# Mock Test Paper-01

## (UPSC Civil Services (Pre) Examination)

### General Studies Paper-I

Time: 2 Hours Maximum Marks: 200

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. This Test Booklet contains 100 items (Questions). Each item comprises four responses (answers). In case you feel that there is more than one correct response, mark the response which you consider the best. In any case, choose ONLY ONE response for each item.
- 2. You have to mark all your responses ONLY on the separate OMR Sheet provided.
- 3. All items carry equal marks.
- 4. Attempt all items.
- 5. Your total marks will depend only on the number of correct responses marked by you in the OMR sheet.
- **6.** For every incorrect response 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the allotted marks will be deducted.
- 7. If a question is left blank i.e., no answer is given by the candidate, there will be no penalty for that question.

#### 1. Consider the following statements:

- **1.** In Berubari v/s Union of India (1960) Case, the Supreme Court states that the Preamble is not part of the Constitution.
- **2.** In Kesavananda Bharati (1973) Case, the Supreme Court states that the Preamble is a part of the constitution.
- **3.** In LIC of India (1995) Case, the Supreme Court states that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## 2. Which of the following provisions are Fundamental Duties under Part IVA of the Indian Constitution?

- **1.** To abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions.
- 2. To protect the integrity, sovereignty and unity of India
- **3.** To cherish and preserve the rich national heritage of our composite culture.
- **4.** To promote the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

# 3. Consider the following statements regarding Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).

1. Article 39 (b) and Article 39 (c) are two Directive Principles of State Policies (DPSPs) have been given precedence over Fundamental Rights Article 14 and Article 19.

2. In Golakanath Case (1967), the Supreme court had pronounced that the Parliament cannot amend the Fundamental Rights to give effect to the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 4. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

- 1. It was a statutory body established in 1964.
- It was established on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission.
- **3.** Its jurisdiction extends to members of the All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 5. Consider the following statements:

- **1.** The 25<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act facilitated the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states.
- The 91<sup>st</sup> Amendment Act of 2003 has made some provisions to limit the size of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 6. The 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 2002 made amendments to which one of the following?

- 1. Directive Principles of State Policy
- 2. Fundamental Rights
- 3. Fundamental Duties

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

# 7. Consider the following statements regarding National Emergency with respect to fundamental rights:

- **1.** Article 19 is automatically suspended when a National Emergency is proclaimed.
- **2.** Article 358 authorizes the president to suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights during a National Emergency.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 8. Under the Indian Constitution, concentration of wealth violates

- 1. The Right to Equality
- 2. The Directive Principles of State Policy
- 3. Fundamental duties

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 9. Consider the following statements regarding the National Commission for Minorities:

- **1.** It is a seven-members body, and all of them shall be among the minority communities.
- **2.** Each member holds office for a period of five years.
- 3. Jains were also notified as a minority community since 1992.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 10. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Accounts Committee:

- **1.** All the members of the Public Accounts Committee are from the Lok Sabha only.
- The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- **3.** It's chief function is to examine the audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 11. Consider the following statements regarding the Attorney General of India:

- **1.** Article 76 deals with for the Attorney General of India.
- **2.** Tenure of Attorney General of India is fixed and mentioned in the constitution.
- Enjoys privileges and immunities equivalent to a member of Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- 12. Consider the following statements regarding President Rule in a state:
  - Article 365 empowers the President to issue a proclamation if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
  - 2. Article 356 says that whenever a state fails to comply with or give effect to any direction from the Centre, it will be lawful for the president to hold that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 13. With reference to the District Development Councils (DDCs), consider the following statements:

- **1.** The electoral process of DDC allows for reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only.
- The members of DDC are elected from each district.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 14. Consider the following statements with respect to the expenditure limit for a candidate in contesting elections.
  - The Election Commission of India imposes limits on the expenditure incurred by a candidate as well as political parties on their election campaign.
  - 2. The expenditure limits range from ₹ 20 lakh to ₹ 28 lakh for assembly elections, and from ₹ 54 lakh to ₹ 70 lakh for Lok Sabha elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

# 15. Which of the following is/are the features of Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution?

- **1.** They are not absolute and sacrosanct.
- **2.** They are available against the arbitrary action of a state only.
- **3.** They are enforceable only in the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 3 only
- **(b)** 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 16. Which of the following requires the special majority under the Constitutional amendment (Article 368) of the constitution?
  - 1. Election of the President and its manner

- 2. Delimitation of constituencies
- **3.** Changes in representation of states in Parliament Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- **(b)** 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

## 17. Consider the following statements with respect to the Finance Commission:

- 1. It is a constitutional body formed under Article 324 of the constitution.
- **2.** It's members are eligible for reappointment.
- **3.** Constitution authorizes the Parliament to determine the qualifications of members of the finance commission.

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

## 18. Consider the following statements regarding the GST council:

- **1.** The GST Council is a constitutional body under Article 279A and was introduced by the Constitutional amendment act 103<sup>rd</sup> 2016.
- **2.** The Finance secretary is the chairman of the council. Which of the above statements are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## 19. Consider the following statements regarding PM-KISAN:

- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of ₹ 6000 per year in three equal instalments directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers having less than 2 hectares of land.
- **2.** It is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **3.** It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.

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

## 20. Consider the following statements regarding the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India:

- **1.** It is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- **2.** The administrative ministry for FSSAI is the Ministry of Agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

## 21. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Index of Industrial Production:

- It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance and the Reserve Bank of India for policy-making purposes.
- **2.** It is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) Ministry of Statistics and Programme.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

## 22. Consider the following statements regarding AT-1 Bonds:

- **1.** AT-1 bonds are a type of unsecured perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.
- **2.** These bonds offer higher returns to investor, but carry a higher risk as well.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

## 23. Consider the following statements regarding Payment banks:

- Payments banks can provide ATM and debit cards but cannot provide online and mobile banking.
- **2.** Payments banks are unable to provide loans or credit cards.
- **3.** Payment Banks can accept deposit upto ₹ 5,00,000 per person.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 24. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency:

- **1.** It is a miniratna company under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- **2.** It was set up as a specialized non-banking finance agency for the renewable energy sector.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

## 25. Consider the following statements regarding the Foreign Contribution Regulation:

- The Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections journalists or newspaper and media broadcast companies.
- 2. FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
- 3. It was amended in the year 2010 and 2020.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

# 26. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD):

- It is a statutory body established under the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
- **2.** It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- **3.** It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 27. Consider the following statements regarding African Swine Fever:

- 1. It is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease.
- **2.** It is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

## 28. Neem tree has acquired industrial importance as a source of

- (a) Biopesticide and anti-fertility compound.
- **(b)** Anti-fertility compound, biofertilizer and anticancer drug.
- **(c)** Biofertilizer, biopesticide and anti-fertility compound.
- (d) Anti-cancer drug, biopesticide and biofertilizer.

#### 29. Github recently seen in news is

- (a) Open-source software.
- (b) Military program of the USA.
- (c) Covid-19 vaccine.
- (d) Supercomputer of China.

## 30. Consider the following statements regarding the NISAR mission:

- **1.** NISAR is a joint Earth-observing mission between NASA and the ISRO.
- **2.** ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar) the launch vehicle and associated launch services.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

## 31. With respect to HIV, consider the following statements:

- 1. ELISA test is used to test for HIV antibodies.
- 2. HIV is not transmitted from person to person.
- 3. It is necessary that a person infected with HIV will definitely develop AIDS.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

## 32. Why is a plant called asafoetida often mentioned in the news?

- (a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics.
- (b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.
- (c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides.
- (d) It has medicinal properties.

# 33. With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), consider the following statements:

**1.** It aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants do not threaten their survival.

- 2. It was adopted under the aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 3. It is not binding on the parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 34. Consider the following statements:

- 1. In Mutualism, both the species get benefited.
- **2.** In Parasitism, only one species benefits and the other is harmed.
- **3.** In Amensalism, one species benefits and the other is unaffected.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

#### 35. Consider the following statement regarding Dhole:

- **1.** Dhole is a canid native to Central South Asia only.
- 2. IUCN status is critically endangered.
- **3.** Depletion of prey base is a threat to the species.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

#### 36. Consider the following statements regarding corals:

- **1.** They are mainly found in tropical oceans and seas.
- **2.** Most fishes lay eggs in coral colonies.
- **3.** Coral reefs have greater biodiversity than tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 37. Which of the following is true for Source-sink dynamics?

- (a) The Indian government has started looking at means to revive the traditional systems of water harvesting in the country.
- **(b)** The computer simulation of exponential economic and population growth with finite resource supplies.
- **(c)** When we conserve and protect the whole ecosystem, its biodiversity at all levels is protected.
- (d) A theoretical model used by ecologists to describe how variation in habitat quality may affect the population growth or decline of organisms.

## 38. With reference to the International Solar Alliance (ISA), consider the following statement:

- 1. It was jointly launched by India and South
- 2. Its headquarter is in Gurugram, India.
- **3.** After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states world-wide.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

#### 39. BEEG recently seen in news is:

- (a) Seed balls
- (b) a variety of rice
- (c) pesticide
- (d) Genetically modified grapes

## 40. Recently, the Union Environment minister launched Surakshya portal on:

- (a) Forest conservation.
- (b) Conservation of tigers.
- (c) Human elephant conflict.
- (d) e-health services during covid-19.

# 41. Recently, the paper titled "SPOTTED" in 'Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Peek into Ongoing Poaching and Illegal Trade of Leopards in India' was released by

- (a) CITES
- (b) WWF
- (c) TRAFFIC India
- (d) PETA

#### 42. Consider the following pairs:

	Founder King	Dynasty
1.	Pushyamitra sunga	Founder of Sunga dynasty
2.	Devabhuti	Founder of Kanva dynasty
3.	Simuka	Founder of Satavahana dynasty
4.	Chandragupta	Founder of Gupta dynasty

Select the correct code.

- (a) Only one of them is correct.
- **(b)** Only two of them are correct.
- (c) Only three of them are correct.
- (d) All four are correct.

#### 43. Consider the following pairs:

Ruler		Time period
1.	Rajiya	1136 - 1140
2.	Iltutmish	1211 - 1236
3.	Akbar	1607 - 1647
4.	Ibrahim Lodi	1517 - 1526

Select the correct code.

- (a) Only one of them is correct.
- **(b)** Only two of them are correct.
- (c) Only three of them are correct.
- (d) All four are correct.

#### 44. Consider the following pairs:

	Names	Related Personalities	
1.	Maitreya	Future Buddha	
2.	Chakrapani	Samanta	
3.	Amitabha	Sukhavati	
4.	Avalokteshwara	Padmapani	

Select the correct code.

- (a) Only one of them is correct.
- **(b)** Only two of them are correct.
- (c) Only three of them are correct.
- (d) All four are correct.

## 45. Consider the following statements regarding the Indus valley civilization:

 The Indus people harvested wheat, barley, rai, peas, rice and mustard.

- 2. Iron tools were used to plough fields and as sickles to harvest the crops.
- Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton.
- Ragi were grown extensively in the Northwest region.

## Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 46. Magadha emerged as the most powerful of the sixteen mahajanapadas. Which of the following were the prominent reason for their success?

- **1.** Elephants were an important part of the Magadhan army.
- **2.** Presence of iron mines which provided resources for tools and weapons.
- **3.** The Ganga and its tributaries provided a means of cheap and convenient communication.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 47. Consider the following statements regarding ancient rituals:

- In Rajasuya Sacrifice Chariot race, a royal chariot was made to win the race against his kinsmen.
- Ashvamedha Sacrifice deals with unquestioned control over the area on which the royal horse ran uninterrupted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 48. Consider the following statements regarding Mohiniyattam Dance:

- 1. It is one of the classical dances from the state of Kerala.
- 2. This dance form is related to lord Shiva.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 49. Consider the following statements:

- **1.** Jataka stories deals with the previous births of Buddha in the form of human only.
- Jataka stories were depicted on the railings and torans of the stupas.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 50. With reference to Kathak Dance, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance.
- It is the only classical dance of India having links with Muslim culture.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 51. Consider the following statements:

**1.** The first European power to occupy Pondicherry were the French.

Fort William was the first fort constructed by the British in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 52. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Dutch were the last to come to pre-independence India as traders.
- **2.** Portuguese were the first to come to preindependence India as traders.
- **(a)** 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

#### 53. Arrange the following in the correct order.

- 1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Panipat
- 2. The Battle of Plassey
- 3. The Battle of Buxar
- 4. The Battle of Madras
- (a) 4-3-1-2
- **(b)** 2-3-4-1
- (c) 3-4-2-1
- (d) 4-2-1-3

#### 54. Consider the following statements:

- In the Third Battle of Panipat, Ahmad Shah Abdali defeated Ibrahim Lodi.
- **2.** In the Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790-92), Tipu Sultan formed an ally with France and invaded the nearby state of Travancore.
- Mir Jafar entered in a conspiracy with the English for the defeat of Nawab Siraj-ud-Daulah in the Battle of Plassey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 55. Consider the following statements:

- **1.** Tipu Sultan established embassies with many foreign countries.
- **2.** Awadh was removed from power by the British on the pretext of mis-governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 56. Which of the following are the provisions of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931?

- **1.** The immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence.
- **2.** Government also conceded the right to make salt for consumption.
- **3.** A public inquiry into police excesses was accepted.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 57. Consider the following statements with reference to the Simon Commission:

- **1.** All the members of the Commission were Englishmen.
- **2.** The Commission was appointed to go into the question of further constitutional reforms in British India.

**3.** The Simon Commission report recommended dominion status for British India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## 58. Consider the following statements regarding the Cabinet Mission Plan:

- The Cabinet Mission recommended an undivided India.
- **2.** It provided that the central government in Delhi would have powers over defence, foreign affairs and communications.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 59. Arrange the following socio-religious reforms chronologically:

- 1. Foundation of Brahmo Sabha
- 2. Foundation of Vedanta college
- 3. Establishment of Arya samaj

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 60. Consider the following statements regarding the Umngot river:

- 1. It is a river in Meghalaya.
- 2. It is considered to be India's cleanest river.
- **3.** Dawki Bridge is a suspension bridge over the Umngot River.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## 61. Which of the following statements with reference to Tanzania is/are correct?

- 1. Tanzania is a country in west Africa.
- 2. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is located in Tanzania.
- It borders Uganda to the north; Comoro Islands and the Indian Ocean to the east; Mozambique and Malawi to the south; Rwanda Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 62. Kowloon peninsula recently seen in news is a part of:

- (a) Madagascar islands
- (b) East Ukraine
- (c) North American Central part
- (d) Southern part in the territory of Hong Kong

## 63. Consider the following statements regarding the Godavari river:

**1.** The Godavari is the second largest Peninsular river system.

- Kumbh Mela also takes place on the banks of the Godavari river in Nashik.
- **3.** The Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## 64. Consider the following statements regarding the New Development Bank:

- **1.** It is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states.
- **2.** In the New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote.
- **3.** In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the World Bank.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

## 65. Consider the following statements regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

- It is an intergovernmental trade alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of 1949 by the United States, Canada and several Western European nations.
- **2.** The most recent member state to be added to NATO was North Macedonia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 66. Project DANTAK is related to:

- (a) Conservation of Asian elephant with tusk.
- **(b)** A nutritional scheme for tribal children under 14 years.
- (c) Providing medical facilities to old citizens who are not covered under any social service schemes.
- (d) Infrastructure project between India and Bhutan.

# 67. Consider the following statements with reference to President's Rule under Article 356 of the Constitution:

- **1.** There is no maximum period prescribed for president rule in the constitution.
- **2.** A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within six months from the date of its issue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 68. Consider the following statements regarding Gold Exchange:

- **1.** It is a national platform for buying and selling Electronic Gold Receipts.
- **2.** RBI would regulate the entire ecosystem of the proposed gold exchange.
- **3.** Physical gold deposited at one location can be withdrawn from a different location.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 69. Consider the following statements regarding Khajuraho Temples:

- **1.** The temple site is situated within Satpura Mountain range.
- **2.** The monuments include Hindu and Buddhist temples.
- 3. It is built by the Chandela Dynasty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 70. With reference to the World Press Freedom Index, consider the following statements:

- **1.** India is below Nepal and Sri Lanka but above Bangladesh in position.
- **2.** It is published by the Reporters Without Borders. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## 71. Consider the following statements regarding the Siachen glacier:

- **1.** The Siachen Glacier is located in the western Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
- **2.** The entire Siachen Glacier with all major passes is currently under the administration of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 72. Nusantara recently seen in news is

- (a) An island of Australia where a volcanic eruption took place recently
- (b) New capital of Malaysia
- (c) New capital of Myanmar
- (d) New capital of Indonesia

## 73. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter-state water dispute:

- **1.** Article 263 provides for the adjudication of interstate water disputes.
- **2.** Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 74. With respect to Sedition Law in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- **1.** Sedition is a non-bailable offence.
- **2.** A person charged under this law is barred from a government job.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 75. Which of the following are the grounds of disqualification under the Anti-defection law?

- **1.** If any independently elected member joins any political party.
- **2.** If any nominated member joins any political party after the expiry of six months.
- 3. On being elected as the presiding officer of the House, if a member voluntarily gives up the membership of his/her party or rejoins it after he/she ceases to hold that office, he/she would be disqualified.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 76. Consider the following statements regarding the Orang National park:

- **1.** It is located on the bank of the Brahmaputra River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **2.** A National Park is defined by Central government via notification under the WPA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

## 77. Consider the following statements regarding Red Sanders:

- **1.** Red Sanders is an Indian endemic tree species with a restricted geographical range in the western Ghats.
- It is under endangered category in IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Which of t (a) 1 only
- **(b)** 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

## 78. Consider the following statements regarding India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021:

- It is published every years by the Forest Survey of India.
- **2.** India's total forest and tree cover is now more than 20% of the geographical area of the country.
- **3.** Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country.

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

## **79. Assertion (A):** Artificial satellites are always launched from the earth in the eastward direction.

**Reason (R):** The earth rotates from west to east, and so the satellite attains the escape velocity.

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

## 80. "3D printing" has applications in which of the following?

- (1) Preparation of confectionery items
- (2) Manufacture of bionic ears
- (3) Automotive industry
- (4) Reconstructive surgeries
- (5) Data processing technologies

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

## 81. Consider the following statements regarding the Writ Jurisdiction of High courts:

- **1.** Writs Jurisdiction come under the 'Original' jurisdiction of the High Court.
- **2.** The High Court can issue the writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights and not for other purposes.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

## 82. A "Black Hole" is a body in space which does not allow any radiation to come out.

This property is due to its

- (a) Very small size
- (b) Very large size
- (c) Very high density
- (d) Very low density

#### 83. Consider the following statements:

- **1.** The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years.
- **2.** When the Earth was created more than 4000 million years ago there was 54% oxygen and no carbon dioxide.
- 3. When living organisms originated, they modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 84. Consider the following statements:

- 1. On the planet Earth, the fresh water available for use amounts to about less than 1% of the total water found.
- **2.** Of the total fresh water found on the planet Earth. 95% is bound up in polar ice caps and glaciers.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

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

#### 85. The Nagara, the Dravida and the Vesara are the

- (a) Three main tribal communities of the North east prevalent in India.
- **(b)** Three main linguistic divisions into which the languages of India can be classified.
- (c) Three main styles of Indian temple architecture.
- (d) Three main dance forms of the Indian subcontinent.

#### 86. Consider the following statements regarding stocks:

- Preferred stock allows its holders to make a profit through rising share prices and dividend payments.
- **2.** Both common as well as preferred stock holders have voting rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

#### 87. Which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

- (a) Diwan-i-Bandagani: Tughlaq
- (b) Diwan-i-Mustakhraj: Balban
- (c) Diwan-i-Kohi: Alauddin Khalji
- (d) Diwan-i-Arz: Muhammad Tughlaq

#### 88. Consider the following events:

- (1) Reign of Krishna Deva Raya of Vijayanagara
- (2) Construction of Qutub Minar
- (3) Arrival of Portuguese in India
- (4) Death of Feroz Tughlaq

The correct chronological sequence of these events is:

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

#### 89. During the time of which Mughal Emperor did the English East India Company establish its first factory in India?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Jahangir
- (c) Shahjahan
- (d) Aurangzeb

#### 90. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The Charter Act of 1853 abolished the East India Company's monopoly of Indian trade.
- 2. Under the Government of India Act 1858, the British Parliament abolished the East India Company altogether and undertook the responsibility of ruling India directly.

Which of the statements given below is/are correct?

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

## 91. Which of the following organisations releases the World Economic Outlook report?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- **(b)** Organisation of Economic Development and Cooperation
- (c) International Monetary Fund
- (d) World Bank

## 92. Which of the following is not a part of current account?

- 1. Foreign loan
- 2. Foreign Direct Investment
- 3. Private remittance
- 4. Foreign Portfolio Investment

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

#### 93. Consider the following statement:

- 1. Inflation benefits the debtors.
- 2. Inflation benefits the bond holder.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

## 94. Arrange the following in order of their increasing liquidity.

- **1.** Currency
- 2. Time deposit
- 3. Saving

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## 95. The term marginal standing facility is used in a difference of which of the following sectors?

- (a) Banking
- (b) Insurance
- (c) Infrastructure development
- (d) Social sector

## 96. With reference to the term agreement on agriculture is used for which of the following organisation?

- (a) WTO
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNCTAD
- (d) ASEAN

## 97. Which of the following is correct when RBI is considering expansion in monetary policy?

- (a) Increasing the CRR
- (b) Increasing the SLR
- (c) Decreasing reporate
- (d) Frequent use of open market operations

## 98. Which of the following is part of non-planned expenditure?

- 1. Expenditure on defence
- 2. Interest payment
- 3. Salaries
- 4. Subsidies

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

## 99. With the decrease in the rate of interest of lending, which of the following option is correct?

- (a) It will lead to the increase in investment expenditure.
- **(b)** Increase in the non-tax revenue of the government.
- **(c)** Will increase the foreign direct investment in the country.
- (d) Increase the global export.

## 100. Which of the following best explains the term national income?

- (a) Total value of goods and services produced by the nationals.
- **(d)** Sum total of investment expenditure in the economy.
- **(c)** Monetary value of the final goods and services produced within a given period.
- (d) Total cost of production.

#### ANSWERS WITH EXPLANATION

#### 1. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Cases related to Preamble:

- Berubari v/s Union (1960) Case: Preamble is not part of the Constitution
- Kesavananda Bharati (1973) Case: Preamble is part of the Constitution
- LIC of India (1995) Case: Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

**Note:** Amendment of Preamble: Preamble can be amended without affecting basic features of the constitution.

#### 2. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** The eleven Fundamental Duties enshrined in Part IVA under Article 51A of the constitution are:

- To abide with the Indian Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions such as the National Anthem and Flag.
- To cherish and follow the noble ideas that inspired the national struggle for freedom.
- To protect the integrity, sovereignty and unity of India.
- To defend the country and perform national services if and when the country requires.
- To promote the spirit of harmony and brotherhood amongst all the people of India and renounce any practices that are derogatory to women.
- To cherish and preserve the rich national heritage of our composite culture.
- To protect and improve the natural environment including lakes, wildlife, rivers, forests etc. Hence statement 2 is correct.
- To develop scientific temper, humanism and spirit of inquiry.
- To safeguard all public property and to abjure violence.
- To strive towards excellence in all genres of individual and collective activities.
- To provide opportunities for education to his/her child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years. This fundamental duty was added by the 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.

#### **3.** Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** Article 39 (b) provides for the equitable distribution of material resources of the community for the common good, and Article 39 (c) provides for the prevention of concentration of wealth and means of production. These two Directive Principles (under Article 39 (b) and Article 39 (c) thus have been given precedence over Fundamental Right 14 (Right

to Equality) and Fundamental Right 19 (Freedom of Speech and Expression).

In the Golaknath Case (1967), the Supreme court had pronounced that the parliament cannot amend the Fundamental Rights to give effect to the Directive Principles of State Policy. The parliament responded by bringing the 25th Amendment Act (1971) of the constitution which inserted Article 31C in Part III. Article 31-C contained two provisions:

- If a law is made to give effect to DPSPs in Article 39(b) and Article 39(c) and in the process the law violates Article 14, Article 19 or Article 31, then the law should not be declared unconstitutional and void merely on this ground.
- Any such law which contains the declaration that it is to give effect to DPSPs in Article 39(b) & Article(c) shall not be questioned in a court of law.

#### 4. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** It was established in 1964 by the executive resolution of the central government. But in 2003 Parliament gave it a statutory status by enacting the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) Act 2003. It was established on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption. Its jurisdiction extends to members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the Union Group-A officers of the Central government, officers of the rank of Scale V and above in Public Sector Banks etc.

#### 5. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 facilitated the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states. The 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Indian Constitution was needed to implement the recommendations of the States Reorganisation Commission regarding the reorganization of the states on a linguistic basis. Important provision of the 7<sup>th</sup> constitutional

Important provision of the 7<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment:

- A provision making it possible to appoint the same person as the Governor for two or more States has been added to article 153.
- Articles 170 and 171 were amended. The maximum strength of the Legislative Council of a State has been raised from one-fourth to onethird of the strength of the Legislative Assembly of that State.
- Article 231 was amended to enable Parliament to establish a common High Court for two or more States
- Second and Seventh Schedules were amended.

- Abolished the existing classification of states into four categories i.e., Part A, Part B, Part C, and Part D states, and reorganised them into 14 states and 6 union territories.
- Extended the jurisdiction of high courts to union territories.
- Provided for the establishment of a common high court for two or more states.
- Provided for the appointment of additional and acting judges of the high court.

#### 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003:

Made the following provisions to limit the size of the Council of Ministers, to debar defectors from holding public offices and to strengthen the anti-defection law:

- **1.** The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
- 2. A member of either house of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
- 3. The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15% of the total strength of the legislative Assembly of that state. But, the number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.
- **4.** A member of either House of a state legislature belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
- 5. A member of either House of Parliament or either House of a State Legislature belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to hold any remunerative political post. The expression "remunerative political post" means
  - any office under the central government or a state government where the salary or remuneration for such office is paid out of the public revenue of the concerned government; or
  - any office under a body, whether incorporated or not, which is wholly or partially owned by the central government or a state government and the salary or remuneration for such office is paid by such body, except where such salary or remuneration paid is compensatory in nature
- 6. The provision of the Tenth Schedule (antidefection law) pertaining to exemption from disqualification in case of split by one-third members of legislature party has been deleted. It means that the defectors have no more protection on the grounds of splits.

#### 6. Option (d) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 2002 added the eleventh Fundamental duty to Part IV-A of the constitution under article 51-A, i.e., "To provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six to fourteen years.
- 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act added the 'Right to Education as a fundamental right to Part III of the constitution under Article 21A which states that "The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may by law determine.
- 86<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act also added new article 45 to the constitution under Directive Principles of State Policy which says "The state shall endeavor to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.

#### 7. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Articles 358 and 359 describe the effect of a National Emergency on Fundamental Rights. Article 358 deals with the suspension of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed by Article 19 and Article 359 deals with the suspension of other Fundamental Rights except those guaranteed by Articles 20 and 21.

Suspension of Fundamental Rights under Article 19: According to Article 358, when a proclamation of National Emergency is made, the six fundamental rights under article 19 are automatically suspended. Article 19 is automatically revived after the expiry of the emergency.

- Article 19 containing six rights can be suspended only when the National Emergency is declared on the grounds of war or external aggression and not on the ground of armed rebellion.
- This provision was added by the 44th constitutional amendment.
- Article 359 authorizes the president to suspend the right to move any court for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights during a National Emergency.

#### **8.** Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Part IV (article 36 to 51) of Indian constitution deals with the Directive Principles of State Policy. Article 39(c) deals with prevention and concentration of wealth. It says that "the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment."

#### 9. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** National Commission for Minorities: The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

- NCM consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members, and all of them shall be from the minority communities.
- Total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government should be from amongst persons of eminence ability and integrity. Each member holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office.
- In 1993, the first Statutory National Commission was set up and five religious communities viz the Muslims Christians Sikhs Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis) were notified as minority communities. In 2014, Jains were also notified as a minority community. The NCM Act defines a minority as "a community notified as such by the Central government." Now, there are six religions, namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis (Zoroastrian) and Jain as religious minorities in India.

#### 10. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Public Accounts Committee was introduced in 1921 after its first mention in the Government of India Act 1919 also called Montford Reforms (Montagu–Chelmsford).

- The PAC is formed every year with a strength of not more than 22 members of which 15 are from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha.
- The term of office of the members is one year.
- The Chairman is appointed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. Since 1967, the chairman of the committee is selected from the opposition.
- Its chief function is to examine the audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament.

#### **11.** Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** Attorney General of India:

He/she is the legal officer in the country & part of Union Executive.

- Assisted by 2 Solicitor Generals & 4 Additional Solicitor Generals.
- Article 76 of constitution deals with for Attorney General of India & Article 165 for Advocate General of States.
- Eligibility: Qualified to be appointed as the Supreme Court judge and has been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist in the opinion of the President.
- Tenure: Not fixed.
- Appointment is done by the President on the government advice.

#### • Rights and privileges

Right to Speak & take part in proceedings of both Houses of Parliament/joint sitting/any committee of Parliament of which he/she may be named a member.

- Enjoys privileges & immunities of a member of Parliament.
- Not a government servant & not debarred from private legal practice.

#### Limitations:

- No Right to Vote in House proceedings/ committees.
- Should not advise against or hold a brief against the government.
- Should not defend accused persons in criminal prosecutions without the permission of the Government of India.

#### 12. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Constitution prescribes imposition of President's Rule under Article 356 on two groundsone mentioned in Article 356 itself and another in Article 365:

- Article 356 empowers the President to issue a proclamation if he/she is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of a state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Notably, the president can act either on a report of the governor of the state or otherwise too (i.e., even without the governor's report).
- Article 365 says that whenever a state fails to comply with, or to give effect to any direction from the Centre, it will be lawful for the president to hold that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

#### **13.** Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** District Development Councils:

DDCs will act as a new unit of governance in J&K. It will effectively replaces the District Planning and Development Boards in all districts and will prepare and approve district plans and capital expenditure. Composition of DDCs:

 DDCs will have elected representatives from each district. The term of the DDC will be five years, and the electoral process will allow for reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

#### **14.** Option (b) is correct.

## **Explanation:** Expenditure Limit in contesting elections:

The Election Commission of India imposes limits on the expenditure incurred by a candidate but not political parties on their election campaign.

The expenditure limits range from ₹ 20 lakh to
 ₹ 28 lakh for assembly elections and from ₹ 54 lakh to ₹ 70 lakh for Lok Sabha elections.

- The expenditure limit was last revised in 2014 while the same was done for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2018 following their bifurcation in 2014.
- After that, the limit has not been increased despite an increase in the electorate and an increase in the Cost Inflation Index.

So, recently the Election Commission of India (ECI) has constituted a committee to examine the issues concerning the expenditure limit for a candidate.

#### 15. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Constitution from Articles 12 to 35.

#### Features of Fundamental Rights:

- They are not absolute but qualified. The state can impose reasonable restrictions on them.
- They are not sacrosanct or permanent. The Parliament can curtail or repeal them but only by a constitutional amendment act and not by an ordinary act.
- They are justiciable allowing persons to move the courts for their enforcement if and when they are violated.
- They are defended and guaranteed by the Supreme Court. Hence, the aggrieved person can directly go to the Supreme Court.
- Most of them are available against the arbitrary action of the State with a few exceptions like those against the State's action and against the action of private individuals. For example, Article 17, 23 and 24 provides protection against actions of private individuals.
- The Constitution under Article 32 and 226 empowers the Supreme Court and High Courts to issue writs for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. When the Fundamental Rights of a citizen are violated the aggrieved party has the option of moving either the high court or the Supreme Court directly. Further, the Parliament (under Article 32) can empower any other court to issue these writs.

Since no such provision has been made so far, only the Supreme Court and the high courts can issue the writs and not any other court.

#### 16. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** Constitutional amendment under Article 368 of the constitution requiring special majority for their passage and ratification by Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures. The following provisions can be amended in this way:

- Election of the President and its manner.
- Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states, Supreme Court and high courts.

- Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Representation of states in Parliament.
- The Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

A Constitution Amendment Bill under article 368 can be introduced in either House of Parliament and has to be passed by each House by a special majority.

#### 17. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a Finance Commission as a quasi-judicial body. It is constituted by the president of India every fifth year or at such earlier time as he/she considers necessary:

- The Finance Commission consists of a chairman and four other members to be appointed by the president.
- They hold office for such period as specified by the president in his order.
- They are eligible for reappointment.
- The Constitution authorizes the Parliament to determine the qualifications of members of the commission and the manner in which they should be selected. For this purpose the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1951 has been enacted.

#### The main functions of a finance commission are:

- **1.** The distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the centre and the states, and between the states of the respective share of such proceeds.
- The principles that should govern the grantsin-aid to the states by the centre out of the consolidated fund of India.
- **3.** Any matter referred to the commission by the president of India in the interest of sound finance.
- **4.** To supplement the resources of panchayats and the municipalities.

#### **18.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** The GST Council is a constitutional body under Article 279 A and was introduced by the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act 2016.

 It makes recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.

#### Members of the GST Council includes:

- Union Finance Minister (Chairperson of Council).
- Centre's minister of state in-charge of revenue or Finance.
- Minister of Revenue or Finance of all the states.
- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers incharge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

- It is considered a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.
- Every decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall be taken at a meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of the members present and voting.
- The vote of the Central Government shall have a weightage of one third of the total votes cast, and the votes of all the State Governments taken together shall have a weightage of two-thirds of the total votes cast, in that meeting

#### 19. Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation: PM-KISAN:**

It was launched in February 2019.

- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Features: Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of ₹ 6,000 per year in three equal instalments directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
- The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/ UT Governments.

#### 20. Option (a) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- The administrative ministry for FSSAI is the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.

#### 21. Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** Index of Industrial Production:

- It is compiled and published monthly by → the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme.
- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is a composite indicator that measures changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products.
- Base Year: 2011-2012.
- There are two ways in which IIP data can be viewed:
  - Broad sectors namely Mining Manufacturing and Electricity.
  - Use-based sectors namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods and Intermediate Goods.

#### Significance of IIP:

It is used by government agencies including the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India etc, for policy-making purposes.

IIP remains extremely relevant for the calculation of the quarterly and advance GDP (Gross Domestic Product) estimates.

#### 22. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** AT-1 bonds are a type of unsecured perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.

- There are two routes through which these bonds can be acquired:
  - Initial private placement offers of AT-1 bonds by banks seeking to raise money.
  - Secondary market buys of already-traded AT-1 bonds.
- These bonds offer higher returns to investors but carry a higher risk as well.
- Investors cannot return these bonds to the issuing bank and get the money. This means there is no put option available to its holders.
- Banks issuing AT-1 bonds can skip interest payouts for a particular year or even reduce the bond's face value provided their capital ratios fall below certain threshold levels.
- If the RBI feels that a bank is on the brink of collapse and needs a rescue, it can simply ask the bank to cancel its outstanding AT-1 bonds without consulting its investors.
- Basel III is an internationally agreed set of measures developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in response to the financial crisis of 2007-09.
- The measures of Basel III aim to strengthen the regulation, supervision and risk management of banks.
- Basel is a city in Switzerland on the river Rhine.

#### 23. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** A payments bank (Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, etc.) is like any other bank, but operating on a smaller or restricted scale. Credit risk is not involved with the Payments Bank. It can carry out most banking operations but cannot advance loans or issue credit cards. It can accept demand deposits only, i.e., savings and current accounts, not time deposits.

The Payment Banks cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.

#### **Scope of Activities:**

- Acceptance of demand deposits, initially restricted to holding a maximum balance of ₹ 100,000 per individual customer.
- Issuance of ATM/debit cards.
- They cannot issue credit cards.
- They are not allowed to give loans.
- Payments and remittance services through various channels.
- Distribution of non-risk sharing simple financial products like mutual fund units and insurance products, etc.

- They are only allowed to invest the money received from customers' deposits into government securities.
- They cannot accept NRI deposits.
- A payments bank account holder would be able to deposit and withdraw money through any ATM or other service providers.
- Payments licensees would be granted to mobile firms, supermarket chains and others to cater to individuals and small businesses.

The Payments Bank will be registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. It is governed by the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934; Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, other relevant Statutes and Directives.

- They need to maintain a Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR).
- Required to invest a minimum 75% of its "demand deposit balances" in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) eligible Government securities/treasury bills with maturity up to one year.
- Need to hold maximum 25% in current and time/ fixed deposits with other scheduled commercial banks for operational purposes and liquidity management.

#### 24. Option (c) is correct.

## **Explanation:** Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency:

IREDA is a miniratna company under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

- It was set up in 1987 as a specialized non-banking finance agency for the renewable energy sector.
- It is engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation.
- Its motto is "ENERGY FOR EVER".

#### 25. Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** Foreign Contribution Regulation Act:

This Act prohibits receipt of foreign funds by candidates for elections, journalists or newspaper and media broadcast companies, judges and government servants, members of legislature and political parties.

It was enacted during emergency in 1976 in an atmosphere of apprehension that foreign powers were interfering in India's affairs by pumping in funds through independent organisations.

- The law sought to regulate foreign donations to individuals and associations so that they functioned "in a manner consistent with the values of a sovereign democratic republic".
   Once granted, FCRA registration is valid for five
- It was amended in the year 2010 and then 2020.
- FCRA is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### 26. Option (d) is correct.

## **Explanation:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development:

NABARD came into existence on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation.

- It is a statutory body established under the 'National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981'.
- NABARD provides recommendations to RBI on the issue of licenses to Cooperative Banks, opening of new branches by State Cooperative Banks and RRBs.
- It is the apex banking institution to provide finance for Agriculture and rural development.
   It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

#### 27. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** African Swine Fever is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects and leads to an acute form of haemorrhagic fever in domestic and wild pigs.

- It was first detected in Africa in the 1920s.
- It is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family. It is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.
- Mortality Rate is close to 100% and since the fever has no cure, the only way to stop it spreading is by culling the animals.

#### 28. Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** Significance of Neem tree:

Nearly all parts of the neem tree are useful. In many areas neem is considered a weed and based on its antimicrobial resistance and other antifungal properties they are also used in pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries. Neem oil and neem barks are used as an insect repellent. Neem is also used as the main component in some toothpaste and mouthwashes. Neem is commonly used in shampoos for treating dandruff and in soaps or creams for skin allergies and infections. Neem leaves have been used as a traditional treatment for diabetes, and there is some clinical evidence suggesting that it may help control blood sugar levels. So, Neem tree has acquired industrial importance as a source of biofertilizer, biopesticide and anti-fertility compound.

#### 29. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Github is the world's largest opensource developer community platform where users upload their projects and code for others to view, edit and tweak. The platform uses the software Git which was created in 2005 by Linus Trovalds, the developer of the open-source operating system Linux to track changes in a set of files and for coordination in software. Open source software (OSS) is software that is distributed with its source code, making it available for use, modification and distribution with its original rights.

#### 30. Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

# NASA-ISRO SYNTHETIC APERURE TADAR (NISAR) NISAR will be world's most expensive satellite with estimated cost of US \$1.5 billion. It will also become world's first radar satellite to operate on dual frequency. 'NISAR', would be launched from India's spaceport at Sriharikota in early 2023.

Figure: NISAR mission

NISAR is a joint Earth-observing mission between NASA and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

- This satellite will be able to detect the earth's surface movement as small as 0.4 inches over an area.
- The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR. SAR refers to the Synthetic Aperture Radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth. It refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images. It will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land.
- NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.
- ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar) the launch vehicle and associated launch services.

#### **31.** Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** The ELISA test is widely used to test for HIV antibodies.

- It is not necessary that a person infected with HIV will definitely develop AIDS. A person infected with HIV is likely to develop symptoms of AIDS over a period of time when his/her immune system is too weak to fight HIV infection.
- HIV is transmitted from person to person through bodily fluids including blood, semen, vaginal secretions, anal fluids and breast milk.

#### 32. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** India has started cultivation of Hing or asafoetida for the first time. The first plantation was done in Lahul and Spiti in Himachal Pradesh. It is one of the widely used spices in Indian cuisine and natural medicine. It is extracted from the fleshy roots of perennial ferula (part of the celery family) as an oleo-gum-resin.

The country imports about 1540 tonnes of raw asafoetida annually from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan and spends approximately ₹942 crore per year on it. It is important for India to become self-sufficient in asafoetida production.

#### **33.** Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union).

CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily. States which have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the parties-in other words, they have to implement the Convention-it does not take the place of national laws. Rather, it provides a framework to be respected by each party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

#### **34.** Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

Interspecific interactions arise from the interaction of populations of two different species. They could be beneficial, detrimental or neutral to one of the species or both. Both the species benefit in mutualism and both lose in competition in their interactions with each other. Lichens result from the symbiotic union between fungi and algae or fungi and cyanobacteria. The fungus receives nutrients obtained from the photosynthetic algae or bacteria while the algae or bacteria receive food protection and stability from the fungus. Clownfish and sea anemones have a mutualism relationship in which each party provides

the protective tentacles of the sea anemone. In return, the sea anemone receives cleaning and protection. In both parasitism and predation only one species benefits (parasite and predator respectively) and the interaction is detrimental to the other species (host and prey respectively). The best-known examples of predation involve carnivorous interactions in which one animal consumes another such as tiger eating deer. Carnivorous plants such as the Venus fly trap and the pitcher plant consume insects are also examples of Predation. The interaction where one species is benefitted, and the other is neither benefitted nor harmed is called commensalism. In amensalism on the other hand, one species is harmed whereas the other is unaffected. One of the best-known examples of commensalism is the

remora (family Echineidae) that rides attached to

sharks and other fishes. Predation parasitism and

commensalism share a common characteristic- the

interacting species live closely together.

valuable services for the other. Clownfish live within

#### **35.** Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** A study has pointed out that Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of the endangered Dhole in India. The Dhole is a canid (a mammal of the dog family) native to Central South and Southeast Asia. Other names for the species include Asiatic wild dog, Indian wild dog, whistling dog, red dog and mountain wolf.

The dhole is a highly social animal living in large clans without rigid dominance hierarchies and containing multiple breeding females.

- Endangered IUCN
- Schedule II of wildlife act
- CITES Appendix II

**Threats:** Depletion of prey base Habitat loss and transformation Persecution of Dholes stems mainly from retaliatory killings due to livestock predation Competition with other species like Tigers and Leopards for prey.

#### **36.** Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** The coral is a polyp, an organism that lives in the shallow sea. Its skeleton is composed of limestone and dolomite. The layers of deposition of the skeletons of these polyps form a shallow rock known as Coral Reef.

They thrive in tropical oceans confined between  $25^{\circ}$  N and  $25^{\circ}$ S latitudes. Corals are found mainly in the tropical oceans and seas because they require a high mean annual temperature above  $20^{\circ}$  Celsius.

Most fishes lay eggs in coral colonies. Since coral polyps cannot survive above water level, coral reefs are found either up to sea level or below it.

The coral reefs are more diverse than tropical rainforests because coral reefs have more than 1000000 species.

#### **37.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Recently the tiger survey has highlighted that the tiger population in the source-sink is in the ratio of 60:40.

Source-sink dynamics is a theoretical model used by ecologists to describe how variation in habitat quality may affect the population growth or decline of organisms. In this model, organisms occupy two patches of habitat.

- Source is a high-quality habitat that on average allows the population to increase.
- Sink is a very low-quality habitat that on its own would not be able to support a population.

However, if the excess of individuals produced in the source frequently moves to the sink, the sink population can persist indefinitely.

33% of the tiger population in India lives outside its source, i.e., tiger reserves.

17 out of 50 tiger reserves in India are going to achieve its maximum capacity to hold the tiger populations. The Tiger survey suggested that there is a need to create buffer areas around the habitat zones of tigers where guided land-use and faster conservation interventions can help reduce human-tiger conflict.

#### **38.** Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** International Solar Alliance:

It is a multilateral forum jointly launched by India and France on the side-lines of the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015. Its aim is to work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

#### **Objectives:**

- To collectively address key common challenges to scale up solar energy applications in line with their needs.
- To mobilize investments of more than USD 1000 billion by 2030.
- To bring about a major decrease in the cost of solar energy.
- To scale up applications of solar technologies in member countries and facilitate collaborative research and development (R&D).

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India.

Headquarter: Gurugram India.

The alliance is a treaty-based intergovernmental organisation. Countries that do not fall within the tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members with the exception of voting rights. After the United Nations it is the largest grouping of states world-wide.

#### 39. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Recently, IIT Kanpur has developed indigenous seed balls named BEEG (Bio-compost Enriched Eco-friendly Globule) which will help farmers in the plantation with safety in COVID times. These are seed balls consisting of indigenous variety of seeds, compost and clay. There is no need for digging pits for planting saplings. These seed balls are to be thrown at aimed places, and they will germinate when come into contact with water. BEEG is enriched with the right ingredients and seeds to germinate early, and are the best way to utilise monsoon and plant as many trees as possible without risking lives by social gathering during Covid-19.

#### **40.** Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Union Environment Minister has launched the Surakhsya Portal on the World Elephant Day. It is the National Portal on human elephant conflict.

It is for the collection of real-time information & also for managing the conflicts on a real-time basis. The World Elephant Day is observed on August 12 to create awareness of the urgent plight of African and Asian elephants and to share the knowledge and positive solutions for the better care and management of captive and wild elephants.

**Conservation Status:** The African elephants are listed as Vulnerable and Asian elephants as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.

The Project Elephant (PE) was launched by the Government of India in 1992 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to:

- (a) Protect elephants their habitat & corridors,
- (b) Address issues of man-animal conflict, and
- (c) Welfare of captive elephants.

#### 41. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** TRAFFIC India has released a paper titled "SPOTTED" in 'Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Peek into Ongoing Poaching and Illegal Trade of Leopards in India'. Of the total of 747 leopard deaths between 2015-2019 in India, 596 were linked to illegal wildlife trade and activities related to poaching. The highest numbers of poaching incidents were reported from the States of Uttarakhand and Maharashtra. TRAFFIC is the leading non-governmental organisation (NGO) working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development. It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Indian leopard is a leopard subspecies widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.

- It is distributed in India, Nepal, Bhutan and parts of Pakistan.
- IUCN Status: Vulnerable
- Threats: Habitat Destruction Human-Animal Conflict and Illegal Wildlife Trade.

#### 42. Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- Pushyamitra Sunga was the founder of the Sunga Dynasty. He was a Brahmin and army chief under Brihadratha, the last Mauryan King.
  - He defeated Brihadratha in an internal revolt and established the Sunga Empire in 180 BC with its capital at Pataliputra.
- Devabhuti was the last king of the Shunga Empire. He was killed by Vasudeva Kanva.
  - The Kanva dynasty was founded by Vasudeva Kanva.
- Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana Dynasty. Simuka is mentioned as the first king in a list of royals in a Satavahana inscription at Naneghat.
- Chandragupta Vikramaditya was the founder of the Gupta dynasty.

#### 43. Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- Sultan Raziyyat-Ud-Dunya Wa Ud-Din, popularly known as Razia Sultana, was a ruler of the Delhi Sultanate. She was the first female Muslim ruler of the subcontinent, and the only female Muslim ruler of Delhi.
  - She ruled the court of Delhi from the end of 1236 to 1240.
- Iltutmish was the third of the Mamluk kings who ruled the former Ghurid territories in northern India
  - He was the first Muslim sovereign to rule from Delhi, and is thus considered the effective founder of the Delhi Sultanate.
  - His regime was between 1211 to 1236.
- Akbar was the third Mughal emperor, who reigned from 1556 to 1605.
  - Akbar succeeded his father, Humayun, under a regent, Bairam Khan, who helped the young emperor expand and consolidate Mughal domains in India.
- Ibrahim Khan Lodhi, was the last Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate, who became Sultan in 1517 after the death of his father Sikandar Khan Lodi.
  - He became Sultan in 1517 after the death of his father Sikandar Khan Lodi.
  - He was the last ruler of the Lodi dynasty, reigning for nine years until 1526.
  - He was defeated and killed at the Battle of Panipat by Babur's invading army, giving way to the emergence of the Mughal Empire in India.

#### 44. Option (C) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

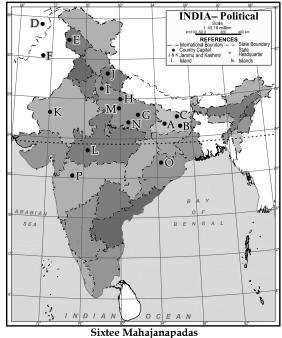
- Maitreya is a transcendent bodhisattva named as the universal Buddha of a future time.
  - The name is taken from the Sanskrit maitri (in Pali, metta), which means "loving kindness."

- In Mahayana Buddhism, Maitreya is the embodiment of all-encompassing love.
- Amitayus, the Buddha of Eternal Life, is also known as Amitabha, one of the five Cosmic Buddhas of Esoteric Buddhism.
  - He is shown in his paradise, Sukhavati, the Western Pure Land, enthroned beneath a flowering tree festooned with strands of jewels and auspicious symbols.
- Avalokiteshvara is the earthly manifestation of the self-born eternal Buddha Amitabha, whose figure is represented in his headdress.
  - He guards the world in the interval between the departure of the historical Buddha, Gautama, and the appearance of the future buddha, Maitreya.
  - Padamapani is another name in Sanskrit for Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara, who represents the compassion of all of the Buddhas

#### 45. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Indus people produced wheat barley, peas, sesame, mustard and rice. Food grains were stored in huge granaries in both Mohenjodaro and Harappa. The Harappans probably used the wooden ploughshare. The Indus people were the earliest people to produce cotton. Ragi or finger millet is not known so far to any of the Harappan sites in north India.

#### 46. Option (d) is correct.



A - Magadh E - Takashila I - Kosala M - Sursena
B - Anga F - Gandhara J - Hastinapur N - Vatsa
C - Vriji G - Kasi K - Matsya O - Chedi
D - Kamboja H - Malla L - Avanti P - Asmaka

This map is not to scale and is for reference only.

#### **Explanation:**

Mahajanapadas were sixteen kingdoms that existed in the Northern ancient India from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE.

Magadha became the most powerful mahajanapada among the 16 Mahajanapadas due to -

- Magadha was a region where agriculture was productive.
- Besides, iron mines were accessible and provided resources for tools and weapons.
- Elephants were an important component of the army, were found in the forests region.
- The Ganga and its tributaries provided a means of cheap and convenient communication.

Initially, Rajagriha was the capital of Magadha. Rajagriha was a fortified settlement located amongst hills. Later in the fourth century BCE the capital was shifted to Pataliputra, present-day Patna.

#### 47. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** During the Vedic age the king's influence was strengthened by various rituals like.

Rajasuya Sacrifice: It is a king's inaugural sacrifice. After conquering the kings of several other kingdoms and collecting tribute from the conquered land, the vanquished kings are invited to attend the Rajasuya yajna. All the vanquished kings would consider the performer of this yajna as their Emperor.

Vajapeya Sacrifice: Chariot race in which a royal chariot was made to win the race against his kinsmen. Ashvamedha Sacrifice: Unquestioned control over the area on which the royal horse ran uninterrupted.

#### **48.** Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** It is one of the classical dances from the state of Kerala.

It gets its name from the word Mohini – a historical enchantress avatar of the Hindu god Vishnu who helps the good prevail over evil by developing her feminine powers. It traces its roots from the Natya Shastra, the ancient Hindu Sanskrit text on performance arts.

It is traditionally a solo dance performed by women after extensive training.

#### 49. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Jataka stories are literature concerning the previous births of Buddha in both human and animal form. Jataka stories were depicted on the railings and toranas of the stupas.

The Jataka stories that find depiction frequently are Chhadanta Jataka, Sibi Jataka, Ruru Jataka, Vessantara Jataka, Vidur Jataka and Shama Jataka.

#### **50.** Option (c) is correct.



Figure: Kathak

**Explanation:** Kathak is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance. Its origin is traditionally attributed to the travelling bards in the north of Ancient India known as Kathakars or storytellers. Kathak evolved during the Bhakti movement particularly by incorporating the childhood and stories of the Hindu god Krishna. It is the only classical dance of India having links with Muslim culture. It represents a unique synthesis of Hindu and Muslim genius in art.

The 8 Indian classical dance forms or traditional Indian dances recognised by Sangeet Natak Academy are:

- **1.** Bharatnatyam (Tamil Nadu)
- 2. Kathak (Uttar Pradesh)
- 3. Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)
- 4. Odissi (Odisha)
- 5. Kathakali (Kerala)
- **6.** Sattriya (Assam)
- 7. Manipuri (Manipur)
- 8. Mohiniyattam (Kerala)

#### **51.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Portuguese were the first European who landed at Pondicherry. The name is recorded in its Portuguese version as Puducheria for the first time in the map of India dated 1554. The Portuguese settlement of Puducheria continued till 1614. Fort St. George is the first English fortress in India, founded in 1644, at the coastal city of Madras, the modern city of Chennai. Fort William is a fort in Calcutta (Kolkata) built during the early years of the Bengal Presidency of British India.

#### **52.** Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Sequence of the establishment of European Companies:

- **(1)** Portuguese (1498)
- (2) English East India Company (1600)
- (3) Dutch East India Company (1602)
- (4) Danish East India Company (1616)
- (5) French East India Company (1664)

#### 53. Option (d) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- The Battle of Madras or Fall of Madras took place in September 1746 during the War of the Austrian Succession when a French force attacked and captured the city of Madras from its British garrison under the leadership of Joseph François Dupleix.
- Battle of Plassey (1757): Participants in the War: The British East India Company commanded by Robert Clive against Siraj-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Bengal Bihar and Orissa and a small French force
- Third Battle of Panipat (1761): Participants in the War: Between a northern expeditionary force of the Maratha Empire and a coalition of the King of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Durrani, the Rohilla Afghans of the doab and Shuja-ud-Daula the Nawab of Oudh.
- Battle of Buxar (1764): Fought between the British East India Company and Mir Qasim the Nawab of Bengal, Shuja-ud-Daulah the Nawab of Awadh and Shah Alam II the Mughal Emperor.

#### **54.** Option (c) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- The Third Battle of Panipat was fought between the Afghan forces of Ahmad Shah Durrani along with his local Rohilla and other Pathan and Oudh allies against the Maratha Empire.
- In the Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790–92), Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore formed an ally with France and invaded the nearby state of Travancore in 1789 which was a British ally. The British forces were commanded by the

Governor-General Cornwallis himself. The resultant war lasted three years and was a defeat for Mysore. The war ended after the 1792 Siege of Seringapatam and the signing of the Treaty of Seringapatam according to which Tipu had to surrender half of his kingdom to the British East India Company and its allies.

 The Battle of Plassey was a decisive victory of the British East India Company over the Nawab of Bengal Siraj-ud-Daulah and his French allies in 1757 under the leadership of Robert Clive which was possible due to the defection of Mir Jafur Ali Khan who was Siraj-ud-Daulah's commander in chief.

#### 55. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** Tipu Sultan established embassies with many foreign countries like France, Pegu, Turkey, Iran etc.

The Nawabs of Oudh were the faithful allies of the English. Dalhousie was determined to annex Oudh on whatever ground. At last, towards the close of his rule he brought serious charges against the ruling of Nawab Wazid Ali that his administration had become a complete misrule. The Nawab was forced to vacate his throne and Dalhousie annexed Oudh on February 1856. This annexation of Oudh was an example of reckless imperialism.

#### 56. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931 was signed by Gandhiji on behalf of the Congress and by Lord Irwin on behalf of the Government.

The terms of the agreement included the immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence, the remission of all fines not yet collected, the return of confiscated lands not yet sold to third parties and lenient treatment for those government employees who had resigned.

- The Government also conceded the right to make salt for consumption to villages along the coast and also the right to peaceful and nonaggressive picketing.
- The Congress demand for a public inquiry into police excesses was not accepted.

#### **57.** Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Simon Commission was appointed to go into the question of further constitutional reform for British India. All the members of the Commission were Englishmen. This announcement was greeted by a chorus of protest from all Indians. The Indian National Congress decided to boycott the Commission 'at every stage and in every form.' The Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha decided to support the Congress decision. 'Go Back Simon' was the famous slogan at that time. The Simon Commission report contained no mention of the Dominion Status.

#### 58. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Cabinet Mission included Lord Pethick Lawrence, the Secretary of State for India, Sir Stafford Cripps and A. V. Alexander.

The Cabinet Mission recommended an undivided India and turned down the Muslim league's demand for a separate Pakistan.

The existing provincial assemblies were proposed to be grouped into three sections:

- Section A comprising Madras, Bombay, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh and Odisha
- Section B consisting of Punjab, NWFP and
- Section C comprising Bengal and Assam.

It provided that the central government at Delhi would have powers over defence, foreign affairs and communications. The rest of the powers would be vested with the provinces.

#### **59.** Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Brahmo Sabha was founded by the Hindu reformer Ram Mohan Roy (1772-1833) in August 1828. Raja Rammohan Roy was involved in various efforts to spread education in India. In 1825 he founded the Vedanta college.

Dayanand Saraswati established the Arya Samaj at Bombay on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1875, and later the headquarters of the Arya Samaj were established at Lahore.

#### 60. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Umngot is a river in Meghalaya. It is considered to be India's cleanest river. The river attracts many tourists to Dawki bordering Bangladesh. The river is the natural boundary between Ri Pnar (of Jaintia Hills) with Hima Khyrim (of Khasi Hills). Dawki Bridge is a suspension bridge over the Umngot River.

#### 61. Option (c) is correct.



This map is not to scale and is for reference only.

Figure: Map of Africa

**Explanation:** Tanzania is a country in East Africa within the African Great Lakes region. It borders Uganda to the north; Kenya to the northeast; Comoro Islands and the Indian Ocean to the east; Mozambique and Malawi to the south; Zambia to the southwest; and Rwanda Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west.

Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is located in Tanzania. Dodoma is the capital of the country.

#### 62. Option (d) is correct.



This map is not to scale and is for reference only.

#### Figure: Kowloon Peninsula

**Explanation:** The Kowloon Peninsula is a peninsula that forms the southern part of the main landmass in the territory of Hong Kong alongside Victoria Harbour and facing toward Hong Kong island.

Geographically, the term "Kowloon Peninsula" may also refer to the area south of the mountain ranges of Beacon Hill, Lion Rock, Tate's Cairn, Kowloon Peak etc.

#### 63. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Godavari is the largest Peninsular river system. It is also called the Dakshin Ganga. The Godavari river rises from Trimbakeshwar near Nasik in Maharashtra and flows for a length of about 1465 km before falling into the Bay of Bengal.

- The Godavari basin extends over the states of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and the Union territory of Puducherry.
- It's tributaries are Pravara, Purna, Manjra, Penganga, Wardha, Wainganga, Pranhita (combined flow of Wainganga, Penganga and Wardha) Indravati, Maner and the Sabri.
- Kumbh Mela also takes place on the banks of the Godavari river in Nashik.

#### **64.** Option (a) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** New Development Bank:

It is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

It was established in 2014 at the  $6^{th}$  BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.

The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.

Headquarter: Shanghai, China.

Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank, each participant country will be assigned one vote and none of the countries will have veto power.

In 2018 the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.

#### **65.** Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation:** North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

It is an intergovernmental military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April  $4^{\rm th}$  1949 by the United States, Canada and several Western European nations.

#### Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.

Its purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through political and military means. It promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defence and security-related issues to solve problems, build trust and in the long run prevent conflict. It is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations.

It constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its independent member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. Since its founding, the admission of new member states has increased the alliance from the original 12 countries to 30. The most recent member state to be added to NATO was North Macedonia on  $27^{th}$  March 2020.

#### **66.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Project DANTAK was established in 1961 under the leadership of the Third King of Bhutan and then Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru.

- It was established with the objective of developing roads, telecommunication networks and other such landmark infrastructure-related projects in Bhutan.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was the nodal agency.

#### **67.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Article 356 of the Constitution of India empowers the President to withdraw from the Union the executive and legislative powers of any state "if

he is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue:

• However, if the proclamation of President's Rule is issued at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of two months without approving the proclamation, then the proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution provided the Rajya Sabha approves it in the meantime. If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for six months. It can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament every six months.

#### 68. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** Gold Exchange would be a national platform for buying and selling EGRs (Electronic Gold Receipts) issued against physical gold. Investors can trade in EGRs on stock exchanges and the proposed gold exchange.

- The transaction in a gold exchange has been divided into three parts-conversion of physical gold into EGR, trading of EGR on a stock exchange and conversion of EGR into physical gold.
- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)
  would regulate the entire ecosystem of the
  proposed gold exchange. It would be the
  sole regulator for the exchange, including
  for vaulting, assaying gold quality and fixing
  delivery standards. Physical gold deposited at
  one location can be withdrawn from a different
  location of any vault manager.

#### 69. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Khajuraho Temples (in Madhya Pradesh) are among the most beautiful medieval monuments in the country.

- It is built between 950-1050 AD by the Chandela Dynasty.
- The monuments include Hindu and Jain temples.
- The temple site is situated within the Vindhya Mountain range.
- The temples are famous for their Nagara-style architectural symbolism.
- These Temples got the status of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in 1986.

#### 70. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** India has ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> out of 180 nations in the World Press Freedom Index.

It is published by the Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders since 2002.

- The Index ranks 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. The index ranks 180 countries based on the following parameters such as:
  - (a) pluralism
  - (b) media independence
  - (c) environment and self-censorship
  - (d) legislative framework
  - (e) Transparency
  - **(f)** Infrastructure and
  - (g) Abuses.

Norway tops the index followed by Finland and Denmark.

- India ranks 142<sup>nd</sup> on the World Press Freedom Index 2021. The rank is the same as in 2020.
- Nepal is at 106, Sri Lanka at 127, Myanmar (before the coup) at 140, Pakistan at 145 and Bangladesh at 152.

#### **71.** Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Siachen Glacier is a glacier located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas just northeast of the point NJ 9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.

- The glacier lies between the Saltoro Ridge immediately to the west and the main Karakoram range to the east.
- The Saltoro Ridge originates in the north from the Sia Kangri peak on the China border in the Karakoram range.
- The entire Siachen Glacier with all major passes is currently under the administration of India since 1984 (Operation Meghdoot). Pakistan controls the region west of Saltoro Ridge far away from the glacier.

The glacier's melting waters are the main source of the Nubra River in the Indian region of Ladakh.

#### **72.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Indonesia's parliament passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2000 kilometres away on the jungle-clad Borneo island that will be named "Nusantara". Indonesia is not the first country in the region to relocate from an overpopulated capital. Malaysia moved its government to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003 while Myanmar moved its capital to Nyaypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.

#### 73. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Article 262 provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes. It has two provisions:

- Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.

 Under the provisions of the act, the central government has enacted River Boards Act (1956) and Inter-state Water Disputes Act (1956).

The Inter-state Water Disputes Act empowers the central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between the two or more states in relation to the water of an inter-state river. The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding. The act bars the SC and any other court to have jurisdiction in this matter.

#### 74. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The law was originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay, the British historian-politician, but was inexplicably omitted when the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was enacted in 1860.

- Section 124A was inserted in 1870 by an amendment, Sedition Law today is a crime under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Section 124A IPC → It defines sedition as an offence committed when "any person by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India". Disaffection includes disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection will not constitute an offence under this section.
- The offence of Sedition is a non-bailable offence. Punishment under the Section 124 A ranges from imprisonment up to three years to a life term to which fine may be added. A person charged under this law is barred from a government job. They have to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court at all times as and when required.
- The Supreme Court on 12 May 2022 put sedition law on hold and said 'no new case till further orders'.

#### **75.** Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The anti-defection law was passed in 1985 through the 52<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution.

#### **Grounds of Disqualification:**

- If an elected member voluntarily gives up his/her membership of a political party.
- If he/she votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party or anyone authorised to do so without obtaining prior permission.
- As a pre-condition for his/her disqualification his/her abstention from voting should not be condoned by his party or the authorised person within 15 days of such incident.

- If any independently elected member joins any political party.
- If any nominated member joins any political party after the expiry of six months.
- Exceptions under anti-defection law:

  The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.

  On being elected as the presiding officer of the House, if a member voluntarily gives up the membership of his/her party or rejoins it after he/she ceases to hold that office, he/she won't be disqualified.

#### **76.** Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Orang National park is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam, India. It was established as a sanctuary in 1985 and declared a National Park on 13 April 1999. It has a rich flora and fauna including the great Indian rhinoceros, pygmy hog, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo and Bengal tiger. A National Park is defined by the state government via notification under the WPA (Wildlife Protection Act 1972):

 The state government can fix and alter boundaries of the National Parks with prior consultation and approval with the National Board of Wildlife.

There is no need to pass an act for the alternation of boundaries of National Parks. No human activities are permitted in a National Park.

#### 77. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** Red Sanders is an Indian endemic tree species with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.

- The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh. Some contiguous patches in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- Red Sanders usually grow in the rocky degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil, and hot and dry climate.

#### **Protection Status of Red Sanders**

IUCN Red List-Endangered.

CITES-Appendix II

Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 - Schedule II.

#### 78. Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021-ISFR is an assessment of India's forest and tree cover published every two years by the Forest Survey of India under the MoEFCC.
- India's total forest and tree cover is now spread across 80.9 million hectares, which is 22 per cent of the geographical area of the country.

- Area wise, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km) and Jharkhand (110 sq km).

#### 79. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** A satellite launched from the sites near the equator towards the east direction will get an initial boost equal to the velocity of the Earth surface. The initial boost helps in cutting down the cost of rockets used to launch the satellites. Escape velocity has nothing to do with the direction of earth's rotation. Escape velocity is the velocity required for a body to escape from the gravitational pull of the earth. It is greater near the surface and decreases as it moves away from the surface. Hence, Assertion (A) is correct, but Reason (R) is not correct.

#### 80. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** 3D printing is a process of making three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. The creation of a 3D printed object is achieved using additive processes. In an additive process, an object is created by laying down successive layers of material until the object is created. Each of these layers can be seen as a thinly sliced horizontal cross-section of the eventual object. Few applications of 3D printing include consumer products like eyewear, footwear, industrial products, dental products, prosthetics, automative industry, data processing technologies etc.

#### **81.** Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Writs come under the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as well as the High Court.

Article 32 of the Constitution (Right to Constitutional Remedies): It is a fundamental right which states that individuals have the right to approach the Supreme Court (SC) seeking enforcement of other fundamental rights recognised by the Constitution. Article 226 of the Constitution empowers a high court to issue writs including habeas corpus, mandamus, certiorari, prohibition, and quo warranto for the enforcement of the fundamental rights of the citizens and for any other purpose. The Supreme Court can issue the writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights and not for other purposes.

The Indian Constitution specifies five different types

of writs that can be issued by the courts. They are as follows:

#### **Habeas Corpus:**

It's a Latin phrase that literally means "to have the body of." It is a court order requiring a person who has detained another person to produce the latter's body before it. The court then considers the reason for the detention as well as its legality. Both public authorities and private individuals can be served with a writ of habeas corpus.

The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where:

- The detention is lawful,
- The proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court,
- The detention is by a competent court, and
- The detention is outside the court's jurisdiction.

#### Mandamus

It literally translates to 'we command.'

It is a court-issued directive to a public official, requesting that he perform his official duties which he failed to perform or refused to do so.

It can also be used against any public figure, corporation, a lower court, a tribunal, or a government for the purpose of the same goal.

#### A writ of mandamus cannot be issued:

- against a private individual or group
- against the president of India, state governors, high court justice acting in a judicial capacity.

#### **Prohibition**

It literally means 'to forbid.'

It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping the jurisdiction that it lacks. In contrast to the mandamus, which directs activity, the prohibition directs inactivity.

Only judicial and quasi-judicial authorities can be served with a prohibition writ.

#### Certiorari

It literally means 'to be certified' or 'to be informed.' It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to either transfer a case pending with the latter or to overturn the latter's order in a case.

#### **Ouo-Warranto**

It literally means 'by what authority or warrants'.

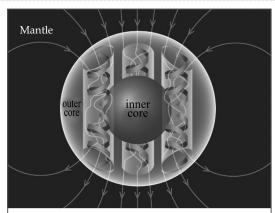
It is issued by the court to investigate the legality of a person's claim to a public office. As a result, it prevents a person from illegally usurping public office.

The writ can only be issued in the case of a substantive public office of permanent character established by statute or by the Constitution.

#### 82. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** A black hole is an object in space that is so dense and has such strong gravity that no matter or light can escape its pull. Because no light can escape, it is black and invisible. Any light or matter that crosses that boundary is sucked into the black hole. It would need to travel faster than the speed of light to escape, which is not possible.

#### 83. Option (c) is correct.



Convection currents in the outer core. Spiral Motion is caused due to the Coriolis Effect

Figure: Coriolos Effect

**Explanation:** Dynamo theory proposes a mechanism by which a celestial body such as Earth or a star generates a magnetic field and sustains it over astronomical time scales (millions of years).

Dynamo theory suggests that convection in the outer core, combined with the Coriolis effect (caused due to the rotation of the earth), gives rise to self-sustaining (geodynamo) Earth's magnetic field.

The Earth's magnetic field has reversed every few hundred thousand years, but there is no apparent periodicity to the occurrence. The reversal of polarity is a very random event.

At the time when the earth was created, there was no atmosphere. Initially, life might have started anaerobic respiration, later on the process of photosynthesis and other processes slowly modified the early atmosphere of the Earth.

#### 84. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Even though 71 percent of the Earth's surface is covered by water. More than 99 percent of it (Earth's water) is unusable by humans and many other living things. Only about 0.3 percent of our fresh water is found in the surface water of lakes, rivers are usable.

Over 68 percent of the fresh water available on the Earth surface is found in ice caps and glaciers, and just over 30 percent is found in ground water.

#### 85. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** These are the main styles of Indian temple architecture. Two broad orders of temples in the country are known as Nagara in the north and Dravida in the south. At times the Vesara style of temples is also found as an independent style created through the selective mixing of the Nagara and Dravida orders.

#### 86. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** The Common stock allows its holders to make a profit through rising share prices and dividend payments. Holders of common stock also have voting rights, but holders of preferred stock do not get a vote on company matters.

#### 87. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Diwan-i-bandagan: Tughlaq Diwan-i-Mustakhraj: Alauddin Khalji

Diwan-i-Kohi: Tughlaq Diwan-i-Arz: Iltutmish

Important departments during Medieval history

Name of the Central Department	Function of the Department
Diwan-i-Risalat	Department of appeals
Diwan-i-arz	Department of Military
Diwan-i-Ishtiaq	Department of pensions
Diwan-i-Mustakhraj	Department of arrears
Diwan-i-kohi	Department of agriculture
Diwan-i-insha	Department of correspondence
Diwan-i-Bandagan	Department of slaves
Diwan-i-Qaza-i- Mamalik	Department of justice
Diwan-i-Khairat	Department of charity

#### 88. Option (a) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

- Qutub Minar is built in 1193 by Qutab-ud-din Aibak
- Krishna devaraya was an emperor of the Vijayanagara Empire who reigned from 1509– 1529 AD. He was the third ruler of the Tuluva Dynasty and is widely considered to be the greatest ruler of the empire. He was also known for employing Turkish archers.
- The first Portuguese encounter with the subcontinent was on 20 May 1498 when Vasco da Gama reached Calicut on the Malabar Coast. Sultan Firoz Shah Tughlaq ruled from 1309 AD to 20 September 1388 AD.

#### 89. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** William Hawkins reached the court of Jahangir in 1608 AD to seek permission for trade. The British thus established their first (temporary) factory at Masulipatnam in 1611.

But, the first permanent British factory was established at Surat in 1613.

#### 90. Option (b) is correct.

#### **Explanation:**

 The Charter Acts of 1813 was an act that renewed the charter issued to the British East India Company and continued the Company's rule in India. However, the Company's commercial monopoly was ended except for the tea trade and the trade with China.

#### The Charter Act of 1853:

- Patronage system to civil service ended.
- The Court of directors strength was reduced from 24 to 18 out of which 6 people were nominated by the British crown. Separated the governorgeneral of Bengal from GGI.
- The legislative wing came to be known as the Indian Legislative Council.

#### Government of India Act 1858:

- In August 1858 the British parliament passed an act that set an end to the rule of the company.
   The control of the British government in India was transferred to the British crown.
- Changed designation from Governor general to viceroy. New secretary of state in British parliament to supported India council. Lord canning first viceroy.

#### 91. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The World Economic Outlook is released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). IMF is also responsible for releasing the Global Financial Stability Report.

## Reports released by the Organisation of Economic Development and Cooperation are:

- The program for international student assessment also known as Pisa.
- 2. Global index of countries.
- 3. Government at a glance report.

#### 92. Option (b) is correct.

**Explanation:** There are two main accounts in the BoP (balance of payment) are the current account and the capital account.

**Current Account:** The current account records exports and imports in goods, trade in services and transfer payments.

**Capital Account:** The capital account records all international purchases and sales of assets such as money, stocks, bonds, etc. It includes foreign investments and loans

Current account consists of short-term transaction which includes balance of trade, balance of invisible interest payment and remittance.

FDI that is foreign direct investment, foreign portfolio investment, foreign loans and non resident deposits are part of capital account.

#### 93. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Inflation benefits the creditor as the net return given by creditors is less because inflation erodes the value of money. Similar holds true for bondholders. Recently, the government has announced that it will issue an inflation index bond where the inflation rate is adjusted to the principal amount, and thus, in case of deflation, the principal amount will not be lost thus attracting more investment and also protecting the investors from inflation effect. Such types of bonds were also issued in 1997 by the name of capital indexed bond.

#### 94. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Liquidity is a concept which helps us to understand how is easily an asset is converted into cash. Currency in circulation is most liquid which is followed by saving deposit. In the given options, time deposit are least liquid asset as they have fixed maturity period.

#### 95. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Standing facility is defined as a rate at which RBI gives loan to scheduled commercial banks in emergency, mostly overnight.

The security is provided under MSF (Marginal Standing Facility) are those which are used under SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio).

#### 96. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** Agreement on agriculture is one of the most important agreement related to the WTO (World Trade Organisation) which aimed at in oven trade barriers and promoting transparent market access and integration. The subsidies are clubbed into three groups.

Green box which include subsidies on which there is no limit, and they are not considered trade distorting. Generally, income support schemes like PM Kisan are considered in green box.

Amber box subsidy covers all those support which are considered production distorting. They are to be maintained within 5% for the developed country and 10% for the developing country based on their production value.

Blue box subsidy is direct payment under production limiting program, they are also considered as trade distorting.

#### 97. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** When RBI is following an expansionary monetary policy, it means it is aiming at increasing

the liquidity in the market. Increasing the CRR will compels the bank to reduce their lending, thus is not a part of expansionary monetary policy. Increasing the SLR will also compels the bank to lend less. Frequent use of open market operations can be used for both expansionary monetary policy and tight monetary policy.

Decreasing the repo rate will help scheduled commercial banks to get cheaper loans from the RBI, thus will encourage the banks to give more and more loans, which will increase the liquidity in the market.

#### 98. Option (d) is correct.

**Explanation:** Non-planned expenditures which are not included in five-year plan.

The biggest items of Non-Plan Expenditure are interest payments and debt servicing, defence expenditure, salaries and subsidies.

But, with the removal of the planning commission, the distinction between non-planned expenditure and planned expenditure has also lost their relevance within the aspect of planning.

#### 99. Option (a) is correct.

**Explanation:** A decrease in the rate of interest of lending will help in easy availability of money, thus it will increase the investment expenditure within the economy. Increase in non-tax revenue is not directly related to decrease in the rate of interest. Similarly, the increase in FDI and increase in global export have nothing to do with the decreased interest rate within an economy.

#### 100. Option (c) is correct.

**Explanation:** The National income of an economy in the simplest form is defined as total monetary value of final goods and services produced in a geographical area within a time period. The most important indicators used for calculation of national income are GDP, GNP, NDP, NNP etc.