. All subjects other than the Union subjects and all the residuary powers would be vested in the provinces. Hence statement 2 is correct. The Princely states would retain all subjects and all residuary powers.
- The representation of the Provincial legislatures was to be broken up into 3 sections.
 - Section A: Madras, UP, Central provinces, Bombay, Bihar & Orissa
 - Section B: Punjab, Sindh, NWFP, Baluchistan
 - Section C: Assam and Bengal
- Both Indian National Congress and Muslim League accepted this plan. But the two could not agree on the plan for an interim government that would convene a constituent assembly to frame a constitution for the free, federal India. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

18. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to the India Independence Act, 1947?

1. It provided that India can alter any law made by the British in relation to India, including the India Independence Act, 1947 itself.

2. It abolished the office of the Governor- General in India.
3. Though it declared India as independent, it did not proclaim the lapse of British Paramountcy over Indian Princely states.

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 - A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** by this act, the constituent assembly made a fully sovereign body. This act also empowered the assembly to abrogate or alter any law made by the British in relation to India.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The act abolished the office of the viceroy and provided for each dominion, a Governor-General.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** This act ended British Rule in India and declared India as an independent and sovereign state from August 15, 1947. It proclaimed the lapse of British paramountcy over Indian Princely states and granted freedom to princely states to either to join two independent states (Pakistan or India) or remain independent.

19. India launched 'Operation Dost' to
- A) To extend assistance and provide relief to Turkey and Syria after earthquake
 - B) Offer assistance to Maldives during water crisis
 - C) To provide assistance to Bangladesh during flood
 - D) None of the above

Answer – A

- India launched 'Operation Dost' to extend assistance and provide relief to Turkey and Syria, after the Earthquake. Under the operation, India has sent search and rescue teams including three teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), a field hospital, materials, medicines and equipment to Turkey and Syria.

20. With reference to the Santhal uprising consider the following statements:

1. Sido and Kanhu were the leaders of the uprising.
2. Zamindars joined hands with the tribals and attacked the colonial symbols of authority like police stations and railways.
3. Santhal tribals were helped by a large number of non-tribals in the revolt.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer - A

- Among the numerous tribal revolts, the Santhal hool or uprising was the most massive. The Santhals, who live in the area between Bhagalpur and Rajmahal, known as Daman-i-koh, rose in revolt; made a determined attempt to expel the outsiders — the dikus — and proclaimed the complete 'annihilation' of the alien regime.
- The Santhals considered the dikus and government servants morally corrupt being given to beggary, stealing, lying and drunkenness. By 1854, the tribal heads,

the majhis and parganites, had begun to meet and discuss the possibility of revolting. Stray cases of the robbing of zamindars and moneylenders began to occur.

- The Santhals believed that their actions had the blessings of God. Sido and Kanhu, the principal rebel leaders, claimed that Thakur (God) had communicated with them and told them to take up arms and fight for independence. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The leaders mobilized the Santhal men and women by organizing huge processions through the villages accompanied by drummers and other musicians. The leaders rode on horses and elephants. Soon nearly 60,000 Santhals had been mobilized. Forming bands of 1,500 to 2,000, but rallying in many thousands at the call of drums on particular occasions, they attacked the mahajans and zamindars and their houses, police stations, railway construction sites, the dak (post) carriers — in fact, all the symbols of diku exploitation and colonial power. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The Santhal insurrection was helped by a large number of non-tribal and poor dikus. Gwalas (milkmen) and others helped the rebels with provisions and services; lohars (blacksmiths) accompanied the rebel bands, keeping their weapons in good shape. Once the Government realized the scale of the rebellion, it organized a major military campaign against the rebels. It mobilized tens of regiments under the command of a major general, declared Martial Law in the affected areas and offered rewards of up to Rs. 10,000 for the capture of various leaders. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

21. Kodaikanal Solar Observatory is situated in

- (A) Tamil Nadu
- (B) Andhra Pradesh
- (C) Telangana
- (D) Maharashtra

Answer – A

It is a solar observatory owned and operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics. It is located on the southern tip of the Palani Hills, 4 kilometers from Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu.

22. Which of the following elements form a part of 'Basic Structure of the Constitution' as laid down by various court judgements?

1. Secular character of the Constitution
2. Separation of powers between the legislature and the executive
3. Socialist state
4. Principle of reasonableness

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - D

- The doctrine of Basic structure of the Constitution was laid down by the Supreme Court in the case of Kesavananda Bharati v/s State of Kerala (1973). Based on various judgements of the Court, the following are some of the elements included in the Basic structure: Supremacy of the Constitution; **Secular character of the Constitution**; Sovereign, democratic and republic nature of polity; **Separation of powers between the legislature, judiciary and executive**; Unity and Integrity of the nation; Welfare state; Rule of Law; Parliamentary system; Effective access to justice; **Principle of reasonableness** etc.

- Socialist state is not included in the Basic structure.

23. Consider the following statements in the context of Preamble to the Constitution:

1. The Preamble states that the Constitution derives its authority from the constituent assembly of India.
2. Indian constitution was the first constitution in the world, to begin with a Preamble.
3. Preamble is a part of the Constitution and gives clarity in interpretation of the constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer - B

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** the constitution derives its authority from the people of India not from the constituent assembly, this is mentioned in the preamble part of the constitution.
- **Statement 2 is not correct** - the American constitution was the first to begin with a Preamble. Many countries, including India, followed the practice.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** In the Keshavananda Bharti case, SC has held that preamble is a part of the Constitution. And if there is any lack of clarity in the constitution, the judiciary turns to the Preamble in its interpretation of the relevant provisions.

24. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 359 of the Constitution, then
- (a) the President can promulgate ordinance for any state.
 - (b) the powers of High Courts are subsumed by the Supreme Court.
 - (c) the President is empowered to suspend the enforcement of some Fundamental Rights.
 - (d) he may extend National Emergency only to few parts of the country and not the entire country.

Answer - C

- Article 359 authorises the President to suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights during a National Emergency. This means that under Article 359, the Fundamental Rights as such are not suspended, but only their enforcement. The said rights are theoretically alive but the right to seek remedy is suspended. **The suspension of enforcement relates to only those Fundamental Rights that are specified in the Presidential Order.** Further, the suspension could be for the period during the operation of emergency or for a shorter period as mentioned in the order, and the suspension order may extend to the whole or any part of the country. It should be laid before each House of Parliament for approval. **Hence, only option (c) is correct.**
- The **44th Amendment Act of 1978** restricted the scope of Article 359 in two ways. Firstly, the President cannot suspend the right to move the Court for the enforcement of fundamental rights guaranteed by Articles 20 to 21. Secondly, only those laws which are related with the emergency are protected from being challenged and not other laws and the executive action taken only under such a law, is protected.
- Article 359 operates in case of both when National Emergency is declared on grounds of war or external aggression as well as on the ground of armed rebellion.
- **Article 359 may extend to the entire country or a part of it.**

25. Xenotransplantation, recently in news is:
- (a) Technique of moving a plant from one location to another
 - (b) Transplantation of organs among different species
 - (c) Technique to attract honey bees in queenless colonies.
 - (d) Changes in the microbiota between specific communities of organisms

Answer – B

- Recently, doctors transplanted a pig heart into a patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life which has marked the step towards the decades-long quest of using animal organs for life-saving transplants. Xenotransplantation is a term associated with transplantation, implantation, or infusion of cells, tissues or organs among different species. It is defined by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as "any procedure that involves the transplantation, implantation or infusion into a human recipient of either (a) live cells, tissues, or organs from a nonhuman animal source, or (b) human body fluids, cells, tissues or organs that have had ex vivo contact with live nonhuman animal cells, tissues or organs. The demand for human cells, tissues and organs for clinical transplantation continues to exceed the supply. The limited availability of human allografts, coupled with recent scientific and biotechnical advances, has prompted the renewed development of investigational therapeutic approaches that use xenotransplantation products in human recipients.
- Hence option (b) is the correct answer.

26. What is Generative Artificial Intelligence?

- A) A type of artificial intelligence that involves creating new, original

content or data using machine learning algorithms.

- B) It is the only type of Artificial Intelligence scientists have invented.
- C) It can generate only music and not text or images.
- D) It has no relevance in today's world

Answer- A

Generative AI is a type of artificial intelligence that involves creating new, original content or data using machine learning algorithms. It can be used to generate text, images, music, or other types of media. Generative AI works by training a model on a large dataset and then using that model to generate new, previously unseen content that is similar to the training data. This can be done through techniques such as neural machine translation, image generation, and music generation.

27. Which of the following is/are the defining features of the parliamentary form of Government in India?
1. Watertight separation of powers between the executive, legislature, and judiciary.
 2. The executive is responsible to the legislature.
 3. Division of powers between center and state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** In the parliamentary form of the government, there will not be a watertight separation of the powers. Here the executive will be part of the legislature.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the most defining feature of the parliamentary form of the government, where executive is answerable to the legislature, unlike the presidential form of the government, where the executive is not answerable to the legislature.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** Parliamentary form of government defines the governing mechanism of a state. Division of powers is nothing to do with the parliamentary form of government because division of powers is more to do with the decentralization and autonomy to the states rather than way of defining the governing mechanism itself.

28. With reference to UPSC, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is mandated with the classification of services and cadre management of selected candidates.
2. It presents its annual performance report to the Parliament.
3. Its jurisdiction can be extended by an act made by the Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** It is concerned with the recruitment to the all-India services and Central services—group A and group B and advises the government, when consulted, on promotion and disciplinary matters. It is

not concerned with the classification of services, pay and service conditions, cadre management, training, and so on which is managed by the Department of Personnel and Training of government of India.

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** The UPSC presents, annually, to the president a report on its performance. The President places this report before both the Houses of Parliament, along with a memorandum explaining the cases where the advice of the Commission was not accepted and the reasons for such nonacceptance.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The additional functions relating to the services of the Union can be conferred on UPSC by the Parliament. It can also place the personnel system of any authority, corporate body or public institution within the jurisdiction of the UPSC. Hence the jurisdiction of UPSC can be extended by an Act made by the Parliament.

29. With reference to Joint Public Service Commission (JPSC), consider the following statements:

1. It can be created by President on the request of state legislatures concerned.
2. Its members hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
3. It presents its annual report to the President.

Which of the statements given above are **not** correct?

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

Answer - C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Constitution makes a provision for the establishment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (JSPSC) for two or more states. While the UPSC and the SPSC are created directly by the Constitution, a JSPSC can be created by an act of Parliament on the request of the state legislatures concerned.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The chairman and members of a JSPSC are appointed by the president. They hold office for a term of six years or until they attain the age of 62 years, whichever is earlier.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** A JPSC presents its annual performance report to each of the concerned state governors. Each governor places the report before the state legislature.

30. The term "Amils" was associated with which of the following?

- a) Revenue officers
- b) Military officer
- c) Treasurer
- d) Accountants

Answer- A

The land revenue administration was very well organized and revenue officers were called Amils while Qanungo were the officials in charge of maintaining revenue records.

31. Consider the following statements on Schengen Zone

1. A zone where European countries abolished their internal borders for the free and unrestricted movement of people.

2. It is a zone of conflict in South China Sea.

Choose the correct statement from the codes given below.

- A) Only 1
- B) Only 2
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer – A

Schengen Area signifies a zone where European countries abolished their internal borders for the free and unrestricted movement of people. It includes 22 of the EU's 27 states as well as Norway, Switzerland, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Citizens of Schengen Zone-member countries need not require to show their passports while travelling to other Schengen Zone countries.

32. With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- 1. He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
 - 2. He holds office for a period of five years or upto the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
 - 3. The Union Finance minister can represent the CAG in Parliament during his absence.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - A

- The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG). He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- No minister can represent the CAG in Parliament (both Houses) and no minister can be called upon to take any responsibility for any actions done by him. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

33. Women, Business and the Law 2023 Report is released by –
- (A) World Bank
 - (B) IMF
 - (C) UN
 - (D) World Economic Forum

Answer – A

The report has been released by World Bank. It assesses laws and regulations on women's economic participation in 190 economies, from 1970 to 2022.

34. Consider the following features of China type of climatic region:
- (i) Year-round influence of on-shore trade winds.
 - (ii) Fairly uniform annual distribution of rainfall.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) i only
- B) ii only
- C) Both i and ii
- D) Neither i nor ii

Answer – C

- Features of Warm Temperate Eastern Margin Climate (China Type):
 - Influenced by the on-shore Trade Winds all the year-round, without any monsoon variations. Hence statement 1 is correct.
 - Fairly uniform distribution of rainfall throughout the year. There is rain every month, except in the interior of central China, where there is a distinct dry season. Rain comes either from convectional sources or as orographic rain in summer, or from depressions in prolonged showers in winter. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
 - It is sometimes referred to as the Gulf type or Natal type of climate.
 - This type of climate is found on the eastern margins of continents in warm temperate latitudes, just outside the tropics.

35. Lok Kalyan Diwas is observed on the death anniversary of
- a) Gopinath Bordoloi
 - b) Bhupen Hazarika
 - c) Bishnu Prasad Rabha
 - d) Nabin Chandra Bordoloi

Answer – A

36. What is the objective of the Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar Mission?
- A) To document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique.
 - B) To promote homestay service only at villages
 - C) Both A and B is correct
 - D) None of the above

Answer – A

Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (My Village My Heritage) Programme

- It is being carried out under the National Mission for Cultural Mapping (NMCM).
- The survey seeks to document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique.
- The Ministry of Culture has partnered with the Common Services Centres (CSC), under the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MEITY) for this programme.
- The survey process involves a CSC Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE) conducting meetings with locals. The VLE then uploads interesting facts about the village, places of interest, customs and traditions, famous personalities, festivals and beliefs, art and culture, etc. on to a special application.

37. The movement of ocean currents is influenced by:
- (i) Movement of winds.
 - (ii) Salinity of the ocean.
 - (iii) Coriolis force.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A) i and iii only
- B) ii and iii only
- C) i and ii only
- D) i, ii and iii

Answer – D

- Ocean currents are like river flow in oceans. They represent a regular volume of water in a definite path and direction. Ocean currents are influenced by two types of forces namely
 - primary forces that initiate the movement of water
 - secondary forces that influence the currents to flow.
- The primary forces that influence the currents are:
 - heating by solar energy;
 - wind;
 - gravity;
 - coriolis force
- Heating by solar energy causes the water to expand. That is why, near the equator the ocean water is about 8 cm higher in level than in the middle latitudes. This causes a very slight gradient and water tends to flow down the slope.
- Wind blowing on the surface of the ocean pushes the water to move. Friction between the wind and the water surface affects the movement of the water body in its course. Gravity tends to pull the water down to pile and create gradient variation.
- The Coriolis force intervenes and causes the water to move to the right in the northern hemisphere and to the left in the southern hemisphere. These large accumulations of water and the flow around them are called Gyres. These produce large circular currents in all the ocean basins.
- Differences in water density affect vertical mobility of ocean currents. Water with high salinity is denser than water with low salinity and in the same way cold water is denser than warm water. Denser water tends to sink, while relatively lighter water tends to rise.
- Cold-water ocean currents occur when the cold water at the poles sinks and slowly moves towards the equator. Warm-water currents travel out from the equator along the surface, flowing towards the poles to replace the sinking cold water.

- The topography and shape of ocean basins and nearby landmasses also influence ocean currents.
- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

38. Exercise Tarkash was between

- A) India and US
- B) India and France
- C) India and Turkey
- D) India and Italy

Answer – A

- It is a **counterterrorism exercise** between India's National Security Guard and US Special Operations Forces. For the first time, the exercise included Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terror response in its drill.

39. The reign of which Ahom king marked by beginning of official entry of Hinduism into Ahom court?

- a) Suhungmung
- b) Sudangpha
- c) Sukhampha
- d) Sunyatpha

Answer- B

Sudangpha/ Bamuni Konwar was brought up by a brahman family. After dethroning Tyao Khamti, ministers were in search of a direct descendant of Sukapha on the male line to ascend to the vacant royal throne. Then Sudangpha along with him also brought his Brahmana foster father and some other

Brahmanas. Their influence on him marked the beginning of official entry of Hinduism to Ahom court.

40. Which of the following is/are correct about El-Nino?

- (i) It is merely an extension of the warm equatorial current which gets replaced temporarily by cold Peruvian current.
- (ii) El-Nino event has led to delay in the onset of southwest monsoon over the Indian-subcontinent.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A) i only
- B) ii only
- C) Both i and ii
- D) Neither i nor ii

Answer- C

The word El-Nino means 'Child Christ', because this current appears around Christmas in December. December is a summer month in Peru (Southern Hemisphere) and in almost every three to seven years, this sets in warm currents off the coast of Peru in the eastern Pacific and affects the weather in many places including India.

- El-Nino is merely an extension of the warm equatorial current which gets replaced temporarily by cold Peruvian current or Humbolt current. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- This current increases the temperature of water on the Peruvian coast by 10 degree Celcius. This results in
 - the distortion of equatorial atmospheric circulation.
 - irregularities in the evaporation of sea water.
 - reduction in the amount of planktons which further reduces the number of fish in the sea.

- El-Nino is used in India for forecasting long range monsoon rainfall. The El-Nino event has led to delayed or total failure of monsoon over most parts of the country in 1990-91, 1998, 2006-07 and 2015-16. Hence statement 2 is correct.

41. Choose the correct answer related to Sickle Cell Anaemia (SCA) is
- A) An inherited blood disorder and a condition in which there aren't enough healthy Red Blood Cells (RBC).
 - B) In SCA, RBCs become rigid and sticky.
 - C) Bone marrow transplant is one of the remedies for SCA.
 - D) All the above options are correct.

Answer – D

All the options are right related to Sickle Cell Anaemia.

42. Consider the following statements on Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023.
- (i) The bill aims to build forest carbon stock by raising plantations.
 - (ii) It aims to provide developers with land so they can fulfil their legal duty to plant trees as compensation for diverting forest land for development projects.

Choose the correct answer

- A) Only (i)
- B) Only (ii)
- C) Both (i) and (ii)
- D) Neither (i) nor (ii)

Answer – C

The Government has introduced the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023 to make changes in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Objectives –

- The Bill aims to build forest carbon stock by raising plantations.
- It aims to provide developers with land so they can fulfil their legal duty to plant trees as compensation for diverting forest land for development projects.
- The Bill tries to achieve these objectives by restricting the applicability of the FC Act, and by freeing up unrecorded forests land.

43. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme aims to

- A) Redevelop about 1, 275 railway stations across India
- B) Enhance facilities at railway stations
- C) Relocate redundant/old buildings in a cost- efficient manner
- D) All of the above

Answer – D

- The Union Government plans to redevelop about 1,275 stations across India under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.
- The objectives of the Scheme include
 - Preparation of Master Plans of the Railway stations and implementation to enhance the facilities;
 - Introduction of new amenities, upgradation and replacement of existing amenities;
 - Relocate redundant/old buildings in a cost-efficient manner.

44. Which of the following Indian states is also referred to as the "Molassis basin"?

- A) Assam
- B) Punjab
- C) Mizoram
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer- C

- Molasses are thick associations of continental and marine clastic sedimentary rocks that consist mainly of sandstones and shales formed as shore deposits. The depositional environments involved include beaches, lagoons, river channels, and backwater swamps.
- Mizoram is also known as the 'Molasses basin'. It is made up of soft unconsolidated deposits. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.

45. Who among the following is associated with the slogan "one religion, one caste, one God for mankind"?

- a) Sri Narayana Guru
- b) Sahadaran Ayyapan
- c) Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar
- d) E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker

Answer -A

- During the 1920s in South India, the non-brahmins organized the Self-Respect Movement led by E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker.
- There were numerous other movements demanding that the ban on the entry of lower castes into temples be lifted. Sri Narayana Guru in Kerala led a lifelong struggle against upper caste domination.

- Sri Narayana Guru coined the slogan “one religion, one caste, one God for mankind”, which his disciple Sahadaran Ayyapan changed into “no religion, no caste, no God for mankind”.
- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

46. Consider the following statements:

- (i) Brown coal is used as a fuel in steam electric power generation.
- (ii) Bituminous coal is of higher quality than Anthracite.
- (iii) Bituminous Coal has the fewest impurities and higher carbon content of all types of coal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) i and ii only
- B) ii and iii only
- C) i only
- D) iii only

Answer – C

- Coal is a combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock with a high amount of carbon and hydrocarbons. Coal is classified as a nonrenewable energy source because it takes millions of years to form.
- **Types of coal are:**
 - **Lignite** - often referred to as brown coal, is a soft brown combustible sedimentary rock that is formed from naturally compressed peat. It is considered the lowest rank of coal due to its relatively low heat content. It has a carbon content of around 25-35%, a high inherent moisture content sometimes as high as 66%, and an ash content ranging from 6% to 19%. It is mined in Bulgaria, Kosovo, Greece, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Russia, Turkey, the United States, Canada, India, Australia, and many other parts of Europe, and it is used

almost exclusively as a fuel for steam electric power generation.

Hence statement 1 is correct.

- Bituminous coal or black coal is relatively soft coal containing a tar-like substance called bitumen. It is of higher quality than lignite coal but of poorer quality than anthracite. The carbon content of bituminous coal is around 60-80%; the rest is composed of water, air, hydrogen, and sulfur. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- Anthracite is a hard, compact variety of mineral coal that has a high luster. It has the highest carbon content, the fewest impurities, and the highest calorific content of all types of coal. The carbon content is between 92.1% and 98%. It is used mainly in power generation, in the metallurgy sector. Anthracite accounts for about 1% of global coal reserves, and is mined in only a few countries around the world. China accounts for the majority of global production; other producers are Russia, Ukraine, North Korea, Vietnam, the UK, Australia, and the US. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

47. Which of the following are the similarities between Indian Parliamentary System and British Parliamentary System?

- i. Supremacy of Parliament
- ii. Elected head of state
- iii. Majority party rule

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - C

- The features of parliamentary government in India are:
 - Presence of nominal and real executives;
 - Majority party rule,
 - Collective responsibility of the executive to the legislature,
 - Membership of the ministers in the legislature,
 - Leadership of the prime minister or the chief minister,
 - Dissolution of the lower House (Lok Sabha or Assembly).
- There are some differences between the British Parliamentary system and that of India. For example, the Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body like the British Parliament. Also, the Indian State has an elected head (republic) while the British State has hereditary head (monarchy).

48. Recently the term BHASHINI has been seen in news. It is related to
- A) Artificial intelligence led language translation platform
 - B) a newly inducted submarine in Indian Navy
 - C) a Ro Ro ship introduced in National Waterway 1
 - D) none of the above

Answer – A

- It is Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led language translation platform. The Platform is a part of the National Language Translation Mission. It aims to enable all Indians to have easy access to the Internet and digital services in vernacular language, and to increase the content in Indian languages.

49. Which of the following given condition is/are not an ideal condition for the good harvest of wheat?
- (i) It requires a rainfall of 75 to 100 cm.
 - (ii) Light loamy soil.
 - (iii) Winter temperature of 10° to 15° C and summer temperature of 21° C to 26° C during ripening.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A) ii and iii only
- B) i and iii only
- C) i only
- D) iii only

Answer – C

- Wheat is the second most important cereal crop in India after rice. It is primarily a crop in the temperate zone. Hence, its cultivation in India is done during winter i.e. rabi season.
- This rabi crop requires a cool growing season and bright sunshine at the time of ripening. There are two important wheat-growing zones in the country – the Ganga-Satluj plains in the northwest and the black soil region of the Deccan. The major wheat-producing states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan.
- Wheat needs a winter temperature of 10° to 15° C and a summer temperature of 21° C to 26° C during ripening to produce a good crop. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- It requires a rainfall of 50 to 75 cm. Excessive rainfall is harmful to the wheat crop. The roots of the plant are destroyed in standing water. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- Light loamy soil is ideal for wheat cultivation. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- Hence, its cultivation in India is done during winter i.e. rabi season. Cultivation of wheat is not labor intensive.
- About 85 percent of the total area under this crop is concentrated in the north and central regions of the country i.e. Indo-Gangetic Plain, Malwa

Plateau, and Himalayas up to 2,700 m altitudes. Being a rabi crop, it is mostly grown under irrigated conditions. But it is a rainfed crop in Himalayan highlands and parts of the Malwa plateau in Madhya Pradesh. About 14 percent of the total cropped area in the country is under wheat cultivation.

- Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan are leading wheat-producing states. The yield level of wheat is very high (above 4,000 k.g. per ha) in Punjab and Haryana whereas, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar have moderate yields. The states like Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu, and Kashmir growing wheat under rainfed conditions have low yields.

50. Mission Sahbhagita aims to
- A) Effectively manage the network of 75 wetlands of national and international significance.
 - B) Establish connection between various Self Help Group (SHG)
 - C) Improve India's bilateral relation with its neighbours
 - D) None of the above

Answer – A

- It was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 2022. Its aim is to effectively manage the network of 75 wetlands of national and international significance.

51. Global Terrorism Index, 2023 is published by
- A) Institute for Economics and Peace
 - B) World Economic Forum
 - C) SIPRI
 - D) None of the above

Answer – A

- Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a comprehensive study analysing the impact of terrorism for 163 countries.
- It is published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) using data from Terrorism Tracker and other sources. IEP also published the Global Peace Index.

52. Which of the following is/are the feature/s of Harappan Civilization?

- i. Fortification
- ii. Planned Streets
- iii. Drainages

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: c

Explanation: Fortification, well planned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.

53. Consider the following statements:

- i. Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines.
- ii. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha.

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

ANS: c

Explanation: Vinaya Pitaka deals with monastic rules and moral disciplines. Sutta Pitaka dwells upon discourses and teachings of Buddha. Abhidhamma Pitaka expounds Buddhist philosophy.

54. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Deepor Beel?
- i. It is a brackish water lake in Assam.
 - ii. It is famous for the species, like the Spot-Billed Pelican and the Baer's Pochard.
 - iii. It is a Ramsar Site.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

About the Deepor Beel: It is a permanent freshwater lake located in the Kamrup Metropolitan district of Assam.

It is considered as one of the largest Beels (lakes) in the Brahmaputra Valley.

It is the state's only Ramsar Site, besides being an 'Important Bird Area' by BirdLife International.

Some of the species in the Deepor Wetlands are the Lesser Adjutant Stork (IUCN- Vulnerable), the Greater Adjutant Stork (IUCN- Endangered), the Spot-Billed Pelican (IUCN- Near threatened) and the Baer's Pochard (IUCN- Critically Endangered).

55. Assam Prakashan Parishad Sahitya Bota, 2023 has been awarded to
- Dr. Dhrubajyoti Borah
 - Kuladhar Saikia
 - Dr. Jayasree Goswami Mahanta for her book Chanakya.
 - None of the above

Answer – A

56. Consider the following statements with reference to the Aditya-Li Mission:
- The Mission to observe the Sun will be launched to the first Lagrangian Point of the Sun-Earth System.
 - Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope is an instrument on board the Mission to study the Sun's corona.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation: Aditya-L1 is the first Indian Space Mission to observe the Sun and the solar corona. It will observe Sun's photosphere, chromosphere and corona. The Indian Space Research Organization is planning to launch the Mission by mid- 2023.

57. The religion of early Vedic Aryans was primarily of

- (a) Bhakti
- (b) image worship and Yajnas
- (c) worship of nature and Yajnas
- (d) worship of nature and Bhakti

Answer: C

58. With reference to the history of ancient India, which of the following was/were common to both Buddhism and Jainism?

- i. Avoidance of extremities of penance and enjoyment.
- ii. Indifference to the authority of the Vedas.
- iii. Denial of efficacy of rituals

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b)

59. Consider the following statements with respect to Freedom of Religion enshrined in the Constitution:

1. It includes the freedom to not follow any religion.
2. It bars all religious conversions.
3. It is not applicable to foreign nationals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer – A

- Freedom of Religion is a Fundamental Right provided under Articles 25-28 of the Constitution. Freedom of religion also includes the freedom of conscience. This means that a person may choose any religion or may choose not to follow any religion. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Freedom of Religion includes the right to not just practice one's religion but also to propagate it. This includes persuading people to join one's religion and willful conversion from one religion to another. The Constitution bars forceful conversions and conversions done by inducements. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Freedom of Religion is available to not just Indian citizens but also to foreign nationals residing within Indian territory. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

60. "Maharaj Dodan", recently seen in the news is associated with which of the following

mega sporting event?

- (a) National Games
- (b) North East Olympic games
- (c) Khel Maharan
- (d) Assam Youth Olympics

Ans: C

61. Who among the following introduced silver tanka on which the modern rupee is based?

- a) Allauddin Khilji
- b) Iltutmish
- c) Raziya Sultana
- d) None of the above.

Answer : b

Explanation:

Iltutmish introduced the Arabic coinage into India and the silver tanka weighing

175 grams became a standard coin in medieval India. The silver tanka remained

the basis of the modern rupee.

62. Consider the following statements about Mansabdari system:
- i. The Mughal administrative system had at its apex a military-cum-bureaucratic apparatus (mansabdari) which was responsible for looking after the civil and military affairs of the state.
 - ii. Some mansabdars were paid in cash (naqdi), while the majority of them were paid through assignments of revenue (jagirs) in different regions of the empire.
 - iii. They were transferred periodically.

Select the Correct Option:

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

Answer : d

Explanation:

All of the above statements are true.

63. Which of the following statements are correct?
- i. Under Krishna Deva Raya, the Vijayanagara kingdom remained in a constant state of military preparedness.
 - ii. Krishnadeva Raya is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples.
 - iii. Some of the most detailed descriptions of Vijayanagara come from his time or just after.

Select the Correct Option:

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

- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) All of the above.

Answer : d

Explanation :

Krishnadeva Raya's rule was characterised by expansion and consolidation.

This was the time when the land between the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers (the Raichur doab) was acquired (1512), the rulers of Orissa were subdued (1514) and severe defeats were inflicted on the Sultan of Bijapur (1520).

64. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mahayana Buddhism:
- i. Buddha's presence was shown in sculpture by using certain signs.
 - ii. They used Sanskrit Language to interact with the masses.
 - iii. They believed in the Bodhisattva concept of the salvation of all conscious individuals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: - c

During the 4th Buddhist council organised during King Kanishka's reign, there was a split in Buddhism and 2 sects were born: Hinayana Buddhism Mahayana Buddhism.

Statement 1 is incorrect

Earlier, the Buddha's presence was shown in sculpture by using certain signs.

For instance, his attainment of enlightenment was shown by sculptures of the peepal tree. However, with the emergence of the Mahayana Buddhism, statues of the Buddha were made.

65. Which country recently hosted Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence?

- a) Japan
- b) India
- c) France
- d) China

Answer: b

Recently, India has been handed over the presidency Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) for 2022-23 by the outgoing Council Chair, France in its 3rd Annual Summit in Japan. The meeting discussed these four themes: Responsible AI, Data governance, Future of work, Innovation and commercialisation.

66. With reference to the administrative policy of the education system in British India, 'Downward Filtration Theory' aims to -

- a) Spend the money in educating a few persons from the upper and middle classes so that they would radiate education and modern ideas among masses.
- b) Impart oriental education on religious lines with localized content and languages for the masses.
- c) Educate all masses directly through public universities and funds.
- d) Support cause of women education so they can spread modern ideas and education into their families.

Answer – A

Explanation –

- The famous Lord Macaulay's Minute 1835 settled the row in favour of Anglicists against orientalists and recommended that the limited government resources were to be devoted to teaching Western sciences and literature. The government soon made English the medium of instruction in its schools and colleges and opened a few English schools and colleges instead of a large number of elementary schools, thus neglecting mass education.
- The British planned to educate a small section of upper and middle classes, thus creating a class "Indian in blood and colour but English in tastes, in opinions, in morals and in intellect" who would act as interpreters between the government and masses and would enrich the vernaculars by which knowledge of Western sciences and literature would reach the masses. This was called the 'downward filtration theory. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
- Modern ideas, if not education, did filter down to the masses, though not in a form desired by the rulers, but through political parties, press, pamphlets, public platforms, etc. Modern education only helped this process by making available the basic literature on physical and social sciences to nationalists, thus stimulating their capacity to make social analysis—otherwise, the content, structure, and curricula of modern education served colonial interests.

67. With reference to Quit India Movement, consider the following statements:

1. The failure of the Cripps Mission was one of the main reasons behind the announcement of the movement.

2. The movement called for action from people of both British India and the Princely States.

3. The movement received support from the Communist Party of 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 –

- The failure of the Cripps Mission paved the way for a full-fledged confrontation between the British and the Congress. As a result Congress announced the Quit India campaign in August 1942 and refused to help the British in the war effort, and the British imprisoned the entire Congress leadership in return. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The Quit India Movement made clear that now there was no distinction to be made between the people of British India and the States: every Indian was to participate in this mass struggle. The meeting of the All India State Peoples Conference (AISPC) was convened along with the Congress session at Bombay that announced the commencement of the Movement. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The Communist Party of India, following the involvement of Russia in the war in December 1941, did not support Quit India movement because of their “Peoples’ War” Strategy, Other parties like Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha were also against it. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

68. Consider the following statements with regards to the Theosophical Movement:

1. The first headquarters of the theosophical movement in India was set up at Adyar, on the outskirts of Madras.
2. The movement rejected the Hindu beliefs in reincarnation and karma.

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 –

Theosophical Movement:

- A group of westerners led by Madame H.P. Blavatsky (1831- 1891) and Colonel M.S. Olcott, who was inspired by Indian thought and culture, founded the Theosophical Society in New York City, United States in 1875.
- In 1882, they shifted their headquarters to Adyar, on the outskirts of Madras (at that time) in India. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Society believed that a special relationship could be established between a person's soul and God by contemplation, prayer, revelation, etc.
- It accepted the Hindu beliefs in reincarnation and karma and drew inspiration from the philosophy of the Upanishads and Samkhya, yoga, and Vedanta schools of thought. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- It aimed to work for the universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste, or colour. The society also sought to investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in man.
- The Theosophical Movement came to be allied with the Hindu renaissance. (At one time it allied with the Arya Samaj too.) It opposed child marriage

and advocated the abolition of caste discrimination, uplift of outcastes, and improvement in the condition of widows.

- In India, the movement became somewhat popular with the election of Annie Besant (1847-1933) as its president after the death of Olcott in 1907.

69. Tora Chira is a festival of –

- A. Mising
- B. Thengal Kachari
- C. Karbi
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Tora Chira is a pre-Bihu celebration.

70. Consider the following statements regarding the Vernacular Press Act, 1878:

1. It was directed only against Indian language newspapers.
2. It provided for the confiscation of the printing press and other materials of a newspaper if the Government believed that it was publishing seditious materials.
3. It was repealed in 1881 by Lord Lytton.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer – B

- Indian newspapers began to find their feet in the 1870s. They became highly critical of Lord Lytton's administration, especially regarding its inhuman approach towards the victims of the famine of 1876-77.
- As a result, the Government decided to make a sudden strike at the Indian language newspapers, since they reached beyond the middle-class readership. The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was directed only against Indian-language newspapers. It was conceived in great secrecy and passed at a single sitting of the Imperial Legislative Council. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Act provided for the confiscation of the printing press, paper and other materials of a newspaper if the Government believed that it was publishing seditious materials and had flouted an official warning. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Indian nationalist opinion firmly opposed the Act. The first great demonstration on an issue of public importance was organized in Calcutta on this question when a large meeting was held in the Town Hall. Various public bodies and the Press also campaigned against the Act. Consequently, it was repealed in 1881 by Lord Ripon. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

71. Who among the following leaders were associated with the revolt of 1857?

1. Nana Saheb

2. Khan Bahadur Khan

3. Begum Hazrat Mahal

4. Bakht Khan

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - D

Storm Centres and Leaders of the Revolt –

- At Delhi the nominal and symbolic leadership belonged to the Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah, but the real command lay with a court of soldiers headed by General Bakht Khan who had led the revolt of Bareilly troops and brought them to Delhi.
- Emperor Bahadur Shah was perhaps the weakest link in the chain of leadership of the revolt. His weak personality, old age and lack of leadership qualities created political weakness at the nerve centre of the revolt and did incalculable damage to it.
- At Kanpur, the natural choice was Nana Saheb, the adopted son of the last peshwa, Baji Rao II. He was refused the family title and banished from Poona, and was living near Kanpur. Nana Saheb expelled the English from Kanpur, proclaimed himself the peshwa, acknowledged Bahadur Shah as the Emperor of India and declared himself to be his governor. Sir Hugh Wheeler, commanding the station, surrendered on June 27, 1857 and was killed on the same day.
- Begum Hazrat Mahal took over the reigns at Lucknow where the rebellion broke out on June 4, 1857 and popular sympathy was overwhelmingly in favour of the deposed nawab. Her son, Birjis Qadir, was proclaimed the nawab and a regular administration was organised with important offices shared equally by Muslims and Hindus.
- At Bareilly, Khan Bahadur, a descendant of the former ruler of Rohilkhand, was placed in command. Not enthusiastic about the pension being granted

by the British, he organised an army of 40,000 soldiers and offered stiff resistance to the British.

- In Bihar, the revolt was led by Kunwar Singh, the zamindar of Jagdishpur. An old man in his seventies, he nursed a grudge against the British who had deprived him of his estates. He unhesitatingly joined the sepoys when they reached Arrah from Dinapore (Danapur). Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

72. Which one of the following statements is/are correct with reference to the Swadeshi Movement?

1. The big zamindars of Bengal remain loyal to the British by not supporting the Swadeshi movement.

2. Indian National Congress supported the Swadeshi movement in Banaras Session by extending the movement to the rest of India and transforming it into a mass struggle.

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

- The Swadeshi Movement had its genesis in the anti-partition movement which was started to oppose the British decision to partition Bengal.
 - The attempt, at that time in the words of Lord Curzon, the Viceroy (1899-1905) was to 'dethrone Calcutta' from its position as the 'centre from which the Congress Party is manipulated throughout Bengal,

and indeed which the Congress Party centre of successful intrigue' and 'divide, the Bengali speaking population.'

- Risley, the Home Secretary to the Government of India, was more blunt. He said on 6 December 1904: 'Bengal united, is power, Bengal divided, will pull several different ways.'
- In December 1903, the partition proposals became publicly known, and immediate and spontaneous protest followed. Surendranath Banerjea, Krishna Kumar Mitra, Prithwishchandra Ray and other leaders launched a powerful press campaign against the partition proposals through journals and newspapers like the Bengalee, Hitabadi and Sanjibani.
- Vast protest meetings were held in the town hall of Calcutta in March 1904 and January 1905, and numerous petitions (sixty-nine memoranda from the Dacca division alone), some of them signed by as many as 70,000 people were sent to the Government of India and the Secretary of State. Even, the big zamindars who had hitherto been loyal to the Raj joined forces with the Congress leaders who were mostly intellectuals and political workers drawn from journalism, law and other liberal professions. Hence statement 1 is not correct.
- The day partition took effect — 16 October 1905 — was declared a day of mourning throughout Bengal. People fasted and no fires were lit at the cooking hearth.
 - In Calcutta, a hartal was declared. People took out processions and band after band walked barefoot, bathed in the Ganges in the morning and then paraded the streets singing Bande Mataram which, almost spontaneously, became the theme song of the movement.
- The Indian National Congress took up the Swadeshi call and the Banaras Session, 1905, presided over by G.K. Gokhale, supported the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement for Bengal. The militant nationalists led by Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghosh were, however, in favour of extending the movement to the rest of India and carrying it beyond the

programme of just Swadeshi and boycott to a full-fledged political mass struggle.

- The aim was now Swaraj and the abrogation of partition had become the 'pettiest and narrowest of all political objects" The Moderates, by and large, were not as yet willing to go that far. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
- The differences between the Moderates and the Extremists, especially regarding the pace of the movement and the techniques of struggle to be adopted, came to a head in the 1907 Surat session of the Congress where the party split with serious consequences for the Swadeshi Movement.

73. With reference to Individual Satyagraha, consider the following statements:

1. It was started to express Indian National Congress's stand against participating in World War II.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru was the first person to participate in Individual Satyagraha.

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

- Individual Satyagraha was direct result of August Offer, which was rejected by both INC and the Muslim League. Since Gandhiji thought that the time was not ripe for an another mass struggle and not to hamper the war efforts of British. He decided start Individual Satyagraha, to convey people's disinterest in the war and

their lack of distinction between Nazism and the double autocracy that controlled India. Hence statement 1 is correct.

• Individual Satyagraha was offered by Vinobha Bhave first and followed by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1941, this forced the British to come up with Cripps Proposal which was different from August offer and it provided way for Constituent Assembly in future. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

74. Which of the following was/were the causes behind the 1857 revolt?

- i. Sepoys would not be given the foreign service allowance (batta) when serving in Sind or in Punjab.
- ii. General Services Enlistment Act required the sepoy must be ready to serve even in British land across the sea.
- iii. Military authorities forbade the sepoy to wear caste and sectarian marks.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer - D

- The Revolt of 1857 was a major uprising in India in 1857–58 against the rule of the British East India Company.
- It began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of sepoy of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut.
- It was fed by resentments born of diverse perceptions, including invasive British-style social reforms, harsh land taxes, summary treatment of some rich

landowners and princes, as well as skepticism about the improvements brought about by British rule.

- Causes of The Revolt:

- o Political and Administrative Causes:

- █ British policy of expansion through the Doctrine of Lapse and direct annexation.

- █ A large number of Indian rulers and chiefs were dethroned which raised suspicion and fuelled resentment in the minds of ruling families. Eg. Rani Lakshmi Bai's adopted son was not permitted to sit on the throne of Jhansi. Satara, Nagpur, and Jhansi were annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse. Awadh was annexed on the pretext of maladministration.

- █ Common people were hard hit by the prevalence of corruption at the lower levels of administration.

- █ The middle and upper classes of Indian society, particularly in the North were hard hit by their exclusion from the well-paid higher posts in the administration.

- o Social and Religious Cause:

- █ Western Civilisation was gradually spreading all over the country.

- █ Hindu law of inheritance enables Christian converts to inherit their ancestral properties.

- █ The abolition of practices like sati and female infanticide, and the legislation legalizing widow remarriage, was believed as threats to the established social structure.

- █ Western education system posed a threat to the orthodox section of Hindu as well as Muslim communities.

- o Economic Cause:

- █ Peasants and zamindars were exploited through the imposition of heavy taxes on land and harsh consequences in case of failure to do so including confiscation of landholdings.

- █ The influx of British manufactured goods into India ruined local industries, particularly the textile industry of India.

o Military Causes:

▣ Indian sepoy were paid less than a European sepoy of the same rank.

▣ They were required to serve in areas far away from their homes.

▣ Sepoys would not be given the foreign service allowance (batta) when serving in Sind or in Punjab.

▣ General Services Enlistment Act required the sepoy must be ready to serve even in British land across the sea.

▣ Military authorities forbade the sepoy to wear caste and sectarian marks.

▣ Use of greased cartridges which were rumoured to contain animal fat hurt the religious sentiment of Indian Sepoys.

- Hence option (d) is the correct answer.

75. With reference to the Cripps Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was sent to gain the cooperation of Indians in World War II.
2. It promised freedom for India after the conclusion of World War II.
3. It promised to convene a constituent assembly to frame a new constitution for India after World War II.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer - B

- The Cripps mission was an attempt in late March 1942 by the British government to secure full Indian cooperation and support for their efforts in World War II. The mission was headed by Sir Stafford Cripps, a senior left-wing politician and government minister in the War Cabinet, who had actively supported the Indian national movement. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The main proposals of the mission were as follows:
 - o An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies. Hence statement 2 is not correct.
 - o After the end of the war, a Constituent Assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes. Hence statement 3 is correct.
 - o The British government would accept the new constitution subject to two conditions:
 - any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, and
 - the new constitution-making body and the British government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
 - o In the meantime, defence of India would remain in British hands and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.

76. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Fundamental Rights?

- i. They are sacrosanct in nature and cannot be amended.
- ii. They are available against the actions of both State and private individuals.
- iii. They operate as checks on the tyranny of both executive and the

Legislature.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer – C

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** Fundamental rights can be amended by constitution amendment till they do not violate the basic structure of the constitution and thus they are not sacrosanct.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** are available against the actions of both State and private individuals. Few Rights like Abolition of Untouchability etc. are available against private citizens also.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** These rights limit the power of the Executive and legislature and thus prevent tyranny of the executive and legislature.

77. During the Civil Disobedience Movement, in which of the following regions, a powerful agitation led by students was launched against the infamous 'Cunningham Circular'?
- a) United Provinces
 - b) Assam
 - c) Bombay
 - d) Madras

Answer - B

- The historic Dandi March, which marked the launch of the Civil Disobedience Movement, began on March 12 of 1930. Mahatma Gandhi broke the salt law by

picking up a lump of salt at Dandi on April 6. The violation of the law was seen as a symbol of the Indian people's resolve not to live under British made laws and therefore under British rule.

- A brief survey of the nature of the Civil Disobedience Movement in different parts of the subcontinent is given below:
- In Bengal, the onset of the monsoon, which made it difficult to make salt, brought about a shift to anti chowkidar and anti-Union Board agitation. Here too, villagers withstood severe repression, losing thousands of rupees worth of property through confiscation and destruction, and having to hide for days in forests to escape the wrath of the police.
- In Assam, a powerful agitation led by students was launched against the infamous 'Cunningham Circular' which forced students and their guardians to furnish assurances of good behavior. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.
- Defiance of forest laws assumed a mass character in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and the Central Provinces, especially in areas with large tribal populations that had been the most seriously affected by the colonial Government's restrictions on the use of the forest.

78. Consider the following statements about acid rain:

- i. It occurs only in tropical areas.
- ii. It is caused by a reaction of oxides of sulphur and nitrogen with water.
- iii. One of the reasons for the plaque on the Taj Mahal is the acid rain in the region.

How many of the above statements are not correct?

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

Answer: A

- The term “acid rain” refers to the precipitation of acid in the form of rain. It usually occurs when atmospheric pollutants such as oxides of nitrogen and sulphur, interact with rainwater and fall as a result. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- These pollutants reach the atmosphere from vehicular emissions, industrial outlets, etc.
- The Taj Mahal's white marble deteriorates due to this acid rain. Since acid rain also includes suspended materials such as ash, soot, and gases. SPM, or suspended particulate matter, these adhere to the monument's surface, turning it pale and yellow (plaque). Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Acid rains can occur anywhere with "rain and pollution". These are not necessarily limited to tropical areas. Hence statement 1 is not correct.

79. Which of the following are the possible impacts of ozone layer depletion?
- i. Delay in plant formation and timing of development.
 - ii. Increase in tropospheric ozone.
 - iii. Relative cooling of the troposphere.
 - iv. Increased incidence of cataracts in humans

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: D

- A higher-than-normal concentration of Ozone molecules called the Ozone layer, is found in Stratosphere. It acts as a shield absorbing ultraviolet radiation from the

sun. Depletion of the Ozone layer or Ozone hole leads to more UV rays reaching the lower atmosphere.

- Since ozone prevents high-intensity ultraviolet radiation from reaching the surface of the Earth and causing stratospheric warming, it can be assumed that the formation of the ozone hole changes the total radiation budget of the Earth. This is, indeed, the case. However, ozone depletion and the formation of the polar ozone holes don't lead to a further warming of the troposphere, but to a slight cooling.
- The absorption of ultraviolet radiation by ozone molecules causes warming in the stratosphere. Some of this heat emitted in the stratosphere is transferred to the troposphere causing slight tropospheric warming as well. This warming gets lessened due to the formation of an ozone hole.
- In the lower stratosphere, ozone can still act as a greenhouse gas and absorb infrared radiation coming from the Earth's surface. So absorption of both ultraviolet and infrared radiation by ozone leads to a warming of the upper troposphere. If ozone levels decrease, the upper troposphere will, therefore, get cooler.
- The high levels of UV rays cause non-melanoma skin cancer. Additionally, it plays a major role in malignant melanoma development. UV is also linked to cataracts.
- Plant growth as well as its physiological and developmental process are all affected negatively. These include the way plants form, the timing of development and growth, the distribution of plant nutrients and metabolism, etc. These changes can have important implications for plant competitive balance, animals feeding on these plants, plant diseases, and biogeochemical cycles.
- Increased surface UV leads to increased tropospheric ozone. Ground-level ozone is generally recognized to be a health risk, as ozone is toxic due to its strong oxidant properties. The risks are particularly high for young children, the elderly, and those with asthma or other respiratory difficulties.

Ozone at ground level is produced mainly by the action of UV radiation on combustion gases from vehicle exhausts.

- Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

80. Consider the following statements:

- i. Species evenness describes the distribution of abundance across the species in a community.
- ii. Species richness is the number of species within a defined 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: C

- The two main factors taken into account when measuring diversity are richness and evenness. Species richness and species evenness are two components important in measuring the biological diversity of an ecosystem. Both measures describe the species living in a particular area.
- Species richness: It is the number of species within a defined region. Generally, species richness counts the number of species in a particular ecosystem. However, it does not describe the abundance of the species in that particular ecosystem. It's possible to measure the species richness through either sampling or a census. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- In addition, species richness can be divided into three components:
- Diversity- Alpha diversity refers to diversity within a particular area, community or ecosystem, and is measured by counting the number of taxa

(usually species) within the ecosystem.

- Diversity- Beta diversity is species diversity between ecosystems; this involves comparing the number of taxa that are unique to each of the ecosystems.
- Diversity- Gamma diversity is a measurement of the overall diversity for different ecosystems within a region.
- Furthermore, species richness does not describe the distribution of the species within a particular geological area. It only describes the number of species in the above particular geological area.
- Species Evenness: It is the number of species and the relative abundance of species in a particular community. There are several indices to describe species evenness and the two most common measures of evenness are the Shannon index (H) and the Simpson index (D). Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The Shannon index (H) is a measure of the information content of a community rather than that of a particular species. On the other hand, the Simpson index (D) measures the dominance of a multispecies community and can be thought of as the probability that two individuals selected from a community will be of the same species.

81. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'bioprospecting'?

- a) It is the exploration of plant and animal species for the utilization of their genetic resources in the production of commercial products.
- b) It refers to unauthorized appropriation of biological materials.
- c) It is an ex situ treatment technology that leverages biological processes to convert contaminants to low-toxicity byproducts.
- d) It is a remediation technique that uses indigenous microorganisms to stimulate in-situ aerobic biological activity.

Answer: A

- Bioprospecting is the exploration of plant and animal species for the utilization of their genetic resources in pharmaceutical and biochemical industries and in the production of a wide array of commercially viable products. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
- It led to novel treatments for malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and cancer, highlighting yet again the interdependence between ecosystems and human health and wellbeing.
- Bioprospecting is based on a sustainable approach to bringing economic and social benefits to often poor communities who otherwise would resort to unsustainable use of land, consumption of environmental resources or other negative coping mechanisms such as economic migration.

82. Which of the following are the methods of carbon sequestration?

- i. Iron fertilization of oceans.
- ii. Subterranean injection of carbon dioxide.
- iii. Growing seaweeds.
- iv. Wetland restoration.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

- Carbon sequestration – the practice of removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it – is one of the many approaches being taken to

tackle climate change.

- It can be done in the following ways:
- Afforestation: Plants remove carbon dioxide from the air naturally, and trees are especially good at storing CO₂ removed from the atmosphere by photosynthesis. Expanding, restoring and managing tree cover to encourage more carbon uptake can leverage the power of photosynthesis, converting carbon dioxide in the air into carbon stored in wood and soils.
- Wetland Restoration: Wetlands are vital natural assets, capable of taking up atmospheric carbon and restricting subsequent carbon loss to facilitate long-term storage. They can be deliberately managed to provide a natural solution to mitigate climate change, as well as to help offset direct losses of wetlands from various land-use changes and natural drivers.
- Sustainable Agriculture: Soils naturally sequester carbon, but agricultural soils are running a big deficit due to frequent plowing and erosion from farming and grazing, all of which release stored carbon.
- Growing Seaweed: Kelp is a type of seaweed that grows in the ocean. Globally, seaweeds (including kelp) are thought to sequester nearly 200 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.
- Biochar: Biochar produced by pyrolysis of biowaste. It can be used as a landfill and increase soil fertility.
- Subterranean injection: It involves injecting CO₂ into depleted oil and gas reservoirs and other geological features, or into the deep ocean.
- Iron Fertilization: Iron fertilization of Oceans encourages the growth of plankton and thus helps in capturing CO₂.
- Hence, option (d) is the correct answer

83. Which of the following mechanisms have been formulated under the Kyoto Protocol?

- i. Clean Development Mechanism.

- ii. Joint Implementation.
- iii. Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.
- iv. International Emission Trading.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: C

- The Kyoto Protocol is an agreement made under the UNFCCC. Countries that ratify this protocol commit to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases (Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Sulphur Hexafluoride, Hydrofluorocarbons and Perfluorocarbons), or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases.
 - Under the protocol, Governments are separated into two general categories: countries among the developed nations, referred to as Annex 1 countries (who have accepted GHG emission reduction obligations and must submit an annual greenhouse gas inventory); and countries among developing or least developed nations, referred to as Non-Annex 1 countries (who have no GHG emission reduction obligations but may participate in the Clean Development Mechanism).
 - The Kyoto Protocol introduced three mechanisms in order to achieve its goals: the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI), and Emissions Trading (ET).
- o The CDM allows countries with commitments under the Kyoto Protocol to invest in emission reduction projects in developing countries. These projects can involve, for example, a rural electrification project using solar panels or the installation of more energy-efficient boilers. Hence option 1 is correct.

o JI mechanism allows a country with a Kyoto Protocol emission reduction target to invest in a project to reduce emissions in any other country with a commitment (as opposed to a developing country). Hence option 2 is correct.

o The Emissions Trading (The International Emission Trading) scheme under the Kyoto Protocol set up a platform where carbon units, or units generated by projects registered under the JI or the CDM, or from removals through forestry activities, can be exchanged, i.e. sold and purchased, according to a country's needs. The scheme made carbon a commodity and created a carbon market. Hence option 4 is correct.

• Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of its long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Article 4 of the Paris Agreement requires each party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. Hence, INDCs are not the market mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol. Hence option 3 is not correct.

84. Consider the following statements regarding Maa Kamakhya Divya Lok Pariyojana.

- (i) It aims to enhance access and amenities for pilgrims visiting the Kamakhya temple.
- (ii) It aims to enhance the pilgrims experience and boosting tourism in Assam.
- (iii) It is a part of PMDevINE.

Choose the correct answer from the options given below.

- a) Only i
- b) Only ii

- c) Only I and iii
- d) All of the above

Answer – D

It aims to enhance access and amenities for pilgrims visiting the Kamakhya temple. Enhance the pilgrimage experience and boosting tourism in Assam. It is a part of the Prime Minister's Development initiative for North Eastern Region (PMDevINE) scheme. It will restore six major hidden temples within the Kamakhya complex.

85. Consider the following biodiversity conservation sites:

- i. Sacred groves.
- ii. Botanical gardens.
- iii. Zoological parks.
- iv. Wildlife safari parks.

How many of the above are examples of ex situ conservation approaches?

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

Answer: C

• Biodiversity conservation: When we conserve and protect the whole ecosystem, its biodiversity at all levels is protected - we save the entire forest to save the tiger. This approach is called in situ (on-site) conservation. However, when there are situations where an animal or plant is endangered or threatened and needs urgent measures to save it from extinction, ex-situ (off-site) conservation is the desirable approach.

- In-situ conservation is the on-site conservation of genetic resources in natural populations of plant or animal species. In India, ecologically unique and biodiversity-rich regions are legally protected as biosphere reserves, national parks, sanctuaries, reserved forests, protected forests, and nature reserves. India has also a history of religious and cultural traditions that emphasized the protection of nature. In many cultures, tracts of forest were set aside, and all the trees and wildlife within were venerated and

given total protection. In Meghalaya, the sacred groves are the last refuge for a large number of rare and threatened plants. Sacred groves are a fine example of in-situ conservation.

- Ex situ Conservation—In this approach, threatened animals and plants are taken out from their natural habitat and placed in special settings where they can be protected and given special care. Zoological parks, botanical gardens, and wildlife safari parks serve this purpose. In recent years ex-situ conservation has advanced beyond keeping threatened species in enclosures. Now gametes of threatened

species can be preserved in viable and fertile conditions for long periods using cryopreservation techniques, eggs can be fertilized in vitro, and plants can be propagated using tissue culture methods.

Seeds of different genetic strains of commercially important plants can be kept for long periods in seed banks.

- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

86. Which of the following institution/s is/are raise the money under “Bank Rate”?

- i. Government of India
- ii. State Governments
- iii. RBI

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

- a) i only
- b) i and ii only
- c) ii and iii only
- d) i, ii and iii

ANS: B

Explanation: The interest rate which the RBI charges on its long-term lending's is known as the Bank Rate. The clients who borrow through this route are the Government of India, state governments, banks, financial institutions, co-operative banks, NBFCs, etc.

87. Consider the following statements:

- i. The rate of interest the RBI charges from its clients on their short-term borrowing is the repo rate.
- ii. In practice it is not called an interest rate but considered a discount on the dated government securities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) i only
- b) ii only
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

ANS: C

Explanation: The rate of interest the RBI charges from its clients on their short-term borrowing is the repo rate in India.

- Basically, this is an abbreviated form of the 'rate of repurchase' and in western economies it is known as the 'rate of discount'.

- In practice it is not called an interest rate but considered a discount on the dated government securities, which are deposited by institution to borrow for the short term.
- When they get their securities released from the RBI, the value of the securities is lost by the amount of the current repo rate.
- The Call Money Market of India (inter-bank market) operates at this rate and banks use this route for overnight borrowings.

88. Consider the following statements regarding “Regional Rural Banks (RRB’s)”:

- They were set up in 1975.
- Its aim is to take banking services to the doorsteps of the rural masses specially in the remote areas with no access to banking services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- i only
- ii only
- Both i and ii
- Neither i nor ii

ANS: C

Explanation: The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were first set up on 2 October, 1975 (only 5 in numbers) with the aim to take banking services to the doorsteps of the rural masses specially in the remote areas with no access to banking services with twin duties to fulfil:

- To provide credit to the weaker sections of the society at concessional rate of interest who previously depended on private money lending, and
- To mobilize rural savings and channelize them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas.

89. Consider the following statements

- (i) Orunodoi scheme is the largest Direct Benefit Transfer scheme of Assam Government.
- (ii) The amount under this scheme has been increased to 1250 per beneficiary.

Choose the correct option from the options given below.

- a) Only i
- b) Only ii
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer – C

Both the statements are correct.

90. Consider the following statements.

- (i) Mission Bhumi Putra is related to easy and hassle-free access to caste certificate.
- (ii) It has been launched by Tribal Affairs (Plain) Department and Social Justice and Empowerment department.

Choose the correct option from codes given below.

- a) Only i
- b) Only ii
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer – C

Both the statements mentioned in the question are correct.

91. Consider the following statements.

- (i) Mission Amrit Sarovar, Assam aims to construct and rejuvenate at least 75 Amrit Sarovar (Ponds) in each district of Assam.
- (ii) Asom Mala aims to strengthen transport connectivity in the state improving communication and transportation in the state.

Choose the correct option given below.

- a) Only i
- b) Only ii
- c) Both i and ii
- d) Neither i nor ii

Answer- C

The purpose of the schemes as mentioned above are correct.

92. Which of the following areas are conflicting area between Assam and Meghalaya?

- (i) Gazang reserve forest
- (ii) Langpih
- (iii) Nongwah
- (iv) Upper Tarabari

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a) Only i
- b) Only I and iii
- c) Only ii and iv
- d) I, ii, iii, and iv

Answer – D

93. With reference to State Election Commission, consider the following statements:

1. It has been empowered to conduct elections to panchayats through 73rd Constitutional amendment.
2. The functions of delimitation, reservation and rotation of Panchayats seats is vested in State Election Commission.
3. State Election Commission submits its annual report to the Election Commission of India and to the Governor.

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 - A

- **Statement 1 is correct:** State Election Commissions is entrusted to conduct elections to Panchayats through 73rd and urban local bodies through 74th Constitutional amendment acts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The functions of delimitation, reservation and rotation of Panchayats seats is vested in State Election Commission. As per the recommendations of National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC), the functions of delimitation, reservation and rotation of seats should be vested in a Delimitation Commission and not in the State Election Commission.
- **Statement 3 is not correct:** At present, there is no clear-cut provision regarding the submission of reports by State Election Commission. NCRWC also recommended that the State Election Commission should submit its annual or special reports to the Election Commission of India and to the Governor.

94. Which of the following characterize/ characterizes the people of Indus Civilization?

- i. They possessed great palaces and temples.
- ii. They worshipped both male and female deities.
- iii. They employed horse-drawn chariots in warfare.

Select the correct statement/ statements using the codes given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) None of the statements given above is correct

Answer: B

95. Consider the following statements regarding alluvial soils:

- (i) Bhangar is old alluvium and is composed of calcareous deposits called kankar.
- (ii) Khadar is younger deposits of the flood plains and is fertile.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) i only

B) ii only

C) Both i and ii

D) Neither i nor ii

Answer- C

- Statement 1 is correct: The largest part of the northern plain is formed of older alluvium. They lie above the flood plains of the rivers and present a terrace like feature. This part is known as bhangar. The soil in this region contains calcareous deposits locally known as kankar.

- Statement 2 is correct: The newer, younger deposits of the flood plains are called khadar. They are renewed almost every year and so are fertile, thus, ideal for intensive agriculture.

96. Consider the following statements regarding "Buddhist councils":

- i. The First Buddhist Council was held at Rajgriha after Buddha's death.
- ii. The Second Buddhist Council met at Vaishali a century after Buddha's death.

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

ANS: C

97. Consider the following statements regarding Simon Commission:

1. All the members of the commission were Englishmen.
2. It recommended dominion status for British 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 –

- The catalyst to the new phase of the movement was provided when the British government appointed Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known after the name of its chairman, as Simon Commission, to go into the question of further constitutional reforms. All the members of this commission were Englishmen. This announcement was greeted by a chorus of protest from all Indians. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- The call for a boycott of the Commission was endorsed by the Liberal Federation led by Tej Bahadur Sapru. The Hindu Mahasabha and the section of the Muslim League under Jinnah supported the call for boycott. It was the Indian National Congress, however, that turned the boycott into a popular movement. The Congress had resolved on the boycott at its annual session in December 1927 at Madras, and in the prevailing excitable atmosphere, Jawaharlal Nehru had even succeeded in getting passed a snap resolution declaring complete independence as the goal of the Congress. The Simon Commission published a two-volume report in May 1930. It proposed the abolition of dyarchy and the establishment of representative government in the provinces which should be given autonomy. The report contained no mention of Dominion Status. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

98. Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the right to constitutional remedies provided under Article 32 of the constitution?
- i. It is invoked to determine the constitutionality of any executive order or legislation if it directly infringes any of the fundamental rights.
 - ii. The Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in case of enforcement of fundamental rights.
 - iii. It is a basic feature of the constitution and cannot be taken away even by a constitutional amendment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer - C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The purpose of Article 32 is to provide a guaranteed, effective, expeditious, inexpensive and summary remedy for the protection of the fundamental rights. Only the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Constitution can be enforced under Article 32 and not any other right like nonfundamental constitutional rights, statutory rights, customary rights and so on. In other words, the Supreme Court, under Article 32, cannot determine a question that does not involve Fundamental Rights. Article 32 cannot be invoked simply to determine the constitutionality of an executive order or a legislation unless it directly infringes any of the fundamental rights.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** In case of the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is original but not exclusive. It is concurrent with the jurisdiction of the high court under Article 226.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Supreme Court has ruled that Article 32 is a basic feature of the Constitution. Hence, it cannot be abridged or taken away even by way of an amendment to the Constitution.

99. Consider the following features of the Indian Peninsular block:

- (i) It was formed majorly out of ancient gneisses and granites.
- (ii) The Thar desert in the west and Karbi Anglong plateau in the east are extensions of it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) i only
- B) ii only
- C) Both i and ii
- D) Neither i nor ii

Answer- C

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Indian Peninsula was formed essentially by a great complex of very ancient gneisses and granites, which constitutes a major part of it. Since the Cambrian period, the Peninsula has been standing like a rigid block with the exception of some of its western coast which is submerged beneath the sea and some other parts changed due to tectonic activity without affecting the original basement. As a part of the Indo-Australian Plate, it has been subjected to various vertical movements and block faulting. The rift valleys of the Narmada, the Tapi and the Mahanadi, and the Satpura block mountains are some examples of it. The Peninsula mostly consists of relict and residual mountains like the Aravali hills, the Nallamala hills, the Javadi hills, the Veliconda hills, the Palkonda range and the Mahendragiri hills, etc. The river valleys here are shallow with low gradients.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The northern boundary of the Peninsular Block may be taken as an irregular line running from Kachchh along the western flank of the Aravali Range near Delhi and then roughly parallel to the Yamuna and the Ganga as far as the Rajmahal Hills and the Ganga delta. Apart from these, the Karbi Anglong and the Meghalaya Plateau in the northeast and Rajasthan in the west are also extensions of this block. The northeastern parts are separated by the Malda fault in West Bengal from the Chhotanagpur plateau. In Rajasthan, the desert and other desert-like features overlay this block.

100. Consider the following statements regarding the Lahore Session (1929) of the Indian National Congress (INC):

1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress.
2. In this session, INC had authorized the Congress Working Committee to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes.
3. In this Session, INC passed the resolution for the 'Purna Swaraj' declaration.

Which of the statements given above are

correctly matched?

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

Answer – B

- Statement 1 is not correct: At the end of December 1929, Congress held its annual session in the city of Lahore. The meeting was significant for the election of Jawaharlal Nehru as President, signifying the passing of the baton of leadership to the younger generation. Only three out of eighteen Provincial Congress Committees had wanted Jawaharlal Nehru as president but recognizing the appositeness of the occasion, and the upsurge of the youth who had made such a glorious success of the Simon Boycott, Gandhiji supported and was decisive in electing Nehru as the President.
- Statement 2 is correct: The first task that the Congress set itself and the Indian people in the New Year was that of organizing all over the country, on 26 January, public meetings at which the Independence Pledge would be read out and collectively affirmed. This programme was a huge success, and in villages and towns, at small meetings and large ones, the pledge was read out in the local language and the national flag was

hoisted. The Lahore Congress of 1929 had authorized the Working Committee to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes. It had also called upon all members of legislatures to resign their seats.

- Statement 3 is correct: Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Bose and Satyamurthi, backed by a large number of delegates, pressed for the acceptance of 'Purna Swaraj' or complete independence as the goal of the Congress and on 19 December 1929, INC passed the historic 'Purna Swaraj' - (total independence) resolution.

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