



**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

Institute for IAS Examination

---

**UPSC Preliminary  
Examination, 2026**

**General Studies  
Paper I – Set-D**

**Answer Key  
&  
Detailed Answer Explanations**

**UPSC CSE Preliminary Examination 2026****Answer Key- SET-D**

1. (d)	11. (d)	21. (a)	31. (b)	41. (c)	51. (c)	61. (c)	71. (c)	81. (b)	91. (a)
2. (a)	12. (a)	22. (b)	32. (b)	42. (b)	52. (a)	62. (c)	72. (b)	82. (a)	92. (b)
3. (c)	13. (c)	23. (b)	33. (d)	43. (b)	53. (c)	63. (d)	73. (b)	83. (c)	93. (a)
4. (b)	14. (b)	24. (b)	34. (d)	44. (c)	54. (c)	64. (a)	74. (c)	84. (d)	94. (c)
5. (b)	15. (b)	25. (b)	35. (c)	45. (c)	55. (d)	65. (a)	75. (b)	85. (a)	95. (a)
6. (b)	16. (a)	26. (b)	36. (c)	46. (c)	56. (a)	66. (c)	76. (c)	86. (d)	96. (b)
7. (a)	17. (d)	27. (c)	37. (a)	47. (a)	57. (c)	67. (b)	77. (a)	87. (d)	97. (c)
8. (d)	18. (a)	28. (b)	38. (d)	48. (c)	58. (b)	68. (c)	78. (b)	88. (a)	98. (d)
9. (d)	19. (c)	29. (b)	39. (c)	49. (a)	59. (b)	69. (b)	79. (d)	89. X	99. (b)
10. (b)	20. (c)	30. (c)	40. (b)	50. (a)	60. (a)	70. (b)	80. (b)	90. (d)	100. (c)

**VAJIRAM & RAVI**

1. Consider the following assertion:

In the Pleistocene period either the Yamuna once flowed into the Indus, or the Sutlej flowed into the Yamuna and one major tributary of either had shifted from the Ganga to the Indus or vice versa.

Which of the following is/are the basis of the above assertion?

1. The Nadi-Sukta of the Rigveda
2. The explorations of the Sutlej and the Yamuna by Robert Bruce Foote
3. The presence of the same species of dolphins in both the Indus and the Ganga river systems

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The **Nadi-Sukta of the Rigveda** provides literary references to rivers of ancient India, but it is not considered scientific evidence for river capture or paleochannel shifts during the Pleistocene period. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Robert Bruce Foote** made important contributions to Indian geology and prehistory, the given assertion is not specifically based on his explorations of the Sutlej and Yamuna rivers. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The presence of the same species of river dolphins in both the Indus and Ganga systems suggests that these river systems were once interconnected. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

2. What does an empty seat represent in early Buddhist iconography?

- (a) The meditation of the Buddha
- (b) The Buddha's First Sermon
- (c) The Buddha's Mahaparinibbana
- (d) The Buddha's Mahabhinishkramana

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

In early Buddhist art and iconography, the Buddha was often represented through symbols rather than direct human images. This phase is known as the **aniconic phase** of Buddhist art.

- The empty seat was meant to indicate the **meditation of the Buddha**, and the stupa was meant to represent the mahaparinibbana.
- Another frequently used symbol was the wheel. This stood for the first sermon of the Buddha, delivered at Sarnath.

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

3. Which of the following pairs of ancient and modern names of rivers is/are correctly matched ?

1. Vitasta: Chenab
2. Asikni: Jhelum
3. Parushni: Ravi
4. Yavyavati : Beas

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The Rigveda mentions several rivers of the Sapta Sindhu region, which formed the geographical core of the Rigvedic civilization. These rivers are referred to by their ancient Sanskrit names, many of which correspond to present-day rivers of north-western India and Pakistan.

- Vitasta corresponds to the Jhelum River.** It was one of the important rivers mentioned in Vedic literature and flowed through the Kashmir region. **So, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- Asikni corresponds to the Chenab River.** The word “Asikni” means “dark-coloured” or “black,” probably referring to the appearance of the river waters. **So, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Parushni corresponds to the Ravi River.** The river is historically important because the famous Battle of Ten Kings (Dasarajna War) described in the Rigveda was fought on its banks. **So, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- Yavyavati does not correspond to the Beas River.** The ancient name of the Beas River was Vipasha (Vipasa). **So, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

4. Which of the following statements on the Amaravati Stupa and its relief sculpture is/are correct?

1. It was located in the lower Krishna valley.
2. In India, it was next only to the Sanchi Stupa in size.
3. The Amaravati school of sculpture made a lasting impact on the later South Indian sculpture, and its products were carried to Sri Lanka and South-east Asia.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

A small town on the banks of River Krishna, around 30 km from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, Amaravathi was the site of an ancient Buddhist settlement, known as Chintapalli.

- The **Amaravati Stupa** is located in present-day Andhra Pradesh. It flourished in the **lower Krishna valley** under the patronage of the **Satavahanas** and later the **Ikshvakus**. The region around Amaravati and Dharanikota was an important centre of Buddhism and associated with the Satavahana period. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Amaravati Stupa was described as being **bigger than the Sanchi Stupa**, measuring about 27 metres

in height and 49 metres in width. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The **Amaravati School of Art** became famous for its refined limestone sculptures and narrative relief panels depicting scenes from the life of Buddha and Jataka tales. Its artistic influence spread widely to **South India, Sri Lanka, and South-east Asia** through maritime trade and Buddhist cultural contacts. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

5. Which of the following pairs of the king and his dynasty in early historical Tamilakam is/are **not** correctly matched?

1. Senguttuvan : Chera
2. Udiyanjeral : Chola
3. Nedunjeliyan : Pandya

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Cheras, Cholas, and Pandyas were the three major ruling dynasties of early historical Tamilakam and are frequently mentioned in Sangam literature.

- The greatest ruler of Cheras was Senguttuvan, the Red Chera or the Good Chera, who belonged to the 2nd century A.D.** His military achievements have been chronicled in epic Silapathikaram, with details about his expedition to the Himalayas where he defeated many north Indian rulers. Senguttuvan introduced the Pattini cult or the worship of Kannagi as the ideal wife in Tamil Nadu. He was the first to send an embassy to China from South India. **So, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- Udiyanjeral (Udiyan Cheralathan) belonged to the Chera dynasty, not the Chola dynasty.** He is known as an early Chera ruler mentioned in Sangam texts. **So, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- Nedunjeliyan was an important ruler of the Pandya dynasty,** frequently mentioned in Sangam literature for his military achievements. **So, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

6. Which of the following factors contributed to the formation of the Forward Bloc by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939?

1. Bose failed to win the confidence of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The Congress Left was disunited and failed to support Bose.
3. The Communists did not support Bose in his endeavours.
4. The supporters of M.N. Roy and socialist leaders like Jayaprakash Narayan preferred Congress unity to supporting Bose.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Forward Bloc was a political party formed in India in 1939 by Subhas Chandra Bose. Bose, a prominent leader within the Indian National Congress, grew disillusioned with Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent approach to achieving independence.

- After Bose was re-elected as Congress President in 1939, **he failed to retain the confidence and support of Mahatma Gandhi and the Gandhian group.** Gandhi did not approve Bose's political approach and refused to support the formation of a Working Committee according to Bose's wishes. This politically isolated Bose within the Congress. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Subhas Chandra Bose aimed to forge an uncompromising radical front against the British. However, the **left-wing in the Congress was fragmented and did not provide cohesive backing during his standoff with the moderates.** **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Bose's isolation was driven by Gandhi's opposition and the CSP/Royists prioritizing Congress unity. The **Communists, conversely, were among the few factions that initially backed Bose's radical block.** **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- During the passing of the **Govind Ballabh Pant resolution (which demanded that Bose form his Working Committee in accordance with Gandhi's wishes), socialist leaders (like those in the Congress Socialist Party) and followers of M.N. Roy abstained from opposing the resolution to prevent splitting the Congress.** This isolation pushed Bose to form the Forward Bloc to independently consolidate leftist forces. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

7. Consider the following statements regarding the British policy in Awadh immediately after its annexation in 1856:

1. The taluqdars were dispossessed of their estates but allowed to retain their arms and forts.
2. A Summary Revenue Settlement was made in 1856 assuming that the taluqdars were outsiders.
3. The British believed in taking revenue directly from the peasants by removing the taluqdars.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

After the annexation of Awadh in 1856 by Lord Dalhousie on the grounds of "misgovernment," the British introduced major administrative and revenue changes that deeply disturbed the existing social order.

- The British carried out the **Summary Revenue Settlement of 1856, which assumed that the taluqdars were merely "outsiders" or interlopers** who had usurped the rights of village proprietors during the Nawabi period. Therefore, the British attempted to bypass them in revenue administration. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **British policy was to collect land revenue directly from village zamindars and peasants** by removing the taluqdars from their intermediary role. As a result, thousands of villages were taken away from taluqdari control. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Although the taluqdars were dispossessed of large parts of their estates, the **British policy did not permit them to freely retain their armed power and forts in the long run.** British actions weakened their military and political authority, and this dispossession became one of the major causes of resentment leading to the Revolt of 1857 in Awadh. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

8. Consider the following assertion:

The genesis of political alliances based on community lay in the very nature of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms, 1919.

Which of the following support/supports the above assertion? statements

1. Reforms retained and extended the principle of separate electorates.
2. Separate electorates were supposed to counter Indian nationalism, which was growing stronger.
3. Deprived classes rallied around the favours inherent in separate electorates.

Select the 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: d**

**Explanation:**

The **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms and the Government of India Act, 1919**, played a major role in institutionalising communal politics in colonial India. Although separate electorates had first been introduced under the Morley-Minto Reforms of 1909, the 1919 reforms retained and significantly expanded them.

- The reforms retained separate electorates for Muslims and extended them to Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Indian Christians, and Europeans. This deepened political divisions along communal lines and encouraged political alliances based on religious and community identities. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The British consciously used separate electorates as a strategy to weaken the growing nationalist movement led by the Indian National Congress. **By dividing the electorate into communal constituencies, the reforms made it difficult for a united nationalist political front to emerge.** Thus, separate electorates acted as a **counterweight** to Indian nationalism. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The reforms also encouraged politically marginalized or deprived groups to seek separate representation and safeguards through the colonial constitutional framework. Over time, **depressed classes and other disadvantaged communities increasingly rallied around the political advantages associated with separate or reserved representation.** This later became central to debates surrounding the Communal Award and the Poona Pact. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

9. Pandit Mallikarjun Mansur, the famous classical singer from Karnataka, represented the:

- (a) Agra Gharana
- (b) Gwalior Gharana
- (c) Patiala Gharana
- (d) Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Mallikarjun Mansur was one of the most celebrated Hindustani classical vocalists from Karnataka. He was especially renowned for his mastery over rare ragas and intricate compositions.

- Mallikarjun Mansur belonged to the Jaipur-Atrauli Gharana**, a prominent school of Hindustani classical music founded by Ustad Alladiya Khan. The gharana is known for its complex ragas, distinctive layakari (rhythmic improvisation), and emphasis on precision and intellectual depth in singing.

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

10. In which one among the following texts does the term kshetra-patni ('mistress of the field') originate?

- (a) Rigveda
- (b) Atharvaveda
- (c) Ashtadhyayi
- (d) Arthashastra

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The term **kshetra-patni** literally means “mistress of the field” and is associated with agricultural fertility and cultivated land in early Vedic tradition.

- The expression occurs in the **Atharvaveda**, particularly in its agricultural hymns dealing with farming, fertility, prosperity, and domestic life. The Atharvaveda differs from the Rigveda in that it focuses more on the everyday concerns of householders such as agriculture, healing, protection, and social harmony.
- The term reflects the gendered symbolism of land and fertility in Vedic society. In some interpretations, kshetra-patni refers to a feminine presiding spirit or goddess of the cultivated field, while in others it denotes the ritual role of the cultivator’s wife associated with agricultural rites.

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

11. Which one of the following Carnatic music ragas is similar to Raga Bilawal in Hindustani music?

- (a) Nat Bhairavi
- (b) Kamavardhini
- (c) Hanumatodi
- (d) Dheera Shankarabharanam

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Carnatic music and Hindustani classical music often have corresponding ragas with similar note structures though they may differ in style and presentation.

- The Hindustani Raga Bilawal corresponds to Dheera Shankarabharanam in Carnatic music.** Both are based on the natural major scale and use all seven shuddha (natural) notes: Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni
- Dheera Shankarabharanam is the 29th Melakarta raga in Carnatic music and is one of the most important and foundational ragas in the Carnatic tradition.
- The other ragas mentioned correspond to different Hindustani ragas:
  - Nat Bhairavi resembles Asavari
  - Kamavardhini corresponds to Puriya Dhanashree
  - Hanumatodi corresponds to Todi

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

12. The artificially fixed rupee-sterling exchange rate prescribed by the Hilton-Young Commission (1926) was adopted by the British Government for which one of the following reasons?

- (a) Aiding the flow of remittances from India and maintaining India's creditworthiness
- (b) Providing support to Indian importers
- (c) Encouraging export of cotton produce from India
- (d) Preventing depreciation of the Rupee in terms of gold

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The Hilton-Young Commission (Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, 1926) recommended an artificially fixed **rupee-sterling exchange rate** under a gold-bullion standard system. The British Government adopted this policy mainly to protect imperial financial interests.

- The rupee was pegged at **1 shilling and 6 pence sterling**, which kept the rupee artificially overvalued. This arrangement primarily helped the British Government in ensuring smooth transfer of **Home Charges** from India to Britain. These payments included pensions of British officials, debt servicing, military expenditures, and administrative remittances.
- The policy also helped maintain **India's creditworthiness in London financial markets**, thereby safeguarding British financial confidence in colonial India.

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

**13.** Consider the following statements:

- I. Pali texts contain the first definite references to coins, e.g., kahapana, nikkha, kamsa, and kakanika.
- II. The literary evidence from Pali texts is corroborated by archaeological evidence of punch-marked coins from many sites, most of them made of silver.

The above statements have been associated with which of the following?

1. Emergence of urban life
2. Transition to money economy

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The emergence of coinage was an important feature of early urbanization and the growth of trade in ancient India.

- **Pali texts contain the first definite references to coins such as kahapana, nikkha, kamsa, pada, masaka, and kakanika.** Archaeological evidence from many sites has also yielded punch-marked coins, most of them made of silver, confirming the literary references.
- The beginning of **coined money** around the 6th–5th centuries BCE marked a major change in economic transactions. It promoted long-distance trade, expanding markets, and increasing commercialization. **The use of money also led to the rise of money-lending, instruments of credit, and banking practices. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- At the same time, the spread of coinage was closely linked with the **emergence of urban life in the age of Mahajanapadas.** Urban centres required more sophisticated systems of trade and exchange, which coinage helped facilitate. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**14.** Which of the following temples has/have a Nagara-style shikhara?

1. Malegitti Shivalaya, Badami
2. Huchimalligudi Temple, Aihole
3. Dashavatara Temple, Deogarh
4. Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Indian temple architecture developed mainly into the **Nagara**, **Dravida**, and **Vesara** styles. The Nagara style is characterized by a curvilinear shikhara and became prominent in northern India.

- The Dashavatara Temple is one of the earliest and most important examples of the **Nagara style** in northern India. **So, point 3 is correct.**
- The Huchimalligudi Temple belongs to the early Chalukyan tradition at Aihole** and the temple is associated with Nagara-style shikhara features. **So, point 2 is correct.**
- The Malegitti Shivalaya have an **octagonal Dravidian shikhara** crowned by a dome. **So, point 1 is not correct.**
- The Virupaksha Temple at Pattadakal is a prominent example of the **Dravidian style**. **So, point 4 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**15.** Among the four main forms of existence of life recognized in Jainism, which one of the following is not included?

- (a) Deva (gods)
- (b) Yaksha (demi-gods)
- (c) Manushya (humans)
- (d) Tiryancha (animals and plants)

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Jainism is an ancient Indian religious tradition associated with Mahavira, a contemporary of the Buddha.

According to Jain philosophy, life exists in four main forms of existence:

- Deva – gods**
- Manushya – humans**
- Naraka/Naraki – hell beings**
- Tiryancha – animals and plants**
- The Jain doctrine further classifies living beings on the basis of their sense faculties, ranging from one-sensed organisms to more complex life forms.
- The term **Yaksha** refers to semi-divine or attendant deities in Indian religious traditions, but it is not one of the four principal forms of existence recognized in Jainism.

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**16.** The Hallisalasya painting in the Bagh Caves represents:

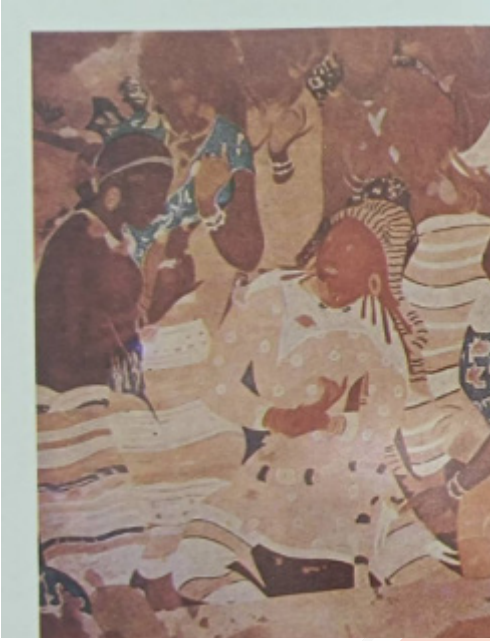
- (a) A joyous folk dance
- (b) Buddha in a meditative pose
- (c) The depiction of Shiva and Parvati on Kailasha
- (d) Samudramanthan (Churning of the Ocean)

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The Bagh Caves are famous for their Buddhist murals and paintings dating to the Gupta period. These paintings are known for their lively human figures, expressive movements, and depiction of social and cultural life.

- The **Hallsalasya painting in the Bagh Caves depicts a joyous folk dance scene**. It portrays dancers and musicians in a vibrant and animated composition, reflecting the rich artistic traditions of the Gupta age.



Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

17. Consider the following statements relating to the use of the place-value system in India:

1. The earliest epigraphic use of the place-value system in India is found in the Mankani plates from Gujarat (AD 595-596).
2. In the ninth century, place-values become general in inscriptions all over India.
3. The place-values have been found in Sanskrit inscriptions in South-east Asia as early as the seventh century.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

The place-value system or positional number system is a system in which the value of a digit depends on both the digit itself and its position in the number. India played a major role in the development and spread of the decimal place-value system, later known as the **Hindu-Arabic numeral system**.

- The earliest secure epigraphic evidence of the decimal place-value notation in India is found in the **Mankani copper plates (also called Sankheda plates) from Gujarat** dated 595–596 CE. The date in the inscription is written using positional decimal notation. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- By the **ninth century CE, the use of positional decimal notation and place-values had become widespread in inscriptions across India**. Inscriptions from this period show the regular use of decimal numerals and zero. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **place-value system also spread beyond India to South-east Asia through cultural and commercial contacts**. Sanskrit inscriptions in regions such as Indonesia and Cambodia from the seventh century CE contain evidence of Indian decimal numerals and positional notation. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

18. Consider the following statements about the archaeological findings in Harappan towns:
- I. There is wide occurrence spindle-whorls in the houses but absence of spinning wheels.
  - II. Weights and measurement scales, complete with graduations have been discovered.
  - III. There are houses built in large part with baked bricks, around relatively spacious courtyards, with their own wells, bathing platforms, and large rooms.

Which of the following inferences can be drawn from the above statements?

1. Statement I suggests that spinning was a laborious activity done at home.
2. Statement II suggests the extent of the that the scientific knowledge Harappans possessed.
3. Statement III suggests the emergence of a common property system.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The archaeological findings from the Indus Valley Civilization provide important insights into the economic life, technology, and social organization of the Harappans.

- The **widespread occurrence of spindle-whorls** in Harappan houses, along with the absence of spinning wheels, suggests that spinning was carried out manually using hand spindles. This indicates that spinning was a labour-intensive household activity and that textile production was largely decentralized and home-based. **So, inference 1 is correct.**
- Archaeologists have discovered highly standardized **weights and measurement scales** with proper graduations at sites such as Lothal, Mohenjo-daro, and Harappa. The precision and uniformity of these weights across distant regions indicate advanced scientific and mathematical knowledge as well as standardized commercial practices. **So, inference 2 is correct.**
- The **presence of large baked-brick houses with spacious courtyards, private wells, bathing platforms, and multiple rooms points toward organized urban planning** and differences in household wealth. These features suggest private household ownership rather than a common property system. **So, inference 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

19. Which one of the following statements about the Eka Movement and Bardoli Satyagraha is correct?
- (a) The Eka Movement was throughout supported and organized by the Congress while Bardoli Satyagraha was initially independent of Congress influence and was only in the last stages supported by the Congress.
  - (b) The Eka Movement was provided leadership by the taluqdars of Awadh, whereas the Bardoli Satyagraha was a movement of the landless labourers.
  - (c) The Bardoli Satyagraha was a campaign against the enhancement of land revenue, while the Eka Movement was a protest against excessive extraction of rents.
  - (d) The Eka Movement was located in the Varanasi and Mirzapur districts of the present-day U.P., while the Bardoli Satyagraha took place in Saurashtra.

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The **Eka Movement** and the **Bardoli Satyagraha** were important peasant movements of the 1920s, but they differed significantly in their nature, leadership, and demands.

- The **Eka (Unity) Movement** of 1921–22 took place in the Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur, and Barabanki districts of Awadh in present-day Uttar Pradesh. It was led primarily by Madari Pasi and emerged as a peasant **protest against excessive rent demands, illegal cesses, forced labour, and eviction practices of zamindars and taluqdars**. Peasants particularly opposed rents that were often much higher than recorded rates. Therefore, the Eka Movement was essentially a protest against excessive extraction of rents.
- The **Bardoli Satyagraha** of 1928 took place in Bardoli taluka of Surat district in Gujarat under the leadership of Vallabhbhai Patel. It was a disciplined no-tax movement launched against a sharp enhancement of land revenue assessment by the Bombay Presidency government. The government had increased land revenue by about 22% (later estimated close to 30%), which peasants considered unjust.

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**20.** Consider the following statements about the Rigvedic period:

- I. Irrigation from wells allowed agriculture to expand away from flood plains and strips on river margins into the present Punjab and Haryana plains having underground water levels reasonably close to the surface.
- II. Draught-animal power was employed to draw up water out of the wells.

Which of the following information support/supports the above statements?

1. There is evidence in the Rigveda of the use of ashma chakra (stone pulley wheel) and ahava (strapped wooden pails) to draw up water.
2. Mention has been made in the Rigveda of the use of implements like parashu/kulisha (axe) and datra / sreni (sickle).
3. There is a history of the use of ox, even before the Rigveda, for ploughing the land and pulling the carts.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The Rigvedic economy was both pastoral and agricultural in nature. The Rigveda contains several references to wells, irrigation devices, plough agriculture, and the use of draught animals, indicating a gradual expansion of cultivation in the Punjab and Haryana plains.

- The Rigveda refers to wells such as **avata** and **kupa**, **along with irrigation channels called kulya**. It also mentions devices like the **ashma chakra** (stone pulley wheel) and **ahava** (strapped wooden or leather pails) used for drawing water from wells. **So, statement 1 in the list supports Statements I and II.**
- There is also clear evidence, even before the Rigvedic period, of the **use of oxen for ploughing fields and pulling carts**. These oxen would have served as the **draught-animal power required for lifting water from wells** and for agricultural expansion into regions away from immediate riverbanks. **So, statement 3 supports Statements I and II.**
- Agricultural implements such as **parashu/kulisha** (axe) and **datra/sreni** (sickle) relate to clearing vegetation and harvesting crops. **So, statement 2 does not supports Statements I and II.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

21. Tungurahua Volcano, which was declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO in 2025, is situated in which one among the following countries ?
- (a) Ecuador
  - (b) Peru
  - (c) Bolivia
  - (d) Colombia

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Tungurahua Volcano is located in **Ecuador**, in the **Andes mountain chain**. It is an active stratovolcano associated with Ecuador's volcanic belt. The name "Tungurahua" is also associated with **Tungurahua Province** in central Ecuador.

- UNESCO added **Tungurahua Volcano** to the list of **UNESCO Global Geoparks in 2025**, along with another Ecuadorian site, **Napo Sumaco**. This made Ecuador's geopark network more prominent in South America.
- The other options are incorrect because **Peru, Bolivia and Colombia** are Andean countries, but Tungurahua Volcano is specifically located in **Ecuador**, not in these countries.

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

22. With reference to Madhav National Park, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. It was declared a Tiger Reserve in India in 2025.
  2. Sakhya Sagar, which is designated as a Ramsar Site, is situated within this National Park.
  3. Its area is shared between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Madhav National Park's designation as a tiger reserve** was formally declared in March 2025, making it India's 58th tiger reserve. It is entirely located in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Sakhya Sagar, **a man-made lake located within Madhav National Park**, was designated a Ramsar site in 2022. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The park is entirely within Madhya Pradesh and does not share its area with Rajasthan. Madhav National Park** is situated in the Shivpuri district of the Chambal region in Madhya Pradesh, located on the northern fringe of the Central Highlands of India. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

23. With reference to the climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. The climate can be defined as a humid, tropical coastal climate.
  2. It receives rainfall from both the South-west monsoon and North-east monsoon.
  3. Maximum precipitation is between December and May.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a maritime tropical climate because of their island location in the Bay of Bengal.** The climate is generally warm, humid and equable, with heavy rainfall and high relative humidity. The islands are influenced by both the South-west monsoon and the North-east monsoon, but the main rainy period is associated with the monsoon months rather than the December - May period.

- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands experience a **humid tropical coastal climate due to their proximity to the sea, high humidity, abundant rainfall and absence** of extreme temperature variations. The official Andaman and Nicobar Administration describes the islands as having a tropical climate that is warm, moist and equable. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The islands receive rainfall** from both **the South-west monsoon and the North-east monsoon.** The official description of the islands notes that they experience both these monsoonal systems, which is a key feature of their rainfall pattern. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Maximum precipitation is **not between December and May.** The heavier rainfall is associated mainly with the South-west monsoon period, while the North-east monsoon contributes rainfall later in the year. December to May broadly includes relatively drier months and the pre-monsoon period, so it cannot be described as the period of maximum precipitation. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

24. Which of the following geographical features or phenomena is/are associated with the Peninsular Block of India?
1. Submergence of parts of the western coast due to tectonic activity
  2. Presence of residual mountain ranges such as the Veliconda hills and Mahendragiri hills
  3. Deep, V-shaped river valleys formed by fast-flowing rivers

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Peninsular Block of India is one of the oldest and most stable landmasses of the Indian subcontinent. It is mainly composed of ancient crystalline, igneous and metamorphic rocks. However, it has also experienced vertical movements, faulting and tilting, which have influenced its coasts, plateaus, residual hills and river valleys.

- The western coast of India shows evidence of submergence.** This is reflected in features such as estuaries and backwaters along parts of the west coast. The submergence is linked to tectonic movements

and faulting along the western margin of the Peninsular Block. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Peninsular Block has several **residual mountain ranges and hills** formed due to long denudation of ancient rocks. The Veliconda hills of the Eastern Ghats and Mahendragiri hills in Odisha are examples of such residual hill ranges associated with the Peninsular region. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Deep, V-shaped valleys** are generally associated with youthful rivers flowing through high-gradient terrain, especially in mountainous regions. Most Peninsular rivers flow over an **old, stable and mature landmass**, and they usually have broad, shallow valleys rather than deep V-shaped valleys. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

25. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India:

- I. The Sagarmala Programme seeks to achieve port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure.
- II. The success of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and inland waterway shipping, along with improved global port rankings.
- III. Sagarmala 2.0 aims to position India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement II validates the effectiveness of the strategies envisioned in statement I.
2. Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework.
3. Statement I contradicts statement III by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Sagarmala Programme seeks to promote port-led development by improving port infrastructure, port connectivity, coastal economic zones, coastal shipping and inland waterways. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The progress and outcomes of the Sagarmala Programme **validate the effectiveness** of the strategies mentioned in statement I, as the official objective itself is to improve logistics efficiency through port-led development. **So, point 1 is correct.**
- Sagarmala 2.0 **extends the earlier port-led development framework** into a future-oriented maritime growth framework aligned with Viksit Bharat and Atmanirbhar Bharat by 2047. **So, point 2 is correct.**
- Statement I **does not contradict** statement II because Sagarmala is not restricted only to traditional infrastructure; it also includes connectivity, logistics, coastal economic development and inland water transport. **So, point 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

26. Consider the following statements about *Rhynchostylis retusa* (Foxtail orchid):

1. It is an epiphytic orchid.
2. The species is endemic to North-east India.
3. It is the State flower of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Rhynchostylis retusa is an epiphytic orchid** with a pendant raceme consisting of more than 100 pink-spotted flowers. **Rhynchostylis orchids grow epiphytically in Asian rainforests on the lower parts of trees. So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The species is not endemic to North-east India. In India,** the plant is most common in the **North-East, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh and beyond India,** it is distributed across China, Indochina, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Rhynchostylis retusa is recognized as the state flower of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India.** In Assam it is popularly known as *kopou phool* and is an integral part of Bihu dancer's attire. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

27. Which one of the following statements with regard to the Moidams, built by the Tai-Ahom kingdom and inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is/are correct?

1. They acted as army fortresses.
2. They were recreation centres of the Royals and Nobles.
3. They were burial grounds of the Royals and Nobles.
4. They were battle drill centres of the Royals and Nobles.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Moidams are the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty** are the royal mound-burial structures of the **Tai-Ahom kingdom located mainly at Charaideo in Assam.** Built between the 13th and 19th centuries CE, they formed a sacred necropolis where Ahom kings, royals and nobles were buried along with grave goods such as food, horses and elephants. **UNESCO recognised them as an outstanding example of Tai-Ahom funerary traditions and cosmological beliefs.**

- The Moidams were **not constructed as army fortresses.** They had a **funerary and sacred purpose** rather than a military function. **So, statement 1 is not correct**
- There is **no evidence that the Moidams served as recreation centres for the royals and nobles.** They were sacred burial sites associated with ancestor worship and rituals like Me-Dam-Me-Phi and Tarpan. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- UNESCO describes them as a **royal necropolis containing the remains of kings, royals, queens,**

servants, horses, elephants, and grave goods. The word “Moidam” itself means “home-for-spirit.” So, **statement 3 is correct.**

- The Moidams were **not battle drill or military training centres.** Their purpose was religious and funerary in nature. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**28.** At the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) held in June, 2025 in France, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations demonstrated its leading voice on marine and ocean issues, especially on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for resilient Transformation". livelihood and "Blue Which of the following combinations about the "Four Betters" proposed by FAO for "Blue Transformation" is correct?

- (a) Better production, better nutrition, better environment and better ocean
- (b) Better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life
- (c) Better coral reefs, better nutrition, better environment and better life
- (d) Better estuaries, better nutrition, better environment and better mangrove vegetation

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- FAO's extensive involvement at UNOC 2025 underscored its vision for a "Blue Transformation," positioning aquatic food systems as pivotal for achieving the Four Betters: **better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life** leaving no one behind. This is directly confirmed by FAO's own Strategic Framework 2022–31.

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**29.** Which of the following statements with reference to Lake Turkana is/are correct?

1. It is the largest desert lake in the world.
2. The lake is situated in South Sudan along the eastern fringe of the Sahara desert.
3. The lake is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is also referred to as the 'Jade Sea'.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Lake Turkana is a major Rift Valley lake located mainly in northern Kenya,** with its far northern end extending towards Ethiopia. It is globally significant for its desert-lake ecosystem, fossil deposits and national parks. **UNESCO identifies Lake Turkana as the largest desert lake in the world and notes that it is popularly called the “Jade Sea” because of its colour.**

- Lake Turkana is the **largest desert lake in the world.** It lies in an arid landscape and is also among the most saline large lakes in East Africa. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Lake Turkana is **not situated in South Sudan** and it is not along the eastern fringe of the Sahara Desert. It is located mainly in northern Kenya in the East African Rift region. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Lake Turkana National Parks are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The lake is also referred to as the “Jade Sea” because of its distinctive colour. So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

30. Which one of the following is the first Plan 3 Vivo certified Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) project in India?
- (a) Uttarakhand REDD+ project
  - (b) ICFRE-ICIMOD Transboundary REDD+ project in North-Eastern Himalayas
  - (c) Khasi Hills Community REDD+ project
  - (d) Sikkim Mamley Kamrang Community REDD+ project

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Khasi Hills Community REDD+ Project is India's first community-based REDD+ programme and protects and restores 27,000 hectares of cloud forest, in addition to preserving sacred groves and watersheds. It is certified under the Plan Vivo Standard, the world's original community carbon standard and is located in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

31. Consider the following statements with reference to India's response to climate change:
- I. India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.
  - II. India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted in December, 2024 recorded around 8% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 over 2019.
  - III. Climate-resilient development necessarily depends on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

- 1. Statement I is empirically supported by statement II.
- 2. Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in statement I.
- 3. Statement I and statement III together establish the premise of long-term sustainability.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- India's LT-LEDS is indeed a strategic tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070, as pledged at COP26. So, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) highlighted a 7.93 per cent reduction in GHG emissions in 2020 compared to 2019, submitted to the UNFCCC on December 30, 2024. The question states "around 8%" which is an acceptable approximation of 7.93%. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Climate-resilient development is a long-term endeavour, not dependent on quick and short-term targets. This is directly contradicted by LT-LEDS itself. So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer**

32. With respect to the Western Hoolock Gibbons, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. A Sanctuary in North-east India is home to this ape species listed as Endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
2. They have specialized brachiation and can easily swing between trees.
3. They possess a strong and heavy build like gorillas, yet are remarkably agile tree climbers.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Western Hoolock Gibbon is native to North-east India, and the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary in Assam is a prominent protected area specifically dedicated to this species. The Western Hoolock Gibbon is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Gibbons are highly arboreal canopy-dwellers that move primarily through brachiation swinging between trees using their arms. They have exceptionally long arms designed precisely for this specialised locomotion. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Gibbons are small, lightweight apes, the exact opposite of gorillas, which are large-bodied and heavy. Gibbons' agility is precisely because of their slender, light build, not despite a heavy one. Describing them as having a "strong and heavy build like gorillas" is factually wrong. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer**

33. Which of the following best explain(s) the rationale for protecting mangrove ecosystems in the context of climate resilience?

1. Mangroves reduce tidal energy and store freshwater, making them ideal sites for paddy cultivation in saline estuarine belts.
2. Their salt-sensitive roots filter seawater, making mangroves key to converting coastal land into freshwater aquaculture zones.
3. By withstanding tidal surges and offering biomass resources, mangroves function both as natural bio-shields and livelihood bases for rural communities.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Mangroves do not store freshwater; they are salt-tolerant species that thrive in saline conditions. Clearing mangroves for paddy cultivation has historically been a primary driver of mangrove destruction, not a justification for protection. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Mangrove roots do not "filter seawater into freshwater." Mangroves have salt-exclusion mechanisms for their own survival, not to produce freshwater for aquaculture. Converting coastal land into freshwater aquaculture zones by removing mangroves is environmentally destructive. So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- They function as natural bio-shields by withstanding tidal surges and storm damage, and simultaneously provide biomass resources, fuelwood, timber, and non-timber forest products that sustain**

coastal and rural livelihoods. This is consistent with the IPCC and IUCN's recognition of mangroves as critical climate resilience infrastructure. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

**34.** In what way(s) does the Vizhinjam International Seaport represent a structural shift in India's maritime trade and logistics policy?

1. By functioning exclusively as a domestic cargo hub to reduce reliance on coastal shipping and eliminate the need for foreign collaborations.
2. By focusing primarily on passenger cruise tourism and heritage shipping to increase Kerala's profile as a maritime heritage destination.
3. By leveraging its natural deep draft and strategic location to reduce dependence on foreign trans-shipment ports, enhance revenue retention, and reposition India in regional maritime trade.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Vizhinjam International Seaport** is India's first dedicated container trans-shipment port and is located near Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. It is significant because of its natural deep draft, proximity to major international shipping routes and ability to handle very large container vessels. These features make it important for reducing India's dependence on foreign trans-shipment hubs. Sources: PIB; Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd.

- Vizhinjam is **not designed to function exclusively as a domestic cargo hub. It is a deep-water international trans-shipment port developed through a public-private partnership model**, and its purpose is to integrate India more strongly with global container trade. Therefore, it does not aim to eliminate foreign collaborations or reduce reliance on coastal shipping. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The primary focus of Vizhinjam is **not passenger cruise tourism or heritage shipping**. While maritime infrastructure may indirectly support multiple activities, the core strategic purpose of the project is container trans-shipment and logistics, not tourism-led maritime heritage development. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Vizhinjam's natural deep draft of nearly 20 metres and its location close to one of the world's busiest sea trade routes** enable it to handle large cargo ships with minimal deviation from global shipping lanes. **This can help India reduce dependence on foreign trans-shipment ports**, retain more logistics revenue within the country and strengthen its position in regional maritime trade. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

**35.** Identify the river of the Indian sub-continent on the basis of the following information:

1. It has an antecedent drainage system.
2. It flows through three countries.
3. It originates in the Tibetan Plateau and is an important river for irrigation.
4. It does not form distributaries.

Select the answer from the following:

- (a) Brahmaputra
- (b) Indus
- (c) Sutlej
- (d) Teesta

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**The Sutlej** is one of the major rivers of the Indus river system. It originates near Lake Rakshastal in the Tibetan Plateau, enters India through Himachal Pradesh, and later flows into Pakistan. It is an antecedent river and is highly important for irrigation and hydroelectric projects.

- **The Sutlej has an antecedent drainage system.** It existed before the uplift of the Himalayas and continued to cut across the rising mountains, forming deep gorges in the Himalayan region. **So, statement 1 supports Satluj.**
- **It flows through three countries:** China/Tibet, India and Pakistan. This distinguishes it from many other rivers of the north-western Indian subcontinent. **So, statement 2 supports Sutlej.**
- **It originates in the Tibetan Plateau and is important for irrigation.** The waters of the Sutlej are used in major irrigation and multipurpose projects, including the Bhakra-Nangal project. **So, statement 3 supports Sutlej.**
- The Sutlej **does not form distributaries** because it is a tributary of the Indus system and ultimately joins the Indus basin drainage. Unlike large delta-forming rivers such as the Ganga-Brahmaputra or the Indus near its mouth, the Sutlej itself does not develop a distributary network. **So, statement 4 supports Sutlej.**
- Brahmaputra originates in Tibet and has antecedent features, but it forms distributaries in its lower course. Indus also originates near the Tibetan region and flows through three countries, but it forms a deltaic distributary system near its mouth. Teesta **does not satisfy all the given conditions.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**36.** Which of the following with reference to Indian States is/are *not* correct?

1. Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with the highest number of other Indian States.
2. Rajasthan shares longest international border among all Indian States.
3. Sikkim is the only State that shares its boundary with just one other Indian State.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Uttar Pradesh shares its boundary with eight Indian States: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar. This is generally treated as the **highest number of neighbouring Indian States for any State.** **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rajasthan shares India's longest international border with Pakistan, but the statement says "among all Indian States". **West Bengal has a longer total international border** because it shares boundaries with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Therefore, Rajasthan does not share the longest international border among all Indian States. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Sikkim shares its boundary with only one Indian State, West Bengal. However, it is not the only Indian State with such a feature. For example, **Meghalaya shares its Indian State boundary only with Assam**. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

37. Which of the following statements with regard to the arrival of Amur Falcons at Doyang Lake in Nagaland each year from Mongolia is/are correct?
1. It showcases how sustained local conservation efforts can contribute to the arrival and protection of international migratory birds.
  2. It reflects the global success of advanced tracking technologies that guide migratory birds back to their stopover sites.
  3. It confirms that Amur Falcons have adapted to permanent residency in India due to favourable habitat changes.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Amur Falcon conservation story in Nagaland is a classic example of how sustained local conservation efforts, specifically the transformation of local communities from hunters to conservationists brought about the return and protection of these international migratory birds. The hunting of nearly 1.5 lakh falcons annually was stopped almost completely within one year through community-led action. So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Tracking technologies such as satellite tagging were used by scientists to study the migration routes of Amur Falcons; they do not "guide" migratory birds to their stopover sites. Birds navigate through innate instinct, environmental cues, and memory not through technological guidance. So, statement 2 is not correct**
- Amur Falcons have not adapted to permanent residency in India. The raptors breed in southeastern Siberia and northern China and migrate across India to southern Africa, making their 22,000-kilometre migratory route one of the longest amongst all avian species. Doyang Lake is a stopover site, not a permanent habitat. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

38. Which among the following is/are the objective(s) of the Rainfed Area Development (RAD) initiative under the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)?
1. Encouraging monoculture in rainfed areas
  2. Increasing rice cultivation in irrigated regions
  3. Enhancing productivity and minimising climatic risks through Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Rainfed Area Development (RAD)** is a component of the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). It aims to promote sustainable agricultural production in rainfed areas through agro-climatic zone-specific Integrated Farming System models. The focus is on diversification, rainwater-use efficiency, soil health management and climate-resilient agriculture

- RAD **does not encourage monoculture** in rainfed areas. Instead, it promotes Integrated Farming Systems with multi-cropping, inter-cropping, mixed cropping, horticulture, livestock, fishery, agroforestry and other allied activities. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- RAD is **not aimed at increasing rice cultivation** in irrigated regions. Its focus is specifically on rainfed areas, especially climatically vulnerable dryland regions, and not on expansion of irrigated rice cultivation. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- RAD aims to **enhance agricultural productivity and minimise climatic risks** through Integrated Farming Systems. The scheme promotes location-specific IFS models developed by ICAR and supports diversified, risk-resilient agriculture. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

**39.** Which of the following is/are the most significant implication(s) of obtaining Oeko-Tex certification for Eri Silk in the global textile industry?

1. It allows Indian exporters to compete in high-end markets that prioritise chemical-free products.
2. It confirms that Eri Silk meets international safety, environmental, and quality standards, enabling its entry into premium eco-conscious markets.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Oeko-Tex is a worldwide certification** for textiles such as yarns, fabrics, buttons, linens, terry cloth, thread, and other accessory materials that tests for harmful substances in raw, semi-finished and finished textile materials and products.

- The Oeko-Tex certification ensures that the final product is safe for human use.
- **Obtaining the Oeko-Tex certification is a crucial milestone in enhancing the marketability of eri silk in the global textile industry.** It ensures international buyers that eri silk meets international safety and quality standards, boosting consumer confidence and facilitating its **acceptance in high-end markets.** This allows Indian exporters to compete in **high-end markets that prioritize eco-friendly and chemical-free products.** **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Oeko-Tex certification It also ensures that eri silk meets international compliance requirements for textile safety. It **aligns with global sustainability trends**, making eri silk more attractive to brands and consumers seeking ethical and environmentally responsible textile choices. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**40.** Ships from which of the following countries have to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach out to the Indian Ocean?

1. Bahrain
2. Syria
3. Qatar
4. Egypt

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. Countries located inside the Persian Gulf need to pass through the Strait of Hormuz to access the open Indian Ocean. Countries located on the Mediterranean Sea or Red Sea do not need to cross it to reach the Indian Ocean.



- Bahrain** is an island country located in the Persian Gulf. Ships from Bahrain **have to pass through the Strait of Hormuz** to move out of the Persian Gulf towards the Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea and the wider Indian Ocean. **So, point 1 is correct.**
- Syria** is located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Ships from Syria would access the Indian Ocean through routes such as the Suez Canal and Red Sea, not through the Strait of Hormuz. **So, point 2 is not correct.**
- Qatar** is located on a peninsula **projecting into the Persian Gulf**. Ships from Qatar must cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean. **So, point 3 is correct.**
- Egypt** has access to the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea through its territory and the Suez Canal. Ships from Egypt do not need to cross the Strait of Hormuz to reach the Indian Ocean. **So, point 4 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.

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

	List I (INTERPOL Notice)		List II (Description)
A.	Silver Notice	1.	To seek information on unidentified bodies
B.	Blue Notice	2.	To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities to a in relation criminal investigation
C.	Black Notice	3.	To provide warning about a person's criminal activities, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety
D.	Green Notice	4.	To identify and trace criminal assets

Code:

- |     |   |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
|     | A | B | C | D |
| (a) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (b) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (d) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**INTERPOL** Notices are colour-coded international alerts or requests for cooperation that allow police in member countries to share crime-related information.

- **Silver Notice** is used to **identify and trace criminal assets**. INTERPOL launched it in a pilot phase to help member countries request information on assets linked to criminal activities, including properties, vehicles, financial accounts and businesses. **So, pair a-4 is correctly matched.**
- **Blue Notice** is used to **collect additional information about a person's identity, location or activities in relation to a criminal investigation**. **So, pair b-2 is correctly matched.**
- **Black Notice** is used to **seek information on unidentified bodies**. **So, pair c-1 is correctly matched.**
- **Green Notice** is used to provide **warning about a person's criminal activities**, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety. **So, pair d-3 is correctly matched.**

**So, the correct matching is a-4, b-2, c-1 and d-3.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**42.** Which of the following statements in relation to NIRANTAR (National Institute for Research and Application of Natural Resources to Transform, Adapt and Build Resilience), a platform of institutions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is/are correct?

1. Ecosystem Survey and Analysis is a vertical under this platform, the lead institute of which is Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata.
2. Research and Management of Ecosystem Service is a vertical under this platform, the lead institute of which is Central Zoo Authority, New Delhi.
3. Capacity Development Support is a vertical under this platform, the lead institute of which is Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **Ecosystem Survey and Analysis is a vertical under NIRANTAR**, and the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata — which is headquartered in Kolkata under MoEFCC — is the lead institute for this vertical. This is consistent with BSI's core mandate of botanical surveys and flora research. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is a regulatory body for zoos; its mandate does not align with "Research and Management of Ecosystem Services." The lead institute for this vertical is the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, not the Central Zoo Authority**. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Under Vertical III Capacity Development Support the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal**, is the lead institute. The meeting of the High-Powered Steering Committee under this vertical was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, at Bhopal. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

43. The Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany visited India in January, 2026. Which of the following is/are **not** correct in terms of outcomes of this visit ?

1. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and the University of Hamburg
2. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Hockey Development between Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation
3. Establishment of a bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific
4. Opening of an Honorary Consul of Germany in Lucknow

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The visit of the **Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany to India** took place on January 12-13, 2026. Several agreements, MoUs and announcements were listed as outcomes of the visit. These outcomes covered areas such as defence, critical technologies, traditional medicines, sports, Indo-Pacific cooperation and people-to-people ties.

- The MoU was signed between the All India Institute of Ayurveda and Charite University, Germany, **not the University of Hamburg. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- A Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Hockey Development was signed between **Hockey India and the German Hockey Federation. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The establishment of a **bilateral dialogue mechanism on the Indo-Pacific** was announced as one of the outcomes of the visit. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- The outcome was the opening of an **Honorary Consul of Germany in Ahmedabad**, not Lucknow. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the answer.**

44. Which of the following statements about DHRUV64 is/are correct?

1. It is the third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Program with an overall aim to enable the creation of microprocessors for India.
2. It is India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**DHRUV64 is part of India's Digital India RISC-V initiative, which aims to build an indigenous microprocessor ecosystem** using open-source RISC-V architecture. It has been developed by C-DAC under the Microprocessor Development Programme and is meant to support India's self-reliance in strategic and commercial processor technologies.

- DHRUV64 is the **third chip fabricated under the DIR-V Programme**. The programme aims to enable the creation of microprocessors for India and reduce dependence on imported processor technologies. **So,**

**statement 1 is correct.**

- DHRUV64 is **India's first homegrown 1.0 GHz, 64-bit dual-core microprocessor**. Its development is significant for domestic chip-design capability and for possible use in areas such as 5G infrastructure, industrial automation, automotive electronics, IoT and strategic systems. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

45. The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) recently 3 introduced a national standard to test and assess the bomb disposal system. Which of the following statements with regard to this system is/are correct?

1. The new standard is known as IS 19445: 2025.
2. It will improve interoperability of equipment across agencies.
3. It was developed by TBRL, DRDO in collaboration with the 30th Central Scientific Research Institute, Russia.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**BIS introduced IS 19445:2025 – Bomb Disposal Systems — Performance Evaluation and Requirements** as an Indian Standard to strengthen safety and standardisation in bomb disposal operations. It lays down qualitative requirements and related test methods for different types of bomb disposal systems.

- The new standard is known as **IS 19445:2025**. It was issued for performance evaluation and requirements of bomb disposal systems. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The standard is intended to bring uniformity in testing, evaluation and performance requirements for bomb disposal systems. This helps different agencies assess and use equipment on common benchmarks, thereby **improving interoperability across agencies**. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The formulation of IS 19445:2025 was initiated following a request from the **Ministry of Home Affairs and the Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory, DRDO**. The official information **does not state** that it was developed in collaboration with the 30th Central Scientific Research Institute, Russia. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

46. 'X', born in the UK, was conferred the Nobel Prize in 2025. He was a professor in an American university when this prize was announced. Identify 'X':

- (a) Michel H. Devoret
- (b) Richard Robson
- (c) John Clarke
- (d) Joel Mokyr

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**John Clarke** was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics 2025**, along with Michel H. Devoret and John M. Martinis, for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit.

- The Nobel Prize official record states that **John Clarke** was born in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and was affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, USA, at the time of the award.
- **Michel H. Devoret** was also awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2025, but he was born in Paris, France, not in the United Kingdom.

- Richard Robson** was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2025, but the description in the question points to a UK-born professor at an American university among the given options, which matches John Clarke.
- Joel Mokyr** was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2025, but the description given in the question does not identify him among the given options.

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

47. Which of the following statements with regard to the Grand Slam Tennis Tournaments is/are correct?

1. The tournaments have a shared governance structure establishing the partnership among the four Grand Slam tournaments.
2. They are open for entry to all internationally ranked tennis players above the age of 14.
3. There is a limitation on the number of 'Wild Cards' a player may receive to compete in a Grand Slam Tournament.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Grand Slam Tennis** refers to the partnership among the four Grand Slam tournaments: Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon and US Open. These tournaments have a shared governance structure and follow the Grand Slam Rule Book for common rules on tournament operations, player entry and other regulatory matters.

- The Grand Slam tournaments have a shared governance structure establishing the partnership among the **four Grand Slam tournaments**. This shared structure helps maintain coordination among the **Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon and US Open**. So, **statement 1 is correct**.
- The four Grand Slam tournaments are **open for entry to internationally ranked tennis players** with a ranking of 500 or better, subject to the prescribed conditions, and minors **below 14 years are not eligible for entry**. So, **statement 2 is correct**.
- There is **no general limitation on the number of wild cards a player may receive to compete in Grand Slam tournaments**. While each tournament has a fixed number of wild card places in the draw, the rules do not impose a player-wise limit on how many Grand Slam wild cards a player may receive. So, **statement 3 is not correct**.

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

48. Which of the following pairs of semiconductor plants in India and their locations is **not** correctly matched?

(a)	CG Power and Industrial Solutions Pvt. Ltd. in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics	Gujarat
(b)	Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd.	Assam
(c)	HCL-Foxconn Joint : Venture India Chip Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
(d)	SicSem Pvt. Ltd.	Odisha

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd., in partnership with Renesas Electronics and STARS Microelectronics**, is establishing a semiconductor manufacturing facility in **Gujarat**. So, **pair (a) is correctly matched**.
- Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test Pvt. Ltd.** is associated with the semiconductor assembly and

test facility in **Assam**. The Assam facility uses indigenous semiconductor packaging technologies and has been approved under the India Semiconductor Mission. **So, pair (b) is correctly matched.**

- The HCL-Foxconn joint venture semiconductor unit is located in Uttar Pradesh**, near Jewar, not in Madhya Pradesh. It is meant for display driver chips and was approved under the India Semiconductor Mission. **So, pair (c) is not correctly matched.**
- SiCSem Pvt. Ltd.** is establishing a semiconductor manufacturing facility in **Odisha**. The facility is linked to silicon carbide semiconductor technology. **So, pair (d) is correctly matched.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**49.** Which of the following statements with regard to India's indigenous new high resolution weather model, the 'Bharat Forecast System,' is/are correct?

1. Its objective is to generate forecasts at the Panchayats cluster level.
2. It was developed by IIT Delhi.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**The Bharat Forecast System (BharatFS) is based on the newly implemented Triangular Cubic Octahedral (TCO) dynamical grid** that enables the model to operate at 6 km horizontal resolution, surpassing its predecessor (GFS T1534 ~ 12km) and typical global operational models having horizontal resolution of 9–14 km.

- The BFS was developed to generate forecasts at the cluster of panchayats level and improve the prediction of extreme weather events.** Its 6 km × 6 km spatial resolution makes this possible; earlier, one forecast used to be issued for four villages; the BFS enables separate forecasts for each of those four villages. **So Statement 1 is correct.**
- BFS was not developed by IIT Delhi.** The **Bharat Forecast System was developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune**, and will be operationalised by IMD. IITM is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, not IIT Delhi. **So Statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

**50.** Consider the following statements with regard to the film 'Boong':

1. The film has recently won the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award in the Children's and Family Film category.
2. The film is directed by Lakshmipriya Devi.
3. This is the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Boong is a Manipuri-language film** directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi. It recently received international recognition after winning the **BAFTA Award in the Children's and Family Film category**. **The recognition is significant because it marked a major achievement for Indian cinema at the BAFTA Film Awards.**

- The film Boong won the **British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award in the Best Children's and Family Film category**. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Boong is **directed by Lakshmi Priya Devi**. It is her debut feature film and has been noted for bringing a Manipuri story to an international platform. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Boong became **the first Indian film to win a BAFTA award in the Children's and Family Film category**. This makes the award historically significant for Indian cinema. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

**51.** Which of the following statements regarding the features of blockchain technology are correct?

1. Records stored in the database may be made visible to relevant stakeholders without risk of alteration.
2. Copies of the entire database are stored on multiple computers on a network, syncing within seconds.
3. Consortium blockchain is a blend of selective data access, public and private blockchains allowing
4. Mathematical algorithms make it impossible to change or delete any data once recorded and accepted.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Blockchain is a distributed ledger technology in which records are stored in blocks and linked using cryptographic techniques.** Once validated and added to the chain, records become difficult to alter without consensus from the network, which makes blockchain useful for transparent and tamper-resistant record-keeping.

- Records stored on a blockchain **may be made visible to relevant stakeholders**, depending on the type of blockchain and access permissions. Since validated records are cryptographically linked and cannot be altered unilaterally, they can be shared without the normal risk of unauthorised alteration. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- In a **distributed blockchain network**, copies of the ledger are maintained on multiple computers or nodes. These copies are periodically synchronised across the network so that **participants work with the same validated version of the database**. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- A consortium blockchain is not simply a blend of public and private blockchains allowing selective data access.** It is a permissioned blockchain governed by a group of organisations rather than by a single entity or by unrestricted public participation. The statement is loosely worded and does not correctly define consortium blockchain. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Blockchain uses cryptographic hashing, consensus mechanisms and mathematical algorithms **to make alteration or deletion of accepted records extremely difficult.** Once data is recorded and validated, changing it would require altering linked blocks and gaining network consensus, making tampering practically infeasible. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

52. An e-commerce revenue model where the seller has control over pricing but doesn't keep products in stock and instead transfers customer orders and shipment details to a third-party supplier, who then ships the goods directly to the customer, is called:

- (a) Dropshipping Model
- (b) Affiliate Revenue Model
- (c) Transaction Fee Revenue Model
- (d) Agency Revenue Model

Answer: a

Explanation:

**Dropshipping is an e-commerce fulfilment model where sellers do not keep products in stock. Instead, they partner with third-party suppliers who store, package, and ship products directly to customers.**

- When a customer places an order through the online store, the seller forwards the order details to the supplier. The supplier then completes the fulfilment process and delivers the product directly to the customer.
- This business model reduces the need for heavy upfront investment in inventory, making it a popular option for new entrepreneurs. It also allows businesses to offer a wide range of products without worrying about storage limitations.
- By outsourcing inventory handling and shipping operations, businesses can reduce operational costs and minimise the risks associated with unsold stock. In addition, dropshipping provides a flexible way to test new products and business ideas with relatively low financial risk.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

53. Which one of the following correctly represents the three key sub-indices of the Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- (a) Credit access, Insurance depth, and Pension coverage
- (b) Banking access, GDP contribution, and Financial literacy
- (c) Access, Usage, and Quality
- (d) Access, Affordability, and Transparency

Answer: c

Explanation:

**Financial Inclusion** means ensuring that individuals and businesses have access to **affordable and useful financial services** such as bank accounts, credit, insurance, and digital payments, in a safe and sustainable manner.

- To measure the level of financial inclusion in India, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced the **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** in 2021. This index provides a clear picture of how widely financial services are available and how effectively they are being used across the country.
- The FI-Index is built on **three main sub-indices**, each with a specific weight:
  - **Access (35%)**: This measures the **availability and reach of financial services**. It includes indicators such as the number of bank branches, ATMs, banking correspondents, and basic savings bank accounts.



- Usage (45%):** This reflects how actively people are **using financial services**, such as credit accounts, deposit accounts, insurance products, and digital payment systems. It has the **highest weight (45%)**, as actual usage shows the depth of financial inclusion.
- Quality (20%):** This looks at the **efficiency and reliability of financial services**, including financial literacy, grievance redressal systems, and customer protection mechanisms.

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

54. Which one of the following best describes the key objective of India's 'Open Network for Digital Commerce' (ONDC) initiative?
- (a) To allow government control over all digital commerce transactions
  - (b) To replace private e-commerce players
  - (c) To break the dominance of large e-commerce platforms by enabling interoperability across networks
  - (d) To mandate UPI-based payments for all online transactions

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** is a transformative initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce, Government of India aimed at democratizing digital commerce.

- Launched in April 2022, ONDC is an initiative aiming** at promoting open networks for all aspects of exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks.
- ONDC is based on open-sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform.
- It envisions creating a level playing field for sellers, buyers, and service providers across India, particularly small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). It serves as a unified platform where stakeholders can interact freely without the constraints of exclusive ecosystems.
- By fostering open protocols and reducing dependency on monopolistic platforms, ONDC aims to catalyze innovation and inclusivity in the digital commerce landscape.

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

55. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is **not** correct?
- (a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
  - (b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
  - (c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
  - (d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India that enables inter-bank peer-to-peer and merchant transactions.

- In UPI, money is transferred directly between bank accounts, and the liability ultimately lies with the commercial banks maintaining those accounts. Transactions are recorded in bank statements and reflected in banking records.
- The Digital Rupee (₹) is a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) issued directly by the Reserve Bank of India. It is a sovereign digital form of currency, similar to paper notes and coins. In this case, the

liability does not lie with commercial banks; instead, it is a direct liability of the central bank, i.e., the RBI.

- UPI is a payment system, whereas the Digital Rupee is a sovereign currency in digital form.
- UPI requires inter-bank settlement, while Digital Rupee transactions involve the transfer of wallet balances without conventional bank settlement.
- UPI transactions are reflected in bank accounts and statements, whereas Digital Rupee wallet-to-wallet transfers may not appear in regular bank statements.
- Liability in UPI lies with commercial banks**, whereas in **Digital Rupee it lies with the RBI**, not with users' banks.

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

56. Which of the following statements about Real-World Assets (RWA) Tokenization are correct?

1. Tokenization is the process of turning real world assets into digital tokens using blockchain technology.
2. Tokenization of real world assets offers 24x7 access, promoting financial inclusion.
3. Tokenization of real world assets will allow the access to high growth investment opportunities for individuals in India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Real-World Asset (RWA) Tokenization** refers to the process of converting ownership rights of real-world assets into digital tokens using blockchain or distributed ledger technology.

- According to experts from National Payments Corporation of India and financial industry reports, tokenization enables both full and fractional ownership of assets such as real estate, commodities, bonds, invoices, and other financial instruments.
- Tokenization **converts ownership of real-world assets into blockchain-based digital tokens. So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Tokenized assets can be traded digitally on blockchain platforms with near real-time settlement and **24×7 accessibility**, thereby promoting broader financial inclusion and easier participation. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Tokenization enables fractional ownership, **reducing investment barriers and allowing retail investors in India to access high-value and high-growth investment opportunities** such as commercial real estate, fine art, infrastructure assets, and tokenized securities. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

57. A bond whose proceeds are used only to finance or refinance a combination of both environmental and social projects is called:

- (a) Green Bond
- (b) Social Bond
- (c) Sustainability Bond
- (d) Sovereign Bond

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**A Sustainability Bond** is a bond whose proceeds are used to finance or refinance a combination of both environmental (green) and social projects.

- According to the guidelines of the **International Capital Market Association**, **sustainability bonds combine** the features of both green bonds and social bonds and are aligned with the Green Bond Principles (GBP) and Social Bond Principles (SBP).
- Green Bonds** finance projects with environmental benefits such as renewable energy, clean transportation, energy efficiency, wastewater management, and climate adaptation.
- Social Bonds** finance projects with positive social outcomes such as affordable housing, food security, healthcare, education, and support for vulnerable populations.
- Sustainability Bonds finance a combination of both green and social projects.
- Sovereign Bonds** are simply government-issued debt securities and are not necessarily linked to sustainability objectives.

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**58.** Which of the following statements about M1xchange's role in Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) financing is/are correct?

1. M1xchange provides collateral based loans to MSMEs.
2. M1xchange facilitates discounting of invoices and Bills of Exchange for MSMEs.
3. M1xchange functions as a credit rating agency for MSMEs.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**M1xchange is one of India's leading digital platforms operating under the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) framework** regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. It helps Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) overcome working capital shortages arising from delayed payments by facilitating invoice financing.

- M1xchange does not provide traditional collateral-based loans to MSMEs. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The core function of **M1xchange is to facilitate the discounting of invoices and Bills of Exchange for MSMEs.** MSMEs upload invoices raised on corporate buyers, and financiers such as banks and NBFCs provide upfront funds against these receivables. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- M1xchange is not a credit rating agency.** Credit ratings in India are provided by specialized agencies registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India, such as CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, and SMERA. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**59.** Which one of the following best describes the 'Crowding Out Effect' in the context of fiscal policy?

- (a) A situation where private investment increases due to increased Government spending
- (b) A situation where Government borrowing leads to higher interest rates, which reduces private investment
- (c) A situation where an increase in taxes leads to increased private sector investment
- (d) A situation where Government spending has no impact on aggregate demand

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**The crowding out effect refers to the decrease in private sector investment due to increased government borrowing and spending, which can raise interest rates and reduce available capital.**

- The theory of crowding out contrasts with crowding in, where government spending during economic downturns can stimulate private sector activity.
- According to the crowding in theory, government borrowing during periods of low economic activity can increase demand, generate employment, and stimulate private spending and investment. This helps revive economic growth. In contrast, “crowding out” occurs when excessive government borrowing raises interest rates and reduces the availability of funds for the private sector. Higher borrowing costs and taxes may reduce private investment, spending, and overall economic activity, making crowding out generally harmful for growth.

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

- 60.** Which of the following statements about Rare Earth Elements (REEs) and Critical Minerals is/are correct?
1. Modern technological innovations including Artificial Intelligence, robotics and space exploration extensively utilise Rare Earth Elements (REEs).
  2. China has the highest share in mining of REEs followed by India.
  3. The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to establish a robust framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.
  4. Rare Earth Elements are a set of 13 metallic elements.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Rare Earth Elements and critical minerals** are essential for advanced technologies, clean-energy systems and strategic sectors. REEs are widely used in permanent magnets, electronics, defence systems, renewable-energy equipment and space-related technologies. Critical minerals have gained policy importance because secure access to them is necessary for industrial competitiveness, energy transition and technological self-reliance.

- **Modern technological innovations such as Artificial Intelligence hardware, robotics, advanced electronics,** electric vehicles, defence systems and space exploration use Rare Earth Elements in components such as sensors, magnets, lasers, batteries and precision electronic systems. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- **China has the highest share in global REE mining, but India is not second.** Current global production data shows that countries such as the United States, Myanmar and Australia have higher rare-earth mining output than India. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **The Government of India launched the National Critical Mineral Mission in 2025 to create a framework for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector.** The mission covers exploration, overseas acquisition of mineral assets, processing, recycling, research and creation of a stronger domestic critical-mineral ecosystem. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Rare Earth Elements are not a set of 13 metallic elements.** They are generally understood as a group of **17 metallic elements**, consisting of the 15 lanthanides along with scandium and yttrium. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

61. Which of the following statements about insurance in the aviation sector is/are correct?

1. 'Aviation Hull Insurance' covers the physical aircraft, including the body, engine, and on-board equipment.
2. Under the Montreal Convention, adopted in 1999 by over 130 countries, including India, airlines are strictly liable to pay compensation to the family/nominee of every deceased passenger without requiring the family to prove fault.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

'Aviation Hull Insurance' covers the physical aircraft, including the fuselage/body, engines, avionics, and onboard equipment.

- It protects against physical loss or damage to the aircraft arising from accidents, collisions, fire, weather-related damage, and other aviation risks. So, statement 1 is correct
- The Montreal Convention, 1999, adopted by over 130 countries under the framework of the International Civil Aviation Organization, established a modern liability regime for international air travel. It introduced a two-tier liability system, under which airlines are subject to strict liability up to a prescribed compensation limit for passenger death or bodily injury. This means the victim's family or nominee does not need to prove negligence or fault of the airline for compensation up to that threshold. So, statement 2 is correct
- India is a party to the Montreal Convention, and the convention applies to international carriage by air involving member countries.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

62. Which of the following statements about Crowdfunding is/are correct?

1. Crowdfunding is solicitation of funds (small amount) from multiple investors through a web-based platform or social networking site for a specific project.
2. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are able to raise funds at lower cost of capital without undergoing rigorous procedures.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Crowdfunding refers to the solicitation of small amounts of funds from multiple investors through a web-based platform or social networking site for a specific project, business venture, or social cause. So, statement 1 is correct

- Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) can raise funds through crowdfunding at a lower cost of capital without undergoing the rigorous procedures associated with traditional financing channels such as bank loans or public issue mechanisms. So, statement 2 is correct
- It reduces dependence on traditional financing channels and helps them access funds at comparatively lower cost and with less rigorous procedures than conventional capital market routes such as IPOs or institutional financing.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

63. With reference to different Committees in India, consider the following details:

	Committee	Objective	Organization under which it was formed
1.	R.N. Malhotra Committee	Comprehensive reforms of sector in India	Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
2.	L.C. Gupta Committee	Preparing a roadmap for the introduction of derivatives trading in India	Securities and Exchange Board of India
3.	Urjit R. Patel Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforming bank lending to the Housing sector	Reserve Bank of India
4	Y.H. Malegam Committee	Preparing a roadmap for reforms in Microfinance sector in India	Reserve Bank of India

In which of the above rows are all the details correctly matched?

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- R.N. Malhotra Committee** was indeed related to comprehensive reforms in the insurance sector, but it was set up by the Government of India in 1993 before the establishment of the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)**. **So, row 1 is not correctly matched.**
- L.C. Gupta Committee** was constituted by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India** in 1996 to prepare a regulatory framework and roadmap for the introduction of derivatives trading in India. The committee's recommendations laid the foundation for equity and index derivatives trading in Indian capital markets. **So, row 2 is correctly matched.**
- Urjit R. Patel Committee** was **constituted by the RBI** to recommend a framework for monetary policy and inflation targeting, not for reforming bank lending to the housing sector. **So, row 3 is not correctly matched.**
- Y.H. Malegam Committee** was formed by the **Reserve Bank of India** in 2010 to examine issues in the microfinance sector after the Andhra Pradesh microfinance crisis. Its recommendations led to major reforms in the sector and creation of the NBFC-MFI regulatory framework. **So, row 4 is correctly matched.**

Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

64. Consider the following statements about the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India:

1. NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits.
2. All the NBFCs operating in India have to be registered with the RBI.
3. NBFCs form part of the payment and settlement system and can issue cheque drawn on itself.
4. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to the depositors of deposit-taking NBFCs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**NBFCs (Non-Banking Financial Companies)** are companies registered under the Companies Act and engaged in financial activities such as loans, advances, investments, leasing, hire-purchase, etc.

- NBFCs cannot accept **demand deposits**. Unlike banks, they are not allowed to offer deposits withdrawable on demand. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Not all NBFCs operating in India are required to be registered with the Reserve Bank of India.** Certain categories regulated by other regulators such as SEBI, IRDAI, chit funds, nidhi companies, etc., are exempted from RBI registration requirements. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- NBFCs do not form part of the **payment and settlement system** and cannot issue cheques drawn on themselves. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The **Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)** insurance facility is not available to depositors of deposit-taking NBFCs. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

**65.** Consider the following statements about Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):

1. MPI is calculated using Alkire-Foster methodology.
2. MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.
3. Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

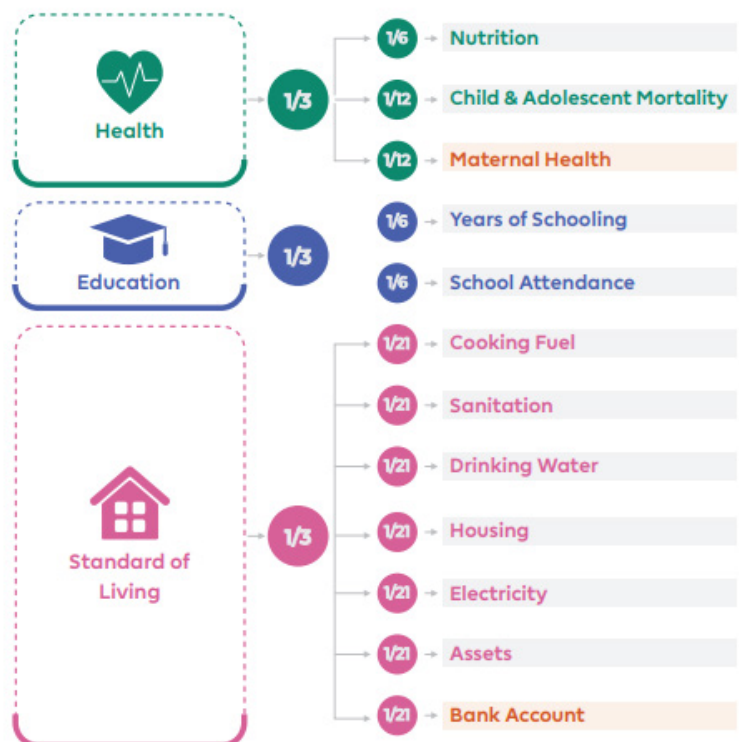
**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is designed to measure poverty beyond income by capturing overlapping deprivations in health, education, and standard of living.

- The Global MPI developed jointly by the **United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative** is based on the **Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology**. India's national MPI prepared by NITI Aayog also follows the same methodology. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- India's national MPI has three equally weighted dimensions — Health, Education, and Standard of Living — which are represented through a total of **12 indicators**. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global MPI measures poverty using exactly 10

**Indicators and their weights**



indicators. While the 10 core indicators from the global index are retained in India's National MPI, NITI Aayog customized the framework for India by adding exactly two unique, **India-specific indicators: Maternal Health (under the Health dimension) and Bank Account (under the Standard of Living dimension)**. So, statement 3 is not correct.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

66. Which of the following statements with regard to genetic medicine is/are correct?

1. Genetic medicines correct/compensate for the faulty genes responsible for disease.
2. Engineered viruses and lipid nanoparticles are used as carriers of the genetic medicine.
3. Genetic medicines alter the entire DNA sequence.

Select the 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: c**

**Explanation:**

**Genetic medicines** are designed to treat disease by correcting, replacing, silencing or compensating for faulty genes or abnormal gene expression.

- They may work by **adding a functional gene, editing a defective gene**, or using RNA-based approaches to reduce harmful protein production. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Engineered viral vectors and non-viral delivery systems such as lipid nanoparticles are commonly used as carriers for genetic medicines.** Viral vectors can deliver therapeutic genetic material into cells, while lipid nanoparticles are widely used to deliver RNA-based therapies. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Genetic medicines **do not necessarily alter the entire DNA sequence.** Many of them target only a specific gene, mutation, RNA molecule or cellular pathway. Some gene therapies may not alter DNA permanently at all, while gene-editing approaches make targeted changes rather than changing the whole genome. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

67. Which of the following statements with regard to Large Language Models (LLMs) used in machine learning is/are correct?

1. LLMs assign probabilities to the next possible words and then pick the one with the highest probability.
2. LLMs process data through mathematical optimization to minimise prediction errors.
3. LLMs produce unbiased outputs.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Large Language Models** are machine learning systems trained on very large text datasets to understand and generate language-like outputs. They work by identifying statistical patterns in text and predicting likely sequences of tokens. Their performance depends on training data, model architecture and optimisation, but their outputs are not automatically neutral or bias-free.

- **LLMs assign probabilities to possible next tokens based on the context provided.** However, they do not always simply pick the single highest-probability word, because generation may also involve sampling methods, temperature, top-k or top-p selection. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- LLMs are trained through mathematical optimisation methods that **adjust model parameters to reduce prediction error.** During training, the model compares predicted outputs with actual text patterns and updates its internal weights to minimise loss. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- LLMs **do not necessarily produce unbiased outputs.** Their outputs may reflect biases present in training data, model design, fine-tuning choices or user prompts. Therefore, they can generate biased, incomplete or skewed responses. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**68.** Which of the following statements with regard to stealth technology is/are correct?

1. Stealth objects have a very small radar cross-section and are coated with Radar Absorbing Material.
2. Stealth objects can be detected using specific frequencies.
3. Stealth objects are coated with metamaterials to increase the scattering of electromagnetic radiation.

Select the 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: c**

**Explanation:**

**Stealth technology** is used to reduce the detectability of aircraft, ships, missiles or other platforms by radar, infrared, acoustic and other detection systems. It does not make an object completely invisible; rather, it reduces the probability of detection or delays detection. Radar stealth mainly depends on shaping, radar-absorbing materials and reduction of radar cross-section.

- Stealth objects are **designed to have a very small radar cross-section.** Their shape deflects radar waves away from the receiver, and they may also be coated with Radar Absorbing Material to **absorb part of the incident electromagnetic energy.** **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Stealth objects **can still be detected under certain conditions.** Low-frequency radars, multi-static radars, passive sensors and other specialised detection systems may detect or track stealth platforms, although often with reduced accuracy. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Stealth objects are **not coated with metamaterials to increase the scattering of electromagnetic radiation.** The objective of stealth coatings and advanced materials is to reduce reflection, scattering or detectability, not to increase scattering. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**69.** Which of the following statements with regard to Black Boxes used in modern aircrafts is/are correct?

1. They carry a beacon emitting red light pulses to facilitate underwater detection.
2. They record both the cockpit voice and flight data.
3. Their memory units are made using either stainless steel or titanium.

Select the 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: b**

**Explanation:**

**Black boxes** are crash-protected flight recorders used in aircraft accident investigation. Modern aircraft generally carry two key recorders: the Cockpit Voice Recorder and the Flight Data Recorder. They are built to survive severe impact, fire, pressure and underwater conditions so that investigators can reconstruct the final phases of a flight.

- Black boxes **do not carry a beacon emitting red light pulses for underwater detection.** They are fitted with an Underwater Locator Beacon, which emits acoustic ultrasonic pulses, commonly called “pings”, to help locate the recorder underwater. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Black boxes **record both cockpit voice and flight data through two recorders:** the Cockpit Voice Recorder records sounds and communications in the cockpit, while the Flight Data Recorder records aircraft parameters such as altitude, speed, heading and system performance. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The **crash-survivable memory unit of a flight recorder is protected by strong materials such as stainless steel or titanium.** These materials help the recorder withstand impact, high temperature and deep-sea pressure. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**70.** Which of the following statements with regard to Green Hydrogen is/are correct?

1. It is decarbonized hydrogen obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS).
2. It is produced using electrolysis of water with electricity generated by renewable energy.
3. National Green Hydrogen Mission of India aims for abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**Green hydrogen** is hydrogen produced with very low or near-zero carbon emissions, mainly by using renewable electricity to split water through electrolysis. It is important for decarbonising hard-to-abate sectors such as refineries, fertilisers, steel, heavy transport and shipping. India’s National Green Hydrogen Mission seeks to build domestic production capacity, reduce fossil-fuel dependence and support clean-energy transition.

- Hydrogen** obtained from natural gas reforming combined with carbon capture and storage is generally referred to as blue hydrogen, not green hydrogen. **Green hydrogen is not produced from fossil-fuel reforming. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Green hydrogen is **produced by electrolysis of water using electricity generated from renewable energy sources** such as solar, wind or hydropower. Since the electricity input is renewable, the hydrogen produced has very low associated carbon emissions. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- India’s National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to abate nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.** It also targets large-scale green hydrogen production capacity and reduction in fossil-fuel imports. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

71. Consider the following statements with regard to involvement of private entities in India's space programme:

1. The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) is an autonomous agency formed to facilitate participation of private entities.
2. Agnikul Cosmos launched the world's first flight using 3D-printed rocket engine.
3. Skyroot Aerospace has developed liquid fuel for GSLV.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**Private participation** in India's space programme was enabled through recent space-sector reforms, with IN-SPACe acting as the single-window body for authorisation and promotion of non-government entities. Indian private space start-ups such as Agnikul Cosmos and Skyroot Aerospace have developed launch-vehicle technologies, but their roles must be distinguished from ISRO's GSLV programme.

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre is **an autonomous single-window agency under the Department of Space**. It was created to promote, authorise and facilitate participation of private entities in India's space sector. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Agnikul Cosmos launched Agnibaan SOrTeD in 2024 using a single-piece 3D-printed semi-cryogenic rocket engine.** PIB described it as the world's first rocket with a fully 3D-printed engine. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Skyroot Aerospace is a private launch-vehicle company known for the Vikram series of rockets. **It has not developed liquid fuel for ISRO's GSLV, which is an ISRO launch vehicle programme. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

72. Which of the following statements with regard to drone swarms is/are correct?

1. They use Terahertz band of frequency to communicate with the command centre.
2. Individual drones in the swarm can communicate with other drones in the swarm.
3. GPS Spoofing is a commonly used technique to counter drone swarm attack.

Select the 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: b**

**Explanation:**

**Drone swarms** consist of multiple unmanned aerial vehicles operating in coordination through communication links, sensors and algorithms. Their strength lies in distributed operation, where drones can share information and adjust their behaviour collectively. Counter-drone measures often target navigation, communication and control links of such systems.

- Drone swarms **do not generally use the Terahertz band to communicate with the command centre.** Operational drone communications commonly use radio-frequency links such as L-band, S-band, C-band or other microwave frequencies, while Terahertz communication remains largely experimental and is not a standard feature of drone swarms. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Individual drones in a swarm **can communicate with other drones in the swarm.** This inter-drone

communication allows coordination, formation control, target allocation, obstacle avoidance and autonomous decision-making. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- **GPS spoofing is a commonly discussed counter-drone technique.** It involves transmitting false navigation signals to mislead drones about their actual position, thereby disrupting their route, formation or target approach. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**73.** Which of the following statements with regard to Genome India Project is/are correct?

1. It is a part of the Human Genome Project.
2. The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
3. Its primary aim is to build a catalogue of genetic diversity of the Indian population.

Select the 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: b**

**Explanation:**

**The GenomeIndia Project is an Indian population genomics initiative aimed at understanding genetic variations across diverse communities in India.** It seeks to create a reference database of Indian genomes, which can support precision medicine, disease-risk assessment and better understanding of population-specific genetic traits.

- **The Genome India Project is not a part of the Human Genome Project. The Human Genome Project was an international project completed in 2003** to sequence and map the human genome, whereas GenomeIndia is a separate Indian initiative focused on genomic diversity within the Indian population. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The GenomeIndia Project is **funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India.** It is being implemented by a consortium of Indian institutions under DBT support. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The primary aim of the project is to build a catalogue of genetic diversity of the Indian population.** This is important because India has highly diverse population groups with distinct genetic variations that may affect disease susceptibility and treatment response. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

**74.** Which of the following statements with regard to the National Quantum Mission (NQM) is/are correct?

1. It aims at developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits.
2. Its implementation includes setting up of four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) in academic and national R&D institutes across India.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

**The National Quantum Mission** is a major Indian initiative to build capabilities in quantum technologies and applications. It covers quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices. The mission aims to strengthen India's research ecosystem and support

development of indigenous quantum hardware, software and applications.

- **The National Quantum Mission aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50–1000 physical qubits over the mission period.** This is one of its key targets under quantum computing and is meant to support India's long-term capacity in advanced computing technologies. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The implementation of the mission includes **setting up four Thematic Hubs in top academic and national research and development institutes.** These T-Hubs focus on quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum materials and devices. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

75. Which of the following statements with regard to India's Deep Ocean Mission is/are correct?
1. It was launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India.
  2. Matsya-6000 has been designed to carry 3 people for deep sea exploration.
  3. Samudrayaan is a project under this mission.

Select the 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: b**

**Explanation:**

**India's Deep Ocean Mission** is implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, not by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. It aims to develop technologies for deep-sea exploration, including a manned submersible, deep-sea mining systems, ocean climate advisory services and marine biodiversity studies.

- **The Deep Ocean Mission was launched by the Government of India in 2021 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.** It is not a mission of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Matsya-6000 is India's flagship human submersible under the mission.** It is designed to carry three persons to a depth of about 6,000 metres for deep-sea exploration and observation. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Samudrayaan is a project under the Deep Ocean Mission.** Under this project, the National Institute of Ocean Technology is developing the manned submersible Matsya-6000. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

76. Mr. X, a senior officer, was overseeing a critical vaccination programme during a pandemic. He found that a private service provider responsible for vaccine distribution was compromising on quality to make profits. Despite immense pressure to manage the issue due to vested interests, he raised his voice based on the principles of public administration which he learnt during various training programmes attended across his career. He reported the issue to the appropriate vigilance authority and halted the contract to ensure citizen welfare.

Which one among the following principles of public administration was most strongly demonstrated by Mr. X's actions?

- (a) Spirit of the Corps
- (b) Equity
- (c) Accountability
- (d) Delegation

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Mr X's defining action was **reporting the wrongdoing to a vigilance authority and halting the contract despite pressure from vested interests**. This is the textbook expression of **accountability** in public administration — the obligation of a public official to answer for the exercise of authority entrusted to them, and to ensure that those exercising delegated power (here, the private contractor) are also held answerable. He did not act for personal gain; he acted because he was *responsible* to the public for the outcome of the vaccination programme.

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

77. In a multi-ethnic district where both economic competition and historical grievances frequently led to community tensions, a flashpoint has arisen with a Government decision to allocate land for management facility near a tribal hamlet, sparking protests by the tribal community, which claimed that the land was sacred and critical to their cultural identity. At the same time, urban residents and local industries supported the project, citing severe solid waste challenges and health concerns due to lack of a proper disposal site. The conflict has escalated with road blockades, social media campaigns, and allegations of police excesses. As a responsible Government official, you are tasked with resolving the situation through mediation, ensuring a sustainable outcome that balances environmental needs, tribal rights, and urban public health.

Consider the following statements with reference to the above :

1. A successful conflict resolution process must begin with acknowledging the cultural concerns of the protesting tribal community before discussing technical alternatives.
2. The Government should move ahead with the project without delay to address urban health concerns, which outweigh the sentiments of a small group.
3. Creating a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform - including tribal leaders, environmental experts, and municipal representatives to build mutual understanding and help de-escalate tensions.
4. Conducting an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and sharing findings transparently with both sides to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

Which of the statements given above would contribute to the resolution process?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Acknowledging cultural concerns *first* is not merely symbolic it is a procedurally sound step. In conflict mediation, trust-building precedes problem-solving. The tribal community's sense of sacred land and cultural identity, if dismissed or bypassed at the outset, will make any subsequent dialogue adversarial. This aligns with the principle of *prior, informed consultation*, also recognised under PESA and constitutional provisions for Scheduled Areas. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- **Proceeding without consultation violates Article 244, Fifth Schedule protections, and the spirit of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.** More practically, it would *escalate* the conflict, not resolve it. Urban health concerns are legitimate, but they do not legally or ethically override tribal rights; they must be *balanced*, not used to silence a minority. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A multi-stakeholder dialogue platform is the institutional mechanism of *participatory governance*. Including tribal leaders, environmental experts, and municipal representatives ensures that no single interest dominates the narrative, builds mutual understanding, and creates *shared ownership* of the

eventual solution, making implementation smoother and more durable. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- **An independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)**, shared transparently, shifts the conversation from emotional contestation to evidence-based deliberation. It also prevents either side from monopolising the narrative and provides a neutral factual basis for exploring alternative sites or mitigation measures a hallmark of *rational, accountable* governance. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

78. Ms. X is a mid-level civil service official of poor development working in department of a major city. Recently, she was involved in approving a contract for a public infrastructure project a new community park. During the approval process, she received a piece of confidential information of the shortlisted indicating that one contractors had a history workmanship and allegations of corruption in other cities, though nothing had been legally proven. The Head of the Department, Mr. Y, advised her not to disclose this information to the project committee or the public because it could delay the project and damage the city's reputation. However, Ms. X believed that withholding such information compromised transparency and public trust. What amongst the following should Ms. X do now?

1. Immediately disclose the information to the project committee and the public
2. Recommend removing the contractor from the shortlist to protect the project's integrity
3. Propose a 'limited disclosure' to an oversight committee, while keeping the information confidential from the public for the time being

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **Immediate public disclosure of confidential, legally unproven information is neither procedurally sound nor ethically appropriate at this stage.** Transparency is a core value, but it must operate through established institutional channels, not bypass them. **Going public prematurely could expose the government to legal liability, potentially defame a contractor against whom nothing has been proven, and paradoxically undermine public trust by projecting an image of administrative recklessness.** Ms X has not yet exhausted internal remedies; public disclosure is a last resort, not a first step. **So statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Recommending the removal of the contractor from the shortlist appears protective of public interest on the surface,** but it is a consequential administrative action that directly affects the contractor's legal and commercial rights. Taking such a step on the basis of *unproven allegations* without giving the contractor an opportunity to respond, violates the principle of **natural justice (*audi alteram partem*)**. Additionally, as a mid-level official, Ms. X likely does not have the unilateral authority to remove a shortlisted party; that decision is vested with the project committee or a higher authority. Acting beyond one's jurisdictional competence, even with good intentions, is itself an ethical lapse. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Proposing limited disclosure to an oversight committee is the institutionally sound and ethically calibrated response. It directly counters Mr. Y's directive to suppress the information entirely, ensuring the matter reaches a *competent authority* with the mandate to evaluate it. At the same time, it preserves confidentiality where legally required, avoids public harm from unverified disclosures, and protects due process for all parties. This is the essence of *whistleblowing through proper channels* ethical courage exercised within procedural guardrails, not outside them. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

79. 'X' was addressing a seminar on the meaning of the term 'law' as provided under Article 13, Part III of the Constitution of India. X explained that the meaning of the term 'law' in the Constitution of India was very comprehensive. It included ordinances, orders and even rules and regulations. 'Y' pointed out that the term 'law' in Article 13 also included custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law, to which 'X' was not convinced.

Based on the above, select the correct conclusion from the options given below:

- (a) X' is correct in the interpretation of law, including the view on non-inclusion of custom.
- (b) The view of 'Y' that the law' included custom' is not correct.
- (c) The views of both 'X' and 'Y' are correct.
- (d) The view of only 'Y' is correct.

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Article 13 of the Constitution of India serves as the cornerstone of the enforceability of Fundamental Rights under Part III.** The term 'law' as used in Article 13 has been given a deliberately wide, inclusive and comprehensive meaning under Article 13(3)(a) to ensure that no form of State action escapes the scrutiny of Part III. Article 13(3)(a) expressly **defines 'law' to include any ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law.**
- X claimed that the meaning of the term 'law' under Article 13 was very comprehensive and included ordinances, orders, rules and regulations.** The critical flaw in X's position lies in the use of the word comprehensive. By asserting that his explanation was comprehensive, X implicitly claimed that his list was complete and exhaustive. However, Article 13(3)(a) expressly includes custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law as a distinct and separate category within the definition of 'law'. **More importantly, X's subsequent refusal to accept Y's correct addition** further confirms that X's claim of comprehensiveness is therefore factually wrong as per the constitutional text. **So, X's view is not correct.**
- Y correctly pointed out that the term 'law' under Article 13 also includes custom or usage having in the territory of India** the force of law. A custom or usage having the force of law refers to practices and conventions that have acquired legal status through long usage and judicial recognition, even without legislative enactment. Y's view is fully and unambiguously supported by the express language of Article 13(3)(a). **So, Y's view is correct.**
- Since X's claim of comprehensiveness is factually wrong due to the omission of custom or usage as an expressly included category, and since X refused to accept Y's correct and **constitutionally supported addition, the view of only Y is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

80. Consider the following statements with reference to the Constitution of India:

1. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Constitution of India will be officially called the 'Constitution of India'.
2. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that specifies that the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935, stand repealed.
3. There is no Article in the Constitution of India that mentions 26th January, 1950 as the date of the commencement of the Constitution of India.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- (a) All three statements are correct.
- (b) There is no correct statement.
- (c) There are two correct statements that include statement 3.
- (d) There is only one correct statement.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Constitution does have a provision that names itself. **Article 393 of the Constitution of India expressly states: "This Constitution may be called the Constitution of India."** Therefore, the claim that no Article specifies the official name of the Constitution is factually wrong. **Statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Article 395 of the Constitution of India expressly repeals both the Indian Independence Act, 1947 and the Government of India Act, 1935, along with all enactments amending or supplementing the latter Act.** The repeal is explicitly provided for in the constitutional text itself. Therefore, the claim that no Article specifies this repeal is factually wrong. **Statement 2 is also not correct.**
- **Article 394 (Commencement) explicitly mentions the exact date. It states that certain specific articles (relating to citizenship, elections, etc.) came into force on November 26, 1949, and then specifies: "the remaining provisions of this Constitution shall come into force on the twenty-sixth day of January, 1950, which day is referred to in this Constitution as the commencement of this Constitution."** So, **statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

- 81.** Which of the following statements with regard to the persons with disabilities in India is/are correct?
1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, an Act passed by the Parliament of India in 2018, mandates reservation in education and employment, places a legal duty on Governments to ensure accessibility and non-discrimination.
  2. The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan focuses on achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across three key domains: infrastructure, transport systems and information and communication technology.
  3. The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC) is a public sector organisation set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as a not-for-profit company to promote entrepreneurship among Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act** was passed by the Lok Sabha on 16 December 2016 and by the Rajya Sabha on 14 December 2016, **receiving Presidential assent on 27 December 2016.** The year 2018 stated in the question is factually incorrect, which invalidates the entire statement regardless of the accuracy of its remaining content. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan, also known as the Accessible India Campaign, was launched in 2015** by the Prime Minister, with the aim of ensuring universal accessibility across three vital domains: built infrastructure, transport systems, and the information and communication technology (ICT) ecosystem. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)** is a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, on 24 January 1997 as a company not for profit. **The Ministry of Corporate Affairs attribution in the statement is therefore factually wrong. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer**

82. Consider the following statements about the provisions pertaining to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in India:

1. Provisions regarding the administration of the Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram are given in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. Some tribes of India are entitled to exemption from paying Income Tax on certain incomes.
3. The Constitution of India provides for reservation of seats in Panchayats for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- (a) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
- (b) There are two correct statements, that are statements 1 and 3.
- (c) There is only one correct statement.
- (d) All three statements are correct.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram are covered under the **Sixth Schedule** of the Constitution not the Fifth Schedule as stated. The **Fifth Schedule** deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in states *other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram*. The Sixth Schedule specifically provides for autonomous district councils and regional councils in these four northeastern states. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Section 10(26) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**, members of Scheduled Tribes residing in specified areas, including the northeastern states, Ladakh, and other notified regions are entitled to exemption from income tax on income arising from sources within those areas or from dividends and interest on securities. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Article 243D(3) of the Constitution expressly provides that not less than one-third of the total seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** in Panchayats shall be reserved for *women belonging to those communities*. This is a specific and separately carved-out sub-reservation for SC and ST women within the Panchayati Raj reservation framework — making Statement 3 correct. The Constitution does provide for reservation of seats in Panchayats specifically for women belonging to SCs and STs. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

83. Consider the following statements in respect of questions asked by the Members in the 85 Parliament of India:

1. Unstarred questions are those to which a Member desires an oral answer in the House.
2. Starred questions are those to which a Member desires a written answer.
3. No supplementary question can be asked on an unstarred question.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- (a) All the three statements are correct.
- (b) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.
- (c) There is only one correct statement.
- (d) There is no correct statement.

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The **Starred Question** not the unstarred question to which a Member desires an **oral answer** in the House. Starred questions are distinguished by a star (\*) mark, and because an oral answer is expected, supplementary questions can also be asked by other Members arising out of the answer given. **So,**

statement 1 is not correct.

- It is the **Unstarred Question** not the starred question to which a Member desires a **written answer**. Unstarred questions are placed on the Order Paper and their answers are laid on the Table of the House in written form. No oral answer is given, and consequently no supplementary questions arise. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Unstarred questions receive only a written answer** that is laid on the Table of the House, there is no occasion for oral exchange and therefore **no supplementary question can be asked** on an unstarred question. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

**84.** Consider the following statements about the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the Parliament of India:

1. Although members of this Committee are elected from both Houses of Parliament, the Chairperson of this Committee is appointed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
2. Twenty members are elected by the Rajya Sabha and ten members by the Lok Sabha.
3. No Minister, except for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, is eligible to be a member of this Committee.
4. Members are elected for a fixed term of two years from the date they enter their office.

Which one of the following conclusions based on the above statements is correct?

- (a) There are four correct statements.
- (b) There is only one correct statement, that is statement 2.
- (c) There are two correct statements, that include statement 1.
- (d) There is no correct statement.

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, one of the departmentally related standing committees of Parliament.

- The Chairperson of this Committee is **not** appointed by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. The Chairperson is appointed by the **Speaker of the Lok Sabha**, in consultation with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Since the Committee draws members from both Houses, the appointment authority formally vests with the Speaker of Lok Sabha not the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Committee consists of **20 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 10 members elected by the Rajya Sabha** making it a 30-member committee in total. The statement incorrectly attributes 20 members to the Rajya Sabha and 10 to the Lok Sabha, which inverts the actual constitutional and procedural arrangement. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- The rule regarding ministerial ineligibility is not limited to one exception. The actual rule is that **no Minister of the Union is eligible to be a member** of this Committee without any exception carved out for the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment or any other Minister. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- Members of this Committee are **not** elected for a fixed two-year term. The actual term is **one year** members hold office for one year from the date of their election, which is the standard term applicable to most Parliamentary Standing Committees. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

85. Consider the following statements about Mission Sudarshan Chakra of India:

1. It aims to enhance India's air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.
2. This Mission is being designed to enhance rapid, precise, and powerful defence responses, reinforcing India's strategic autonomy.
3. One of the aims of this Mission is to cover all public places of India by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Mission Sudarshan Chakra was announced by the Prime Minister in his Independence Day address in 2025.** It is envisaged as a national security shield and a powerful weapon system to neutralise enemy attacks and enable precise counter-action. It is linked with self-reliant defence technology, strategic autonomy and protection against future forms of warfare.

- Mission Sudarshan Chakra **aims to strengthen India's defensive and offensive capabilities.** Official descriptions refer to neutralising enemy defence infiltrations, enhancing offensive capabilities and creating a weapon system to thwart enemy attacks. This broadly covers **air defence, ballistic missile defence and aerial offensive capabilities.** So, statement 1 is correct.
- The mission is **designed to enhance rapid, precise and powerful defence responses.** It is also linked to India's strategic autonomy, as its research, development and manufacturing are intended to be carried out within India. So, statement 2 is correct.
- One of the **stated aims is to expand a nationwide security shield by 2035.** Official highlights of the Prime Minister's address mention that **all public places will be covered by an expanded nationwide security shield by 2035.** So, statement 3 is correct.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

86. Consider the following statements about river bridges connecting India with neighbouring countries:

1. 'Maitri Setu', built over Feni river, connects Ramgarh in India with Sabroom in Bangladesh.
2. Jhulaghat suspension bridge connects India with Myanmar.
3. Mechi bridge and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in Nepal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

India has several **river bridges** that support cross-border connectivity with neighbouring countries such as **Bangladesh and Nepal**.

- **Maitri Setu** is built over the Feni river and connects Sabroom in Tripura, India, with Ramgarh in **Bangladesh**. The statement reverses the endpoints by saying Ramgarh is in India and Sabroom is in Bangladesh. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Jhulaghat suspension bridge** is on the **India-Nepal border**, not the India-Myanmar border. It connects the Pithoragarh region of Uttarakhand with western Nepal across the Kali/Sharda river. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- **Mechi bridge** and its approaches connect Panitanki Bypass in India with Kakarvitta in **Nepal**. It is an important India-Nepal connectivity project on the Mechi river. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

**87.** Which of the following statements about a Zero First Information Report (Zero FIR) under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is/are correct?

1. A Zero FIR can be lodged at a police station, even though the place of commission of cognizable/non-cognizable offence is outside the territorial jurisdiction of that police station.
2. The Officer-in-Charge of the police station where a Zero FIR has been lodged may, with the permission of the competent authority, initiate a preliminary enquiry.
3. Under Zero FIR, it is obligatory for the informant to furnish information electronically.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- **Section 173(1) of the BNSS explicitly validates the mandatory registration of a Zero FIR, signifying the police's obligation to register information about the commission of a cognizable offence only and not non-cognizable offence, regardless of whether the specific offence was committed in the concerned police station's jurisdiction or not. Once the Zero FIR is filed, the police station has to transfer the FIR to the station with the appropriate jurisdiction to conduct the investigation. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Section 173(3) of the BNSS stipulates that on receipt of information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence punishable for three years or more but less than seven years, the officer-in-charge may, with prior permission, conduct a preliminary enquiry or proceed with investigation. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **As per Section 173(1) of the BNSS, every information relating to the commission of a cognizable offence, irrespective of the area where the offence is committed, may be given orally or by electronic communication. Section 173(1)(ii) of BNSS lays down that FIRs can now be registered via electronic communication (e-FIR), and it will be taken on record on being signed within three days by the person giving such information but this is merely a newly introduced alternative mode, not a compulsory requirement. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

88. With reference to the organisations under the Government of India, consider the following details:

Sl. No.	Organisation	Function	Controlling Union Ministry
1.	Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)	To coordinate between various law enforcement agencies	Ministry of Home Affairs
2.	Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)	To investigate complex corporate frauds	Ministry of Finance
3.	Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)	To preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension

In how many of the above rows are the given details correctly matched?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The function stated **"to coordinate between various law enforcement agencies"** is broadly correct in spirit, but the **controlling ministry is wrong. The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB)** is a nodal agency in the Ministry of Finance which receives information from **Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and acts as the Central Repository of economic offence records.** It is squarely under the **Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)**, not the Ministry of Home Affairs as stated in the table. **So, row 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **Both the function and the controlling ministry are accurately stated. The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO)** is a multi-disciplinary statutory agency **in India under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, tasked with investigating and prosecuting complex corporate frauds that relate to companies and involve substantial public interest. The table states **"Ministry of Finance MCA"** the intended reading is **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)**, which is correct. **So, row 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **The Central Bureau of Investigation functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.** As per the official website of the CBI and the Department of Personnel and Training, the CBI is supervised by and functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. **The function, namely to preserve values in public life and ensure the health of the national economy, is also correctly stated**, as this is the mandate officially described in the CBI's foundational framework derived from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 and its official mission statement. **So, row 3 is correctly matched.**

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

89. Which of the following international conventions have **not** been ratified by India?

1. Employment Policy Convention
2. Abolition of Forced Labour Convention
3. International Convention Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on the
4. Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War
5. Convention on Reduction of Statelessness

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: The question has been dropped by UPSC.**

90. Consider the following statements with respect to the AI Impact Summit, 2026 held in New Delhi:

1. The Summit's intellectual framework was based on three foundational Sutras: People, Planning, and Progress.
2. The Preamble of the Summit stresses Democratising AI Resources, which acknowledges the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI as a binding framework to support locally relevant innovation and strengthen resilient AI ecosystems while respecting national laws.
3. The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was structured around seven Chakras (Pillars), which included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

**The AI Impact Summit, 2026, held in New Delhi**, focused on practical and inclusive use of Artificial Intelligence for public good. Its framework and declaration used Indian civilisational terminology such as “**Sutras**” and “**Chakras**”, but the exact wording of these principles is important.

- The Summit’s intellectual framework was based on the **three foundational Sutras of People, Planet and Progress, not People, Planning and Progress**. Since “Planning” is wrongly mentioned in place of “Planet”. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Preamble stresses **democratising AI resources, but the Charter for Democratic Diffusion of AI is not treated as a binding framework**. The declaration is multilateral and voluntary in character, aimed at cooperation while respecting national laws and contexts. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact was **structured around seven Chakras or pillars**. These included Access for Social Empowerment, AI for Science, and Secure and Trusted AI. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.**

91. Which of the following connectivity projects is/are a part of cooperation between India and the ASEAN member countries?

1. Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project
2. IMT Trilateral Highway
3. Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**India–ASEAN connectivity cooperation** focuses on linking India, especially the North-Eastern region, with Southeast Asia through Myanmar and Thailand. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway are important connectivity projects associated with India’s Act East Policy and ASEAN connectivity. The Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line is a bilateral India-Bangladesh connectivity

project, not an India-ASEAN project.

- **The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** connects India with Myanmar through sea, river and road links. Since Myanmar is an ASEAN member country, the project forms part of India’s connectivity cooperation with ASEAN and supports access from India’s North-East to Southeast Asia. **So, point 1 is correct.**
- **The IMT Trilateral Highway** connects India, Myanmar and Thailand. Myanmar and Thailand are ASEAN member countries, and the project is one of the key pillars of India–ASEAN physical connectivity. **So, point 2 is correct.**
- **The Agartala-Akhaura Rail Line** connects Tripura in India with Akhaura in Bangladesh. **Bangladesh is not an ASEAN member country**, and the project belongs to India-Bangladesh bilateral connectivity cooperation rather than India-ASEAN cooperation. **So, point 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

**92.** Match List I with List II and select the answer using the code given below the Lists:

	List I (Project Supported by India)		List II (Country)
A.	Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project	1.	Maldives
B.	Restoration of Stor Palace	2.	Afghanistan
C.	District Hospital at Dickoya	3.	Bhutan
D.	Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies	4.	Sri Lanka

Code:

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| (b) | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| (c) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| (d) | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 |

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project** is a 720 MW hydropower project in **Bhutan**. It was developed with India-Bhutan cooperation and jointly inaugurated by the Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan. **So, A-3 is correctly matched.**
- **Restoration of Stor Palace** is an India-supported heritage restoration project in **Afghanistan**. Stor Palace is located in Kabul and its restoration was undertaken with Indian assistance. **So, B-2 is correctly matched.**
- **District Hospital at Dickoya** is located in **Sri Lanka**. It was built with Indian assistance to serve the plantation community in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. **So, C-4 is correctly matched.**
- **The Institute of Security and Law Enforcement Studies** is located in **Maldives**. It is associated with India-supported capacity-building in policing and law enforcement. **So, D-1 is correctly matched.**

**So, the correct matching is A-3, B-2, C-4 and D-1.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

93. Which of the following items of defence hardware is/are manufactured in India?

1. Su-30 MKI Fighter Jets
2. T-90 MK-III Tanks
3. Akula Class Submarine

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

India manufactures several **major defence platforms** through indigenous production or licensed production arrangements.

- Su-30 MKI fighter jets** are manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited under licence production. HAL's Nasik division has been associated with manufacture of Su-30 MKI aircraft, while other HAL divisions support related engine and component production. **So, point 1 is correct.**
- T-90 tanks**, also known in India as Bhishma, are manufactured in India by Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi, under Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited. They are part of India's licensed production and armoured vehicle manufacturing capability. **So, point 2 is correct.**
- Akula-class submarines** are Russian nuclear-powered attack submarines. India has operated Akula-class submarines on lease from Russia, but they are not manufactured in India. **So, point 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.**

94. Consider the following statements about platforms for multilateral co-operation:

1. The 'Colombo Process' is a regional consultative process in which member states take binding decisions by consensus.
2. The 'Abu Dhabi Dialogue' is a voluntary non-binding consultative process among Asian countries of labour origin and destination to facilitate regional cooperation contractual labour mobility.
3. The 'Global Forum for Migration and Development', created upon the proposal of a former UN Secretary General, is a voluntary forum whose decisions are non-binding in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **The Colombo Process** is a Regional Consultative Process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for Asian countries of origin. Its decision-making is by consensus, but the process is non-binding in nature. Therefore, member states **do not take binding decisions under it. So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Abu Dhabi Dialogue** is a voluntary, non-binding and state-led consultative process involving Asian countries of labour origin and destination. It facilitates cooperation on temporary contractual labour mobility, especially between Asian labour-sending countries and labour-receiving Gulf countries. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Global Forum on Migration and Development was created following the proposal of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. **It is a voluntary, informal, government-led and non-binding forum for dialogue on migration and development issues. So, statement 3 is correct.**

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

95. Consider the following UN organisations:

1. World Food Programme
2. United Nations Children's Fund
3. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
4. International Labour Organisation

How many of the above has/have been awarded the Nobel Prize twice?

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

Answer: a

Explanation:

- **The World Food Programme** has received the Nobel Peace Prize once, in 2020, for its efforts to combat hunger and improve conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas. **So, point 1 is not correct.**
- **The United Nations Children's Fund** has received the Nobel Peace Prize once, in 1965, for its work relating to children's welfare and international solidarity. **So, point 2 is not correct.**
- **The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** has received the Nobel Peace Prize twice. It was awarded the prize in 1954 for its work for refugees and again in 1981 for promoting the fundamental rights of refugees. **So, point 3 is correct.**
- **The International Labour Organisation** has received the Nobel Peace Prize once, in 1969, for its work in creating international norms on working conditions and labour justice. **So, point 4 is not correct.**

So, only one of the above has been awarded the Nobel Prize twice.

Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

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

	List I (UN Peacekeeping Operation)		List II (Period of Operation)
A.	UNMIL	1.	2007-2010
B.	MINURCAT	2.	2002-2005
C.	MINUSTAH	3.	2003-2018
D.	UNMISSET	4.	2004-2017

Code:

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (b) | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| (c) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| (d) | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 |

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

**UN peacekeeping operations** are established by the United Nations Security Council to support peace, stability, civilian protection and political transition in conflict-affected regions. These missions usually operate for defined periods depending on the mandate and ground conditions. The given question tests factual matching of major past UN peacekeeping missions and their operational periods.

- UNMIL** refers to the United Nations Mission in Liberia. It operated from September 2003 to March 2018, so it matches with **2003-2018**. So, **A is correctly matched with III.**
- MINURCAT** refers to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. It operated from September 2007 to December 2010, so it matches with **2007-2010**. So, **B is correctly matched with I.**
- MINUSTAH** refers to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. It operated from 2004 to 2017, so it matches with **2004-2017**. So, **C is correctly matched with IV.**
- UNMISSET** refers to the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor. It operated from May 2002 to May 2005, so it matches with **2002-2005**. So, **D is correctly matched with II.**

**The correct matching is A-III, B-I, C-IV and D-II.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct answer.**

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

	List I (BIMSTEC Centre/Establishment)		List II (Location)
A.	BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory	1.	NOIDA
B.	BIMSTEC Energy Centre	2.	Bengaluru
C.	BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate	3.	Colombo
D.	BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility	4.	Thimphu

Code:

- |     | A | B | C | D |
|-----|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| (b) | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| (c) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| (d) | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Answer: c

Explanation:

- **BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory** is to be established in **Thimphu, Bhutan**. It is linked with BIMSTEC cultural cooperation and the Paro Initiative. **So, A-4 is correctly matched.**
- BIMSTEC Energy Centre is located in **Bengaluru, India**. It is associated with regional cooperation in the energy sector among BIMSTEC member countries. **So, B-2 is correctly matched.**
- **BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate** is located at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting in Noida, **Uttar Pradesh, India**. **So, C-1 is correctly matched.**
- **BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Facility** is to be established in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**. It is intended to facilitate technology transfer and cooperation among BIMSTEC member states. **So, D-3 is correctly matched.**

So, the correct matching is A-4, B-2, C-1 and D-3.

Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.

98. Which one of the following pairs is *not* correctly matched?

	(Indian Army Corps)	:	(Headquarters)
(a)	3 Corps	:	Dimapur
(b)	4 Corps	:	Tezpur
(c)	14 Corps	:	Leh
(d)	33 Corps	:	Srinagar

Answer: d

Explanation:

- **The III Corps, also designated as the Spear Corps**, is a field formation of the Indian Army headquartered at Rangapahar Military Station in Dimapur, Nagaland, operating under the Eastern Command. **So, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **The IV Corps, or the Gajraj Corps**, is a corps of the Indian Army headquartered in Tezpur, Assam. This is further confirmed by the GlobalSecurity reference which notes the Tezpur-based 4 Corps, headed by Lt Gen R K Chhabra. **So, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **The XIV Corps or The Fire and Fury Corps** is a corps of the Indian Army, with its Garrison/HQ at Leh. The 14th Corps forms a military deployment in the Kargil-Leh area guarding the frontiers with China and Pakistan. **So, pair 3 is correctly matched.**
- **33 Corps**, which is responsible for guarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China in the Sikkim sector popularly known as the Trishakti Corps, in Darjeeling district. **The XXXIII Corps, or the Trishakti Corps, is headquartered in Sukna in Siliguri, North Bengal**, and is commanded by a Three Star officer of the rank of Lieutenant General. **Srinagar is instead the headquarters of the 15 Corps (Chinar Corps)**, which handles the Kashmir Valley in a completely different formation. **So, pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

Therefore, option (d) is the answer.

99. Which of the following statements with respect to the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) is/are correct?

1. The period of its implementation is 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2026.
2. The key objective of the Revamped RGSA is to develop the governance capabilities of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The share of the Central funding for the Revamped RGSA is 100% for all States and Union Territories.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the continuation of the revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for implementation during the period from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2026, co-terminus with the XV Finance Commission period. The starting year is 2022, not 2021 as stated. The original RGSA ran from 2018–19 to 2021–22 and was subsequently revamped; the statement appears to incorrectly conflate the end of the original scheme with the beginning of the revamped one. So, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The approved scheme of RGSA will help more than 2.78 lakh Rural Local Bodies, including Traditional Bodies, across the country to develop governance capabilities to deliver on SDGs through inclusive local governance with a focus on optimum utilisation of available resources. So, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The funding pattern for state components is based on a 60:40 ratio between the Centre and the States, except for northeastern and hilly states and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, where the share is 90:10. In other UTs, the central share is 100%. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (b) is the correct option.**

**100.** Which of the following countries are members of the European Union?

1. Belarus
2. Poland
3. Germany
4. Switzerland

Select the answer using the code given below :

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- **Belarus is not a member of the European Union.** It is located in Eastern Europe and has political and economic links with Russia, but it has not joined the EU. **So, point 1 is not correct.**
- **Poland is a member of the European Union.** It joined the EU in 2004 during the major eastern enlargement of the Union. **So, point 2 is correct.**
- **Germany is a member of the European Union.** It was one of the founding members of the European integration process that later developed into the European Union. **So, point 3 is correct.**
- **Switzerland is not a member of the European Union.** Although it is located in Europe and has close economic relations with the EU, it remains outside the Union. **So, point 4 is not correct.**

**Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**