

UPPSC 2026 Full Test Series (25 Test)

कुल 25
फुल लेंथ टेस्ट

संपूर्ण सामान्य अध्ययन (GS)

Test Series
Discussion के साथ

अभ्यास ही सफलता की कुंजी है !

UPPSC/PRE/T02/2026

TEST - 02

GS : Full Test
सम्पूर्ण पाठ्यक्रम

समय — 2 घंटे
कुल प्रश्न — 150
कुल अंक — 200

K kredoz IAS

उम्मीदवार का अनुक्रमांक

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प्रश्न-पुस्तिका

A

पूर्णांक - 200



25
Full Length Test



UPPSC Pattern
पर आधारित



Detailed
Solution (PDF)



Test Discussion
Classes



Performance
Analysis



Exam Readiness
& Revision

नियमित अभ्यास
बनाएगा आपको
विजयी !



- ✓ एक ही प्लेटफॉर्म पर Complete तैयारी
- ✓ Quality Questions & Updated Content
- ✓ Expert Faculty की मार्गदर्शन
- ✓ Rank Oriented Practice
- ✓ अपनी तैयारी को दें नई दिशा

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UPPSC 2026-27
सामान्य अध्ययन

Your
Success
Our Mission

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayas:

1. The Shiwalik range has been formed from sediments eroded and brought down from the main Himalayas. 'Duns' valleys are found between these ranges.

2. The Main Boundary Thrust separates the Lesser Himalayas from the Shiwalik range.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding Peninsular India:

1. The Western Ghats are a relatively continuous range, whereas the Eastern Ghats are dissected by rivers and discontinuous.

2. Anamudi is the highest peak of the Eastern Ghats.

3. The Deccan Trap was formed by fissure volcanic eruptions at the end of the Cretaceous period.

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

3. Match List-I (Pass) with List-II (State):

List-I	List-II
A. Shipki La	1. Uttarakhand
B. Jelep La	2. Himachal Pradesh
C. Diphu Pass	3. Arunachal Pradesh
D. Muling La	4. Sikkim

Code (A B C D):

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding the coastal plains and islands of India:

1. The Eastern Coastal Plain is wider than the Western Coastal Plain and is an example of an emergent coast.

2. The west coast is a submergent coast, and because of this feature, favourable conditions for the development of natural ports are found here.

3. The islands of Lakshadweep are of volcanic origin.

4. India's only active volcano, Barren Island, is located in the Andaman Sea.

- (a) Only 1 and 3 (b) Only 1, 2 and 4

(c) Only 2, 3 and 4

(d) Only 2 and 4

5. Assertion (A): The Deccan Plateau generally slopes towards the east.

Reason (R): Most of the major rivers of Peninsular India fall into the Bay of Bengal.

(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 the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true, but R is false

(d) A is false, but R is true

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian climate:

1. In summer, the Tropical Easterly Jet Stream blows over Peninsular India.

2. The Subtropical Westerly Jet Stream brings Western Disturbances to India in winter.

3. 'Kaal Baisakhi' is a pre-monsoon thunderstorm occurring in West Bengal and Assam.

4. 'Mango showers' are pre-monsoon rainfall occurring on the Kerala and Karnataka coast.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

7. Which of the following soils is NOT in situ?

- (a) Alluvial soil (b) Laterite soil
(c) Black soil (d) Red soil

8. Match List-I (Koeppen climate type) with List-II (Region):

List-I	List-II
A. Amw	1. Coromandel coast
B. As	2. Western Rajasthan
C. BWhw	3. Arunachal Pradesh
D. Dfc	4. West coast south of Goa

Code (A B C D):

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

9. According to Census 2011, arrange the following states in decreasing order of population density:

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Bihar
4. West Bengal

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding the natural vegetation of India:

1. In terms of area, tropical evergreen forests have the largest extent in India.
2. The Sundari tree is characteristic of the mangrove forests of the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta.
3. Teak and Sal are the main trees in tropical moist deciduous forests.

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

11. Match List-I (Local wind) with List-II (Region):

List-I	List-II
A. Zonda	1. Adriatic Sea coast (cold wind)
B. Bora	2. Eastern slope of the Andes, Argentina
C. Santa Ana	3. South-eastern Australia
D. Brickfielder	4. Southern California

Code (A B C D):

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

12. Consider the following statements regarding ocean currents:

1. The Peru (Humboldt) Current is a cold current, which is one of the factors behind the aridity of the Atacama Desert.
2. During El Niño conditions, upwelling intensifies on the Peru coast, increasing fish production.
3. The meeting of the Labrador Current and the Gulf Stream near Newfoundland produces dense fog, and the Grand Banks fishing ground has developed there.

- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 2 and 3

- (c) Only 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

13. Arrange the following countries through which the Equator passes in order from west to east:

1. Uganda
 2. Gabon
 3. Ecuador
 4. Somalia
- (a) 3-1-2-4
(b) 2-3-1-4
(c) 3-2-4-1
(d) 3-2-1-4

14. Consider the following pairs (River – Place of origin):

1. Narmada – Amarkantak
2. Tapi – Multai (Betul)
3. Krishna – Trimbakeshwar
4. Pennar – Mahabaleshwar

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

15. Arrange the following left-bank tributaries of the Ganga in order from west to east on the basis of their place of confluence with the Ganga:

1. Gandak
 2. Ramganga
 3. Kosi
 4. Gomti
- (a) 2-4-1-3
(b) 4-2-1-3
(c) 2-1-4-3
(d) 2-4-3-1

16. Assertion (A): The Narmada and Tapi rivers form estuaries instead of deltas.

Reason (R): These rivers flow through soft rock areas, due to which their sediment load is very high.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

17. Consider the following statements regarding the geographical conditions of crops:

1. Sloping land is necessary for tea cultivation, so that water does not stagnate at the roots.
2. About 210 frost-free days and black soil are suitable for cotton.
3. Low temperature and low rainfall conditions are favourable for jute.

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

18. Match List-I (Mining area) with List-II (Mineral):

List-I	List-II
A. Malanjkhand	1. Gold
B. Hutti	2. Bauxite
C. Bailadila	3. Copper
D. Amarkantak	4. Iron ore

Code (A B C D):

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

19. Which of the following pairs (Nuclear power plant – State) is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) Kaiga – Tamil Nadu (b) Rawatbhata – Rajasthan
(c) Narora – Uttar Pradesh (d) Kakrapar – Gujarat

20. Arrange the following states through which the Tropic of Cancer passes in order from west to east:

1. Jharkhand 2. Tripura
3. Chhattisgarh 4. Rajasthan
(a) 4-1-3-2 (b) 3-4-1-2
(c) 4-3-1-2 (d) 4-3-2-1

21. Consider the following districts of Uttar Pradesh:

1. Pilibhit 2. Gonda
3. Shravasti 4. Kushinagar
5. Siddharthnagar

How many of these districts share a border with Nepal?

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

22. Consider the following statements regarding the Harappan civilisation:

1. Evidence of a dockyard has been found at Lothal, and it is located on the banks of the Indus river.
2. The city of Dholavira was divided into three parts, and evidence of an advanced water-conservation system (reservoirs) has been found here.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

23. Match List-I (Buddhist Council) with List-II (President):

List-I	List-II
A. First Buddhist Council	1. Vasumitra
B. Second Buddhist Council	2. Mahakashyapa
C. Third Buddhist Council	3. Moggaliputta Tissa
D. Fourth Buddhist Council	4. Sabbakami

Code (A B C D):

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

24. Arrange the following rulers in chronological order (earliest to latest):

1. Rudradaman 2. Pushyamitra Shunga
3. Samudragupta 4. Kharavela
(a) 2-4-1-3 (b) 4-2-1-3
(c) 2-1-4-3 (d) 4-2-3-1

25. Consider the following statements regarding the inscriptions of Ashoka:

1. Ashoka's Thirteenth Rock Edict describes the Kalinga war.
2. James Prinsep first succeeded in reading Ashoka's inscriptions in 1837.
3. All of Ashoka's inscriptions are in the Brahmi script.

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

26. Assertion (A): The practice of land grants (agrahara) expanded widely during the Gupta period.

Reason (R): The practice of land grants was started by the Gupta rulers themselves.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

27. Which of the following Sultans established a department called 'Diwan-i-Amir-Kohi' for the development of agriculture?

- (a) Muhammad bin Tughlaq (b) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
 (c) Alauddin Khalji (d) Balban

28. Match List-I (Foreign traveller) with List-II (Ruler during whose time he came to India):

List-I	List-II
A. Ibn Battuta	1. Devaraya I (Vijayanagara)
B. Abdur Razzaq	2. Muhammad bin Tughlaq
C. Niccolò de' Conti	3. Devaraya II (Vijayanagara)
D. François Bernier	4. Last years of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb

Code (A B C D):

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

29. Consider the following statements regarding Sufi orders (silsilas) in India:

- The Chishti order in India was founded by Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.
- The saints of the Suhrawardi order kept contact with rulers and accepted state grants.
- Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi belonged to the Qadiri order.
- Sheikh Nizamuddin Auliya regularly attended the courts of the Sultans.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

30. Arrange the following systems of British India in chronological order:

- Mahalwari system (Holt Mackenzie)
 - Dual government in Bengal
 - Ryotwari system in Madras Presidency (Thomas Munro)
 - Permanent Settlement
- (a) 2-4-1-3 (b) 4-2-3-1
 (c) 2-4-3-1 (d) 2-3-4-1

31. Consider the following statements regarding the Revolt of 1857:

- The revolt in Kanpur was led by Nana Sahib, and the British officer who suppressed the revolt there was Colin Campbell.
 - Begum Hazrat Mahal led the revolt in Allahabad.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

32. Match List-I (Newspaper) with List-II (Founder):

List-I	List-II
A. Bengal Gazette	1. Raja Rammohan Roy
B. Sambad Kaumudi	2. James Augustus Hicky
C. Amrita Bazar Patrika	3. Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh
D. The Hindu	4. G. Subramania Iyer

Code (A B C D):

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

33. Consider the following statements regarding socio-religious reform movements:

- The 'Tattvabodhini Sabha' was founded by Debendranath Tagore.
 - Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj at Lahore in 1875.
 - Jyotiba Phule founded the 'Satyashodhak Samaj' in 1873.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 3
 (c) Only 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

34. Assertion (A): Dadabhai Naoroji presented the theory of the drain of wealth in 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India'.

Reason (R): Dadabhai Naoroji was the first Indian to be elected to the British Parliament (House of Commons).

- (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 the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

35. Which of the following pairs is NOT correctly matched?

- (a) Lord Lytton – Vernacular Press Act
 (b) Lord Ripon – Ilbert Bill
 (c) Lord Curzon – First Factory Act
 (d) Lord Dalhousie – Doctrine of Lapse

36. Consider the following statements regarding the sessions of the Indian National Congress:

- The first session of the Congress was presided over by Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee.
- The Surat session of 1907 was held under the presidency of Rash Behari Ghosh, in which the Congress split.
- The Lahore session of 1929 was presided over by Subhas Chandra Bose.
- At the Lucknow session of 1916, an agreement was reached between the Congress and the Muslim League.

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

37. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Cripps Mission | 2. Shimla Conference |
| 3. August Offer | 4. Individual Satyagraha |
- (a) 4-3-1-2 (b) 3-1-4-2
 (c) 3-4-2-1 (d) 3-4-1-2

38. Consider the following pairs (Movement – Associated leader):

- Munda Ulgulan – Birsa Munda
 - Santhal Rebellion – Sidhu and Kanhu
 - Pabna Peasant Revolt – Ishan Chandra Roy
 - Moplah Rebellion – Baba Ramchandra
 - Bijolia Peasant Movement – Vijay Singh Pathik
- How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

39. Who propounded the 'Safety Valve' theory in the context of the founding of the Congress?

- (a) A.O. Hume
 (b) Lala Lajpat Rai
 (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
 (d) William Wedderburn

40. Match List-I (Temple) with List-II (Builder dynasty):

List-I	List-II
A. Kailasanatha Temple (Kanchipuram)	1. Rashtrakuta
B. Kailasa Temple (Ellora)	2. Pallava
C. Kandariya Mahadeva Temple	3. Eastern Ganga
D. Sun Temple (Konark)	4. Chandela

Code (A B C D):

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

41. Consider the following statements regarding Indian classical dances:

- 'Sattriya' dance was given the status of a classical dance by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2000; its originator was Sankardev.
 - 'Kuchipudi' is a classical dance of Andhra Pradesh, in which 'Tarangam' (dancing on a brass plate) is famous.
 - 'Mohiniyattam' is originally a dance performed by men.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 and 3
 (c) Only 3 (d) Only 1 and 2

42. Arrange the following architectural structures in the chronological order of their construction:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Gol Gumbaz | 2. Alai Darwaza |
| 3. Buland Darwaza | 4. Qutub Minar |
| (a) 4-3-2-1 | (b) 2-4-3-1 |
| (c) 4-2-3-1 | (d) 4-2-1-3 |

43. Consider the following statements regarding the constitutional Acts of the British period:

1. The Government of India Act, 1919 introduced dyarchy in the provinces.
 2. The Government of India Act, 1935 provided for dyarchy at the Centre and established a Federal Court.
 3. The Indian Councils Act, 1909 provided separate electorates for Sikhs.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 (d) 1, 2 and 3

44. Consider the following statements regarding the Poona Pact (1932):

1. Under the Poona Pact, a separate electorate was accepted for the depressed classes.
 2. By the Poona Pact, the reserved seats for the depressed classes in the provincial legislatures were increased from the 71 seats given in the Communal Award to 147.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

45. Consider the following statements regarding the Constituent Assembly of India:

1. The Constituent Assembly was formed under the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946), and its members were indirectly elected by the provincial legislative assemblies.
2. The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held on 9 December 1946, presided over temporarily by Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha.
3. After independence, the Constituent Assembly also functioned as a legislative body, and its meetings as a legislative body were presided over by G.V. Mavalankar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

46. Match List-I (Feature of the Constitution) with List-II (Source country):

List-I	List-II
A. Parliamentary system of government	1. Ireland
B. Directive Principles of State Policy	2. Britain
C. Concurrent List	3. Germany
D. Suspension of Fundamental Rights during Emergency	4. Australia

Code (A B C D):

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

47. Arrange the following constitutional changes in chronological order:

1. The right to property was removed from the list of Fundamental Rights.
 2. Panchayats were given constitutional status.
 3. The words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added to the Preamble.
 4. The minimum voting age was reduced from 21 years to 18 years.
- (a) 3-1-4-2 (b) 1-3-4-2
(c) 3-4-1-2 (d) 3-1-2-4

48. Assertion (A): Under Article 368, Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution including Fundamental Rights, but it cannot destroy the basic structure of the Constitution.

Reason (R): The doctrine of basic structure was propounded by the Supreme Court in the Golaknath case (1967).

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

49. Consider the following statements regarding Fundamental Rights:

1. The rights conferred by Articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended even during a National Emergency, and this provision was in the original Constitution itself.

2. The rights under Articles 15 and 16 are available only to Indian citizens, whereas the right under Article 14 is available to all persons, including foreigners.

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

50. Consider the following statements:

1. Fundamental Duties were added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee.

2. The duty of the parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to children between 6 and 14 years was added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002).

3. The Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in Article 44 as a Directive Principle.

4. The Directive Principle of protection of the environment and safeguarding of forests and wildlife (Article 48A) was added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

51. Which of the following Directive Principles is NOT based on Gandhian principles?

- (a) Equal pay for equal work for men and women
(b) Organisation of village panchayats
(c) Promotion of cottage industries in rural areas
(d) Prohibition of consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs injurious to health

52. Consider the following statements regarding the Money Bill:

1. A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and only with the prior recommendation of the President.

2. The Rajya Sabha can withhold a Money Bill for a maximum of 14 days.

3. In case of a deadlock between the two Houses on a Money Bill, the President can summon a joint sitting.

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

53. Match List-I (Parliamentary Committee) with List-II (Feature):

List-I	List-II
A. Public Accounts Committee	1. All 30 members only from the Lok Sabha
B. Estimates Committee	2. Since 1967, chairman traditionally from the Opposition
C. Committee on Public Undertakings	3. Formed in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee
D. Business Advisory Committee (Lok Sabha)	4. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha is himself its chairman

Code (A B C D):

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

54. Consider the following statements regarding the Speaker of the Lok Sabha:

1. On the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the office of the Speaker becomes vacant immediately.

2. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha addresses his resignation to the Deputy Speaker.

3. The Speaker normally does not vote in the first instance in the House, and casts a deciding vote only in case of a tie.

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

55. Consider the following statements regarding the President:

1. Nominated members of the Rajya Sabha do not participate in the election of the President, but participate in the election of the Vice-President.
2. Elected members of the legislative assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry participate in the election of the President.
3. The impeachment process against the President can be initiated only in the Lok Sabha.

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

56. Which of the following statements regarding the Governor is NOT correct?

- (a) The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- (b) The same person can be appointed Governor of two or more States.
- (c) The Governor cannot reserve any bill passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President.
- (d) The Governor has the power to issue ordinances under Article 213.

57. Match List-I (Article) with List-II (Subject):

List-I	List-II
A. Article 78	1. Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President
B. Article 143	2. Duties of the Prime Minister regarding furnishing information to the President
C. Article 74	3. Assent to bills
D. Article 111	4. Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court

Code (A B C D):

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

58. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian judiciary:

1. Judges of the Supreme Court hold office till the age of 65 years and judges of the High Court till the age of 62 years.

2. The writ jurisdiction of the High Court is wider than the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
3. A motion for the removal of a Supreme Court judge can be introduced in the Lok Sabha with the signatures of at least 50 members.

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

59. Arrange the following judgments of the Supreme Court in chronological order:

1. S.R. Bommai vs Union of India
 2. Golaknath vs State of Punjab
 3. Indra Sawhney vs Union of India
 4. Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala
- (a) 4-2-3-1 (b) 2-3-4-1
(c) 2-4-3-1 (d) 2-4-1-3

60. Consider the following bodies:

1. National Commission for Scheduled Castes
2. National Commission for Backward Classes
3. National Human Rights Commission
4. NITI Aayog
5. Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council

How many of the above are constitutional bodies?

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

61. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court, whereas other Election Commissioners can be removed only on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
2. The Comptroller and Auditor General is eligible to hold any other office under the Government of India or any State Government after retirement.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

62. Consider the following statements:

1. The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under Article 280 every five years, or earlier if necessary.
2. Before removing the Chairman or a member of the UPSC on the ground of 'misbehaviour', the President has to refer the matter to the Supreme Court for inquiry.
3. Members of a State Public Service Commission are appointed by the Governor, but the power to remove them lies with the President.

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

63. Consider the following statements regarding the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. It added Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution, which contains 29 subjects.
2. Panchayat elections are conducted by the State Election Commission, which is appointed by the Election Commission of India.
3. The Governor constitutes a State Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayats.
4. The minimum age for contesting Panchayat elections is 21 years.

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

64. Part IX (Panchayats) of the Constitution does NOT automatically apply to which of the following States?

- (a) Tripura
(b) Mizoram
(c) Arunachal Pradesh
(d) Sikkim

65. Consider the following statements regarding human red blood cells (RBCs):

1. The nucleus is absent in mature RBCs, which makes more space available for haemoglobin.
2. Mature RBCs do not have mitochondria, so they depend on anaerobic respiration for energy and do not themselves use the oxygen they carry.

3. In adult humans, RBCs are formed mainly in the liver.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

66. Match List-I (Hormone) with List-II (Secreting organ/gland):

List-I	List-II
A. Melatonin	1. Kidney
B. Calcitonin	2. Thyroid
C. Erythropoietin	3. Pineal gland
D. Aldosterone	4. Adrenal cortex

Code (A B C D):

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

67. Consider the following statements regarding immunity and vaccines:

1. Antibiotics are effective in treating viral infections like influenza.
2. mRNA vaccines make the body's cells produce a specific protein (antigen), and this mRNA is not integrated into the cell's DNA.
3. In active immunity the body makes antibodies itself, whereas the antibodies an infant gets from the mother's first milk (colostrum) are an example of passive immunity.

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

68. Assertion (A): A person with blood group O negative (O-) is called a 'universal donor'.

Reason (R): The plasma of a person with blood group O contains both anti-A and anti-B antibodies.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

69. Which of the following statements regarding the human digestive system is correct?

- (a) Bile juice contains no digestive enzyme, yet it helps in the digestion of fats.
(b) The pH of saliva is highly acidic (about 2).
(c) The enzyme pepsin is most active in an alkaline medium.
(d) The enzyme trypsin is secreted by the wall of the stomach.

70. Match List-I (Natural phenomenon) with List-II (Physical principle):

List-I	List-II
A. Blue colour of the sky	1. Total internal reflection
B. Sparkling of diamond	2. Scattering of light
C. Twinkling of stars	3. Interference of light
D. Colours seen in soap bubbles	4. Atmospheric refraction

Code (A B C D):

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

71. Consider the following statements regarding artificial satellites:

1. The orbital speed of a satellite does not depend on its mass.
2. A geostationary satellite has a period of 24 hours and revolves in a polar orbit.
3. The escape velocity from the Earth is about 11.2 km/s, which does not depend on the mass of the escaping object.
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

72. Arrange the following discoveries in chronological order:

1. Discovery of the neutron
2. Discovery of radioactivity
3. Discovery of the proton
4. Discovery of the electron
(a) 4-2-3-1 (b) 2-4-3-1
(c) 2-4-1-3 (d) 2-3-4-1

73. Consider the following statements:

1. The mass of a body remains the same on the Moon, but its weight becomes about 1/6 of its weight on the Earth.
2. The apparent weight of a person standing in a freely falling lift becomes double.
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

74. Assertion (A): A person suffering from myopia (near-sightedness) cannot see distant objects clearly.

Reason (R): In myopia, the image of a distant object is formed behind the retina, and it is corrected with a convex lens.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

75. Match List-I (Common name) with List-II (Chemical formula):

List-I	List-II
A. Plaster of Paris	1. $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$
B. Baking soda	2. $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$
C. Washing soda	3. CaOCl_2
D. Bleaching powder	4. NaHCO_3

Code (A B C D):

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

76. Consider the following statements:

1. Depletion of the ozone layer is caused mainly by chlorine atoms released from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).
2. Carbon monoxide is mainly responsible for acid rain.
3. The aim of the Kigali Amendment (2016) to the Montreal Protocol is to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

77. Arrange the following ISRO missions in the chronological order of their launch:

1. Aditya-L1 2. Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission)
3. Chandrayaan-1 4. Chandrayaan-3
(a) 3-4-2-1 (b) 2-3-4-1
(c) 3-2-4-1 (d) 3-2-1-4

78. Consider the following statements regarding biotechnology:

1. CRISPR-Cas9 is a gene-editing technique, for the development of which the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded.
2. A gene of the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* has been inserted into Bt cotton, which produces a protein toxic to insects.
3. The first genetically modified (GM) food crop fully approved for commercial cultivation in India is Bt brinjal.
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 (d) 1, 2 and 3

79. Match List-I (Technology) with List-II (Working principle):

List-I	List-II
A. LiDAR	1. Data transmission through visible light
B. Li-Fi	2. Distance measurement and 3D mapping with laser pulses
C. Blockchain	3. Decentralised distributed ledger
D. Quantum Key Distribution (QKD)	4. Secure key sharing based on the principles of quantum mechanics

Code (A B C D):

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

80. Consider the following statements regarding nuclear energy:

1. In nuclear reactors, heavy water is used as a moderator to increase the speed of neutrons.
2. The third stage of India's three-stage nuclear power programme plans the use of thorium, of which India has huge reserves.

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

81. Which of the following statements regarding the Lagrange point L1 of the Sun-Earth system is correct?

- (a) It is the point between the Earth and the Sun where the gravitational pull of both and the orbital motion are balanced, and it is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
(b) Observation of the Sun from the L1 point is obstructed for some time in the year due to the Earth's shadow.
(c) This L1 point, useful for the study of the Sun, is located between the Earth and the Moon.
(d) The James Webb Space Telescope is located at the L1 point.

82. Consider the following statements regarding India's space and communication technology:

1. 'Gaganyaan' is India's human spaceflight programme, which aims to send Indian astronauts to low Earth orbit.
2. The 'SpaDeX' mission was related to demonstrating the docking technology of two satellites in space, and with its success India became the fourth country to acquire this capability.
3. NISAR is a joint Earth observation satellite of NASA and ISRO, fitted with a dual-frequency (L-band and S-band) synthetic aperture radar.
4. 5G technology works only on the millimetre-wave frequency band.
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2, 3 and 4
(c) Only 1, 2 and 3 (d) Only 1, 3 and 4

83. Consider the following statements:

1. When the price elasticity of demand for a good is greater than one, reducing the price reduces the seller's total revenue.
2. In the case of a Giffen good, demand increases when the price rises, and such a good is necessarily an inferior good.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

84. Match List-I (Market structure) with List-II

(Feature):

List-I	List-II
A. Perfect competition	1. Single seller, absence of close substitutes
B. Monopoly	2. Many sellers, product differentiation (brands)
C. Oligopoly	3. Homogeneous product, firm is a price taker
D. Monopolistic competition	4. A few large sellers, interdependence, kinked demand curve

Code (A B C D):

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

85. Assertion (A): The production possibility curve (PPC) of an economy is normally concave to the origin.

Reason (R): As the production of one good is increased, the marginal opportunity cost paid in terms of the other good keeps increasing.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

86. Consider the following statements regarding the instruments of monetary policy:

- Under the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), banks have to keep a part of their Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) with the RBI in cash, and the RBI pays no interest on this amount.
 - The assets kept under the Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) have to be deposited with the RBI.
 - When the repo rate rises, liquidity in the market normally decreases and loans become costlier.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

87. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

- Establishment of the State Bank of India
 - Nationalisation of the Reserve Bank of India
 - Establishment of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
 - Establishment of Regional Rural Banks
- (a) 2-1-4-3 (b) 1-2-4-3
(c) 2-1-3-4 (d) 2-4-1-3

88. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian banking system:

- When the instalment or interest of a loan remains overdue for more than 90 days, it is treated as a Non-Performing Asset (NPA).
 - The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was enacted in 2016.
 - Payments Banks can give loans and issue credit cards.
 - Small Finance Banks are allowed both to accept deposits and to give loans.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2, 3 and 4
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) Only 1, 2 and 4

89. Consider the following statements regarding national income:

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) includes the value of all final goods and services produced within the geographical boundary of a country, even if the producer is foreign.
 - If a country's net factor income from abroad is negative, its Gross National Product (GNP) will be less than its GDP.
 - GDP is obtained by adding product taxes to and subtracting product subsidies from Gross Value Added (GVA), so GVA is always greater than GDP.
- (a) Only 1
(b) Only 1 and 2
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

90. Assertion (A): To measure the real economic growth of an economy, GDP at constant prices is a better measure than GDP at current prices.

Reason (R): Current-year prices are used in calculating GDP at constant prices.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
 (c) A is true, but R is false
 (d) A is false, but R is true

91. Match List-I (Concept) with List-II (Meaning):

List-I	List-II
A. Stagflation	1. Fall in the rate of inflation, but the price level continues to rise
B. Deflation	2. Change in the prices of goods excluding food and fuel
C. Disinflation	3. Continuous fall in the general price level
D. Core inflation	4. High inflation along with high unemployment and economic stagnation

Code (A B C D):

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

92. Consider the following statements:

- Under the flexible inflation targeting framework adopted in 2016, the RBI's inflation target is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with a target of 4% and a tolerance band of $\pm 2\%$.
- Services are also included along with goods in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

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

93. In a financial year, the fiscal deficit of the Central Government is ₹16 lakh crore and interest payments are ₹11 lakh crore. What will be the primary deficit for that year?

- (a) ₹27 lakh crore (b) ₹11 lakh crore
 (c) ₹5 lakh crore (d) Zero

94. Consider the following statements regarding India's tax system:

- Goods and Services Tax (GST) is a destination-based consumption tax.
- Crude oil, petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel and natural gas are currently not taxable under GST.
- Income tax is an indirect tax, because its burden can be shifted to others.

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

95. Match List-I (Scheme) with List-II (Main feature):

List-I	List-II
A. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi	1. Zero-balance bank account, RuPay debit card and accident insurance
B. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana	2. ₹6,000 per year to eligible farmers, in three instalments
C. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana	3. Skill training, toolkit incentive and concessional loans for traditional artisans
D. Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana	4. Collateral-free loans in Shishu, Kishore and Tarun categories

Code (A B C D):

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

96. Consider the following statements regarding Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):

- Under it, eligible families get health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary health care.
- In 2024, the scheme was extended to all senior citizens aged 70 years or above, irrespective of their income.
- PM-JAY is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Centre.

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

97. Arrange the following schemes in the chronological order of their launch:

1. Jal Jeevan Mission
2. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
3. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
4. Stand-Up India Scheme

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

98. Assertion (A): The 'JAM Trinity' has helped reduce leakages and the role of middlemen in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Reason (R): The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which runs Aadhaar, is a statutory body.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

99. Consider the following statements regarding ecological pyramids:

1. The pyramid of energy is always upright.
2. In a marine ecosystem, the pyramid of biomass can be inverted.
3. According to Lindeman's 10% law, 90% of the energy of each trophic level reaches the next trophic level.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

100. Assertion (A): The concentration of persistent pesticides like DDT is found to be highest at the higher trophic levels of a food chain.

Reason (R): These substances are fat-soluble and cannot be easily decomposed or excreted by organisms.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

101. Match List-I (Ecological concept) with List-II (Meaning):

List-I	List-II
A. Ecotone	1. Functional role of a species in an ecosystem
B. Edge effect	2. Increase in the number and density of species in a transition zone
C. Niche	3. Gradual change in the biological community of an area over time
D. Ecological succession	4. Transition zone between two ecosystems

Code (A B C D):

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

102. Consider the following statements regarding biodiversity hotspots:

1. All four biodiversity hotspots located in India lie entirely within India's borders.
2. To declare an area a biodiversity hotspot, it must have at least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species, and at least 70% of its original vegetation must have been lost.

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

103. Consider the following statements regarding the conservation of threatened species:

1. In the IUCN Red List, the 'Critically Endangered' category indicates a higher risk than the 'Endangered' category.
2. The Great Indian Bustard (Son Chiraiya) is in the 'Critically Endangered' category of the IUCN Red List.
3. Species included in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 get the highest level of legal protection.

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

104. Which of the following is NOT an example of in-situ conservation?

- (a) Seed bank (b) Biosphere reserve
(c) National park (d) Sacred grove

105. Consider the following statements:

1. The Global Warming Potential of methane is less than that of carbon dioxide, so its role in climate change is negligible.
2. The data of the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii are considered the world's longest continuous direct record of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration.
3. The long-term goal of the Paris Agreement is to keep the rise in global average temperature "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.

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

106. Arrange the following events related to climate change in chronological order:

1. Bali Action Plan (Bali Roadmap)
2. Agreement on establishing the Loss and Damage Fund
3. Kyoto Protocol coming into force
4. Announcement of the 'Panchamrit' targets by India

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

107. Match List-I (Disease) with List-II (Causative pollutant):

List-I	List-II
A. Minamata disease	1. Cadmium
B. Itai-itai disease	2. Excess nitrate in drinking water
C. Blue baby syndrome	3. Mercury
D. Blackfoot disease	4. Arsenic

Code

(A B C D):

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

108. Consider the following statements regarding air pollution:

1. PM_{2.5} particles can reach deeper into the lungs than PM₁₀ and can also enter the bloodstream.
2. India's National Air Quality Index (AQI) is based on eight pollutants.
3. Ground-level (tropospheric) ozone is a primary pollutant, emitted directly from vehicles.

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

109. Match List-I (National Park) with List-II (Main species):

List-I	List-II
A. Kaziranga	1. Asiatic lion
B. Gir	2. Snow leopard
C. Keibul Lamjao	3. Sangai deer
D. Hemis	4. One-horned rhinoceros

Code

(A B C D):

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

110. Consider the following pairs related to the protected areas of Uttar Pradesh (Protected area – District):

1. Dudhwa National Park – Lakhimpur Kheri
2. Ranipur Tiger Reserve – Chitrakoot
3. Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary – Pilibhit
4. Sur Sarovar (Keetham) Bird Sanctuary – Etawah
5. Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary – Unnao

How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

111. Consider the following statements regarding international environmental conventions:

1. The Ramsar Convention (1971) relates to the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
2. CITES regulates the international trade in endangered wild fauna and flora, and it is legally binding on its Parties.
3. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Nagoya Protocol relates to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, while the Cartagena Protocol relates to biosafety.
4. The Bonn Convention (CMS) relates only to the conservation of marine migratory species.

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

112. Consider the following statements in the context of the process of renaming Kerala as 'Keralam':

1. To change the name of a State, Parliament makes a constitutional amendment by special majority under Article 368.
2. Before introducing such a bill in Parliament, the President refers it to the concerned State Legislature to ascertain its views, but these views are not binding on Parliament.
3. The bill renaming Kerala changes the First and Fourth Schedules of the Constitution.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

113. Consider the following statements:

1. After the 2026 Assembly elections, a Bharatiya Janata Party government was formed in West Bengal for the first time.
 2. According to the Constitution, a person must be a member of the Legislative Assembly at the time of appointment to be appointed Chief Minister.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

114. Consider the following statements regarding the office of the Vice-President of India:

1. In the Vice-Presidential election held in September 2025 after the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected.
 2. The Vice-President addresses his resignation to the President.
 3. When the office of the Vice-President is vacant, the duties of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha are performed by the Deputy Chairman.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 2
(c) Only 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

115. Consider the following statements in the context of Census 2027:

1. Census is a subject of the State List, and State Governments conduct it under the Census Act, 1948.
 2. In Census 2027, castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also be enumerated, and such a comprehensive caste enumeration will take place for the first time in any census of independent India.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

118. Consider the following statements regarding COP31:

1. COP31 will be hosted by Türkiye, while Australia has been given the responsibility of conducting the negotiations.
 2. The hosting of the COP rotates among the UN regional groups, and COP31 was the turn of the 'Western Europe and Others' group.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

116. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Election of C.P. Radhakrishnan as Vice-President
2. Passing of the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill by Parliament
3. Presidential assent to the VB-G RAM G Bill
4. Assembly election results of five States/Union Territory

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

117. Match List-I (Summit/Conference) with List-II (Venue):

List-I	List-II
A. 18th BRICS Summit	1. Belém
B. COP31	2. Antalya
C. 17th BRICS Summit	3. Rio de Janeiro
D. COP30	4. New Delhi

Code (A B C D):

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

119. Consider the following statements regarding BRICS:

1. BRICS has a permanent secretariat and a formal charter.
2. In 2026, India held the chairship of BRICS for the fourth time.
3. Indonesia became a full member of BRICS in 2025.

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

120. Assertion (A): In 2026, amid high crude oil prices and tension in West Asia, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% in several consecutive meetings.

Reason (R): When there is a threat of imported inflation, cutting interest rates can increase demand, which raises the risk of further inflationary pressure.

- (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 the correct explanation of A

(c) A is true, but R is false

(d) A is false, but R is true

121. Consider the following statements regarding the revision of the base year of economic indices by MoSPI:

1. The base year of the new GDP series is 2022-23.
2. The base year of the new Consumer Price Index (CPI) series has also been kept at 2022-23.
3. In the new series, the 'double deflation' method has been adopted for the manufacturing sector.

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

122. Which of the following statements regarding the GST rate rationalisation of September 2025 ('GST 2.0') is NOT correct?

- (a) Two main rates, 5% and 18%, were kept for most goods and services.
- (b) A special rate of 40% was kept for some luxury and harmful ('sin') goods.
- (c) These changes were made on the recommendation of the GST Council.
- (d) With this reform, petrol and diesel were also brought under the ambit of GST.

123. Consider the following statements regarding 'G1', the first uncrewed mission of the Gaganyaan programme:

1. Indian astronauts will be on board the G1 mission.
2. A half-humanoid robot named 'Vyommitra' is to be sent in the G1 mission, which will monitor the life-support systems of the spacecraft.

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

124. Match List-I (Field of the 2025 Nobel Prize) with List-II (Basis of the award):

List-I	List-II
A. Physics	1. Explanation of innovation-driven economic growth
B. Chemistry	2. Metal-Organic Frameworks
C. Medicine	3. Macroscopic quantum tunnelling in an electric circuit
D. Economics	4. Peripheral immune tolerance (regulatory T cells)

Code (A B C D):

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

125. Which of the following statements regarding the Axiom-4 mission is correct?

- (a) With this mission, Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to go to the International Space Station (ISS), whereas in 1984 Rakesh Sharma had travelled to a Soviet space station.
(b) Axiom-4 was a completely indigenous mission of ISRO.
(c) Rakesh Sharma also went to the ISS during his 1984 journey.
(d) This journey was made on the Russian Soyuz spacecraft.

126. Consider the following statements regarding India's Ramsar sites:

1. In June 2026, the number of India's Ramsar sites reached 100.
2. In 2026, several sites of Uttar Pradesh were added to the Ramsar list, including the Patna Bird Sanctuary of Etah and the Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary of Aligarh.
3. India ranks first in the world in terms of the number of Ramsar sites.
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 (d) 1, 2 and 3

127. Consider the following statements regarding the agreement on Marine Biodiversity of Areas

Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), also called the 'High Seas Treaty':

1. This agreement relates to the conservation of marine biodiversity within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of countries.
2. This agreement has been made under the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and came into force in January 2026 after the required number of ratifications.

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

128. Assertion (A): In July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in its advisory opinion on climate change, said that countries have an international legal obligation to protect the climate system.

Reason (R): The advisory opinion of the ICJ is legally binding on the countries concerned.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

129. Consider the following statements regarding the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), i.e., the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025:

1. It guarantees 125 days of wage employment per rural household per year.
2. States can notify a 'pause period' of up to a total of 60 days in a financial year during the peak sowing and harvesting seasons.
3. Like MGNREGA, the Central Government will bear the entire burden of wages in it too.
4. This Act came into force from 1 July 2026.
(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2, 3 and 4
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) Only 1, 2 and 4

130. Which of the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is correct?

- (a) This scheme is implemented uniformly in all districts of the country.
- (b) This scheme is limited only to horticultural crops.
- (c) This scheme focuses on 100 districts with low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity and low credit availability, and is based on the model of the Aspirational Districts Programme.
- (d) It is a scheme giving direct cash transfers to farmers.

131. Arrange the following schemes/events in chronological order:

1. Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (extension of PM-JAY to all citizens above 70 years of age)
 2. VB-G RAM G Act coming into force
 3. Launch of the Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana
 4. Union Cabinet approval of the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana
- (a) 1-3-4-2 (b) 3-1-4-2
- (c) 3-1-2-4 (d) 1-3-2-4

132. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Gender Gap Index 2026:

1. This index is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
 2. In 2026, India's rank in this index was 131st.
 3. This index measures not the absolute level of a country's development, but the relative gap between women and men.
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 2
- (c) Only 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

133. Which of the following statements regarding the International Booker Prize 2025 is correct?

- (a) It was awarded to Banu Mushtaq's Kannada short-story collection 'Heart Lamp', translated into English by Deepa Bhashti.
- (b) It was the first International Booker Prize awarded to a work in an Indian language.

- (c) The prize money of this award goes only to the author, not to the translator.
- (d) This award is given to works originally written in English.

134. Match List-I (Report/Index) with List-II (Publishing institution):

List-I	List-II
A. Global Gender Gap Report	1. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
B. Human Development Report	2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
C. World Economic Outlook	3. World Economic Forum (WEF)
D. World Happiness Report	4. UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and partners

Code (A B C D):

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

135. Consider the following statements regarding the Ganga Expressway:

1. The Ganga Expressway starts from Agra and goes up to Prayagraj.
 2. In April 2026, the Prime Minister inaugurated this 594 km long expressway from Hardoi, which has been developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

136. Consider the following statements regarding Noida International Airport (Jewar):

1. Commercial flights from this airport began in June 2026.
 2. It has been developed on the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, by a special purpose company of Zurich Airport International.
 3. It is the first international airport of Delhi-NCR.
- (a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
- (c) Only 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

137. Match List-I (Ramsar sites of Uttar Pradesh) with List-II (District):

List-I	List-II
A. Patna Bird Sanctuary	1. Aligarh
B. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary	2. Ballia
C. Sur Sarovar (Keetham)	3. Etah
D. Surha Tal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary)	4. Agra

Code (A B C D):

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

138. Arrange the following events related to Uttar Pradesh in chronological order:

1. Inauguration of the Ganga Expressway
2. Start of commercial flights from Noida International Airport
3. Holding of the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj
4. Declaration of Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah) as a Ramsar site

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

139. Consider the following statements regarding the physical regions of Uttar Pradesh:

1. The southern part of Uttar Pradesh (Bundelkhand) is part of the Peninsular Plateau, and mainly alluvial soil like that of the Ganga plain is found here.
2. In the Bhabar region, rivers disappear into deposits of pebbles and boulders and flow underground, while in the Terai region they re-emerge on the surface.

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

140. Match List-I (River) with List-II (Place of origin):

List-I	List-II
A. Betwa	1. Doodhatoli hills (Uttarakhand)
B. Ken	2. Fulhar Jheel (Pilibhit)
C. Gomti	3. Vindhya range (Raisen, Madhya Pradesh)

D. Ramganga	4. Kaimur range (Madhya Pradesh)
-------------	----------------------------------

Code (A B C D):

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

141. Arrange the following events related to Uttar Pradesh in chronological order:

1. Kakori Train Action
2. Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the Muslim League
3. Beginning of the Revolt of 1857 from Meerut
4. Chauri Chaura incident

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

142. Consider the following statements regarding the cultural traditions of Uttar Pradesh:

1. The 'Kajri' folk song is sung mainly in the rainy season (Sawan) and is especially associated with the Mirzapur-Varanasi region.
2. The Lucknow gharana of Kathak developed in the court of the Mughal emperor Akbar.
3. 'Ramlila' has been included in UNESCO's list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

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

143. Assertion (A): Uttar Pradesh ranks second in the country in milk production.

Reason (R): According to the 20th Livestock Census, Uttar Pradesh has the largest livestock population in the country.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

144. Consider the following statements regarding the 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme:

1. This scheme was launched by the Uttar Pradesh government in 2018, and later the Central Government also adopted it at the national level.
2. Under this scheme, glassware has been identified for Firozabad and metal craft (brassware) for Moradabad.
3. This scheme is limited only to agricultural products.

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

145. Which of the following statements regarding the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana is correct?

- (a) This scheme is only for girls of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
(b) In it, the entire amount is given in a lump sum at the time of the girl's marriage.
(c) In it, the amount is given in instalments at different stages of life, from the girl's birth to her admission to higher education.
(d) It is a Central Government scheme implemented in Uttar Pradesh.

146. Match List-I (Initiative of the Uttar Pradesh government) with List-II (Objective):

List-I	List-II
A. Mission Shakti	1. Improvement of basic facilities in council (government) schools
B. Operation Kayakalp	2. Single-window online approval portal for investors
C. Nivesh Mitra	3. Interest-free and collateral-free loans to youth for setting up enterprises
D. Mukhyamantri	4. Safety, dignity and self-reliance of women and girls

Yuva Udyami	
Vikas Abhiyan	

Code (A B C D):

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

147. Assertion (A): In Uttar Pradesh's 2026-27 budget, a revenue surplus is estimated, yet the fiscal deficit has been kept at 3% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

Reason (R): The fiscal deficit also includes capital expenditure, so even with a revenue surplus the government may have to borrow for large capital expenditure.

- (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 the correct explanation of A
(c) A is true, but R is false
(d) A is false, but R is true

148. Consider the following statements regarding the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS):

1. The fourth edition of UPITS is being held from 25 to 29 September 2026 in Greater Noida.
 2. The first edition of UPITS (2023) was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu.
 3. This event is being organised in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).
- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 and 2
(c) Only 2 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

149. Consider the following statements regarding the national symbols of India:

1. India's National Emblem has been taken from the Lion Capital of the Ashoka Pillar at Sarnath, and 'Satyameva Jayate' inscribed below it has been taken from the Mundaka Upanishad.
2. India's National Calendar is based on the Vikram Samvat.
3. Singing the full version of the National Anthem takes about 52 seconds.

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

150. Match List-I (Joint military exercise) with List-II (Partner country with India):

List-I	List-II
--------	---------

A. Yudh Abhyas	1. France
B. Dharma Guardian	2. Japan
C. Nomadic Elephant	3. Mongolia
D. Shakti	4. United States of America

Code (A B C D):

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

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17	08 Nov 2026	GS	Test 14
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19	14 Nov 2026	GS	Test 16
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14	14 Oct	UP Special
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17	23 Oct	Current Affairs - II
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1. Answer: c

Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. The Shiwalik is the outermost and youngest range of the Himalayas. It was formed between the Miocene and Pleistocene periods. When the Greater and Lesser Himalayas rose, the rivers flowing from them brought down huge quantities of gravel, sand and silt. These sediments were deposited in the foothill region and were later folded and uplifted by tectonic pressure. That is why the rocks of the Shiwalik are unconsolidated and weak, and landslides and erosion are more common here. The longitudinal valleys between the Shiwalik and the Lesser Himalayas are called 'Duns', such as Dehradun, Kotli Dun and Patli Dun. The Shiwaliks are called the Daffla, Miri, Abor and Mishmi hills in Arunachal Pradesh, and the Jammu hills in Jammu.

Statement 2 is correct. From north to south, the Himalayas are separated by major thrusts/faults:

Fault	What it separates
Indus-Tsangpo Suture Zone (ITSZ)	Trans-Himalaya from the Indian Plate

Main Central Thrust (MCT)	Greater Himalaya from Lesser Himalaya
Main Boundary Thrust (MBT)	Lesser Himalaya from Shiwalik
Main Frontal Thrust (MFT/HFT)	Shiwalik from the Ganga plain

2. Answer: a

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The Western Ghats are almost continuous. They are broken only by a few passes, such as Thal Ghat, Bhore Ghat and Pal Ghat. The Eastern Ghats have been cut into separate hills by large rivers like the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri, so they are discontinuous.

Basis	Western Ghats	Eastern Ghats
Continuity	Continuous	Discontinuous
Average height	900-1600 m	About 600 m
Highest peak	Anamudi (2695 m)	Jindhagada (1690 m)
Effect on rainfall	Heavy rainfall on the windward slope	Relatively less

Statement 2 is incorrect. Anamudi (2695 m) is in the Anamalai hills (Kerala) of the Western Ghats. It is the highest peak of the whole of Peninsular India. The highest peak of the Eastern Ghats is Jindhagada (Andhra Pradesh). Some sources also give the name Arma Konda.

Statement 3 is correct. The Deccan Trap was formed about 66 million years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period. This was not explosive volcanism. Lava flowed out of fissures and was deposited layer upon layer, forming a step-like landform. The word 'Trap' comes from the Swedish word 'Trappa', meaning stairs/steps. The black (regur) soil has been formed from the weathering of this basalt.

3. Answer: d

2 4 3 1

Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh): It is in Kinnaur district. The Sutlej river enters India from Tibet near this pass. It is also an India-China trade route.

Jelep La (Sikkim): It connects Sikkim with the Chumbi valley of Tibet. Nathu La is located near it, which is a route for India-China border trade and the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.

Diphu Pass (Arunachal Pradesh): It is located near the tri-junction of India, China and Myanmar and is strategically very important.

Muling La (Uttarakhand): It is in Uttarkashi district, between Uttarakhand and Tibet. Other major passes of Uttarakhand are Mana, Niti and Lipulekh.

Option analysis: If the student knows only A (Shipki La = 2), options (a) and (d) remain. If only B is known, (c) and (d) remain. If only C is known, (b) and (d) remain. D is '1' in every option, so it does not help. At least two pairs must be known to reach the correct answer.

4. Answer: b

Only 1, 2 and 4

Statement 1 is correct. An emergent coast means a coast where the land has risen or the sea has retreated. The east coast is wide, and the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri have formed large deltas here. The continental shelf is also up to 500 km wide here, so there are few good natural ports.

Statement 2 is correct. A submergent coast means a coast where part of the land has sunk into the sea. The

submergence of the ancient city of Dwarka in Gujarat is considered evidence of this. Due to the sinking of the coast, deep water is found close to the shore, which is ideal for ports. That is why natural harbours such as Mumbai, Marmagao, New Mangalore and Kochi are on the west coast.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Lakshadweep is of coral origin. Atolls, coral reefs and lagoons are found here. In contrast, the Andaman-Nicobar islands are the upper parts of the submerged mountain ranges (an extension of the Arakan Yoma).

Statement 4 is correct. Barren Island in the Andaman Sea is India's only active volcano, which has erupted several times since 1991. The nearby Narcondam Island is considered a dormant volcano.

5. Answer: b

Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

A is true. The Deccan Plateau is high in the west, because the Western Ghats are its raised edge. It gradually becomes lower towards the east. This tilt is believed to be linked to the break-up of Gondwanaland and the uplift of the western edge.

R is also true. Large rivers like the Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri and Mahanadi flow east and fall into the Bay of Bengal.

Why is R not the explanation of A? This is the real concept of the question. Rivers flow east because the plateau slopes towards the east. That is, A is the cause and R is its effect. The flow of rivers does not create the slope of the plateau. When the reason statement is actually the effect, the answer is (b).

Exception: The Narmada and Tapi flow westwards because they flow through rift valleys. This fact itself shows that the direction of a river is determined by slope and structure, not the other way round.

6. Answer: d

All four

Statement 1 is correct. In summer, when the sun moves north, the Subtropical Westerly Jet Stream shifts north of the Himalayas. Then the Tropical Easterly Jet Stream develops at around 15° N latitude, over Peninsular India. It is linked to the onset of the monsoon and tropical depressions.

Statement 2 is correct. In winter, the Subtropical Westerly Jet Stream flows south of the Himalayas. It brings Western Disturbances originating from the Mediterranean region to India. These cause winter rainfall in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, which is beneficial for rabi crops, especially wheat.

Statement 3 is correct. Kaal Baisakhi is also called 'Nor'wester', because it comes from the north-west direction. It is useful for tea, jute and paddy. In Assam it is called 'Bardoli Chheerha'.

Statement 4 is correct. Mango showers help in the ripening of mangoes. In Karnataka, the rain that makes coffee flowers blossom is called the 'Cherry Blossom Shower' (flower shower).

Pre-monsoon local phenomena:

Name	Region	Nature
Mango showers	Kerala, Karnataka coast	Rainfall
Blossom shower	Karnataka (coffee region)	Rainfall
Kaal Baisakhi	West Bengal, Assam	Thunderstorm
Loo	North India	Hot, dry wind

7. Answer: a

Alluvial soil

Soil	Formation	Type
Alluvial	Sediments brought by rivers	Transported
Black (Regur)	Weathering of Deccan Trap basalt	In situ
Red	Weathering of crystalline rocks like granite and gneiss	In situ
Laterite	Leaching under high temperature and heavy rainfall	In situ

Alluvial soil covers about 40% of India's area and is the most widespread soil here. Old alluvium is called **Bangar** and new alluvium is called **Khadar**. Khadar is renewed every year by floods, so it is more fertile.

The red colour of red soil is due to iron oxide. When hydrated, it looks yellow. In laterite, silica is washed away by leaching and oxides of iron and aluminium remain, so it is useful for making bricks.

8. Answer: c

4 1 2 3

Letter	Meaning
A	Tropical, average temperature above 18°C every month
B	Dry climate
C	Warm temperate
D	Cold, humid winter
E	Polar
m	Monsoon, short dry season
s	Dry summer season
w	Dry winter season
W	Desert
h	Hot
f	Rainfall throughout the year
c	Cool, short summer

A-4: Amw means monsoon climate with a short dry season. It is characteristic of the west coast south of Goa.

B-1: As means dry summer season. The Coromandel coast (Tamil Nadu) receives little rain in summer and most of its rain comes in winter from the retreating monsoon. The letter 's' denotes this.

C-2: BWhw means hot desert, which is in western Rajasthan.

D-3: Dfc means cold, humid winter and short summer. According to NCERT, it is found in Arunachal Pradesh.

Other types: Aw (tropical savanna) is found in most parts of the peninsula, BShw (semi-arid steppe) in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana and in the rain-shadow area, Cwg in the Ganga plain, eastern Rajasthan, Assam and Malwa, and E (polar) in the higher parts of Jammu-Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 4 leaves (a) and (c). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 2 leaves (b) and (c). D is '3' in every option.

9. Answer: b

3-4-2-1

State	Density (persons/sq km)
Bihar	1106
West Bengal	1028
Kerala	860
Uttar Pradesh	829

Therefore the correct order is Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, i.e., 3-4-2-1.

Additional facts: In 2011, India's average density was 382. The lowest density was in Arunachal Pradesh (17). Including Union Territories, the highest density was in Delhi (11,320).

10. Answer: d

Only 2 and 3

Statement 1 is incorrect. Tropical deciduous (monsoon) forests have the largest extent in India. They are divided into two parts on the basis of rainfall. Moist deciduous forests are found in areas with 100 to 200 cm rainfall, and dry deciduous forests in areas with 70 to 100 cm rainfall. Evergreen forests are found only in limited areas with more than 200 cm rainfall, such as the western slope of the Western Ghats, North-East India and Andaman-Nicobar. Ebony, mahogany and rosewood are found in them.

Statement 2 is correct. The Sundarbans is named after the 'Sundari' tree (*Heritiera fomes*). It is the world's largest mangrove delta region and the habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger. Mangrove forests grow in tidal areas and have breathing roots (pneumatophores).

Statement 3 is correct. Teak is the most prominent tree in moist deciduous forests. Sal, shisham, sandalwood, khair and bamboo are also found in them. These forests shed their leaves for 6 to 8 weeks in the dry season, to reduce water loss through transpiration.

11. Answer: a

2 1 4 3

Zonda (Argentina): It is a hot, dry wind descending the eastern slope of the Andes. It is a Föhn-type wind. After shedding moisture on the windward slope, when the air descends the leeward slope, it gets heated by the adiabatic process. The Föhn of the Alps and the Chinook of the Rockies are winds of the same type.

Bora (Adriatic coast): It is a cold, dry and strong wind that blows down from the mountains towards Adriatic coastal areas like Croatia and Slovenia. It is a katabatic wind, i.e., cold and heavy air descends the slope due to gravity. The Mistral of France's Rhône valley is also of this type.

Santa Ana (Southern California): It is a hot, dry wind blowing from the inland desert areas towards the coast. It is believed to play a major role in spreading California's forest fires.

Brickfielder (South-eastern Australia): It is a hot, dry and dusty wind blowing from Australia's interior desert towards Victoria.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a) and (b). Knowing B = 1 leaves (a) and (c). Knowing C = 4 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

12. Answer: c

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The Humboldt Current is a cold current flowing north along the coast of Chile and Peru. A cold current cools the air above it, making the air stable so that it cannot rise and cause rainfall. Together with the rain-shadow effect of the Andes and the subtropical high pressure, this makes the Atacama one of the driest deserts in the world. The same principle applies to Namibia's Namib Desert (Benguela Current).

Statement 2 is incorrect. In normal conditions, upwelling occurs on the Peru coast, i.e., cold, nutrient-rich water from the depths comes up. This increases plankton and anchovy fish are found in abundance. During El Niño, warm water fills the eastern Pacific and upwelling weakens. As a result, fish production decreases, not increases. In El Niño years, the chance of a weak monsoon in India also increases.

Statement 3 is correct. The meeting of the cold Labrador Current and the warm Gulf Stream creates dense fog due to the temperature difference. The mixing of the two currents makes plankton flourish, so the Grand Banks is one of the richest fishing grounds in the world. Similarly, the meeting of the cold Oyashio and warm Kuroshio currents near Japan also creates a rich fishing ground.

13. Answer: d

3-2-1-4

Continent	Countries (west to east)
South America	Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil
Africa	São Tomé and Príncipe, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia
Asia	Maldives (maritime area), Indonesia
Pacific Ocean	Kiribati

Therefore the correct order is Ecuador, Gabon, Uganda, Somalia, i.e., 3-2-1-4.

How to solve by logic: Ecuador is in South America, so it is the westernmost. In Africa, Gabon is on the west coast (Atlantic), Uganda is in the interior east-central part, and Somalia is on the east coast (Indian Ocean).

Additional facts: The name 'Ecuador' itself means 'Equator' in Spanish. The Equator also passes through Lake Victoria, which lies between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

14. Answer: b

Only two

River	Correct origin	Status
Narmada	Amarkantak plateau (Anuppur, M.P.)	Pair 1 correct
Tapi	Multai (Betul, M.P.), Satpura range	Pair 2 correct
Krishna	Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)	Pair 3 incorrect
Pennar	Nandi hills (Karnataka)	Pair 4 incorrect

Trimbakeshwar (Nashik) is actually the origin of the Godavari. The question sets a trap by placing the Godavari's origin with the Krishna, and the Krishna's origin with the Pennar. Students who only recognise place names can fall into it.

Origins of other major rivers: The Kaveri originates in the Brahmagiri hills (Talakaveri, Kodagu, Karnataka). The Mahanadi originates at Sihawa (Dhamtari, Chhattisgarh). The Son river also rises at Amarkantak, but it flows north and joins the Ganga, whereas the Narmada flows west.

15. Answer: a

2-4-1-3

River	Place of confluence with the Ganga
Ramganga	Near Kannauj (U.P.)
Gomti	Kaithi, Ghazipur-Varanasi border (U.P.)
Ghaghara	Near Chhapra (Bihar)
Gandak	Hajipur, opposite Patna (Bihar)
Kosi	Kursela, Katihar (Bihar)

The order of the four rivers in the question is Ramganga, Gomti, Gandak, Kosi, i.e., 2-4-1-3.

Way to remember: Rivers joining in Uttar Pradesh (Ramganga, Gomti) will come first and those joining in Bihar (Gandak, Kosi) later. Within Bihar too, the Gandak joins near Patna, whereas the Kosi joins further east near Katihar.

Tributaries of the Ganga: From the left bank, the Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda join. From the right bank, the Yamuna, Tons (Tamsa), Son and Punpun join. The Yamuna is the longest tributary of the Ganga. The Kosi is called the 'Sorrow of Bihar' because of its frequent change of course and floods.

16. Answer: c

A is true, but R is false

A is true. The Narmada and Tapi form estuaries in the Arabian Sea (Gulf of Khambhat), not deltas.

R is false. The reality is the opposite. The Narmada flows between the Vindhyas and Satpuras, and the Tapi south of the Satpuras, in rift valleys. They flow through hard basalt and igneous rocks, so their sediment load is low.

Delta vs Estuary: A delta is formed when a river brings a lot of sediment and the sea is calm at the mouth. An estuary is formed when sediment is low and tidal action is strong. In the case of the Narmada and Tapi, three reasons work together. First, their sediment load is low. Second, being rift valleys, their gradient is steep and they carry the sediment all the way to the sea. Third, tidal action in the Gulf of Khambhat is very strong, which washes away whatever sediment gets deposited.

In contrast, the east-flowing Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri bring more sediment and form large deltas in the Bay of Bengal.

17. Answer: b

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. Tea needs abundant rainfall (150 to 300 cm), but water should not stagnate at its roots. Therefore it is cultivated on hill slopes, where water drains away. It needs acidic, humus-rich soil and a temperature of 20 to 30°C. Assam, Darjeeling and the Nilgiris are major tea regions.

Statement 2 is correct. According to NCERT, cotton needs high temperature, light rainfall or irrigation, 210 frost-free days and bright sunshine. The black soil of the Deccan has a high moisture-retention capacity, so it is ideal for cotton and is also called 'cotton soil'. Cotton is a kharif crop.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Jute needs high temperature (about 25 to 35°C), heavy rainfall (150 to 250 cm), high humidity and fertile alluvial soil of flood plains. That is why

West Bengal, Bihar and Assam are the major producers. Abundant water is also needed for extracting the fibre (retting). It is called the 'Golden Fibre'.

18. Answer: d

3 1 4 2

Malanjkhand (Copper): It is in Balaghat (M.P.) and is India's largest open-cast copper mine. Other major copper areas are Khetri (Rajasthan) and Singhbhum (Jharkhand).

Hutti (Gold): It is in Raichur (Karnataka) and is currently the main gold-producing area in India. The Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) were closed in 2001. This fact is often asked in exams.

Bailadila (Iron ore): It is in Dantewada (Chhattisgarh). High-grade haematite is found here, which is exported to Japan and other countries through Visakhapatnam port. The shape of this hill is like the hump of an ox, hence the name Bailadila.

Amarkantak (Bauxite): It is the area of the Maikal hills (M.P.). Bauxite is the ore of aluminium and is found in areas with laterite soil. Panchpatmali (Koraput) in Odisha is the largest bauxite deposit.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (b), (c) and (d). Knowing D = 2 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

19. Answer: a

Kaiga – Tamil Nadu

Plant	State
Tarapur	Maharashtra (India's first, 1969)
Rawatbhata	Rajasthan (near Kota, on the Chambal river)
Narora	Uttar Pradesh (Bulandshahr, on the Ganga river)
Kakrapar	Gujarat (Tapi river area)
Kaiga	Karnataka
Kudankulam	Tamil Nadu
Kalpakkam	Tamil Nadu

Special for UPPCS: Narora is the only nuclear power plant in Uttar Pradesh, so questions on it are more likely.

20. Answer: c

4-3-1-2

Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram.

The order of the four states in the question is Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, i.e., 4-3-1-2.

Way to remember: "Guru Ram Man Chhatra Jhat Pakad Trishul Mila", i.e., Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram.

21. Answer: b

Only three

Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj.

Of the five districts in the question, Pilibhit, Shravasti and Siddharthnagar share a border with Nepal. Therefore the answer is "Only three".

Why not Gonda? Gonda is located south of Balrampur. Earlier, Balrampur was a part of Gonda district, so based on old information students assume Gonda to be a Nepal-border district. After Balrampur became a separate district, Gonda no longer borders Nepal.

Why not Kushinagar? Kushinagar lies on the eastern edge of Uttar Pradesh adjoining the Bihar border. Maharajganj lies between it and Nepal.

Way to remember: "Peeli Lakhi Bahu Shraavan Bal Siddh Maha", i.e., Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Siddharthnagar, Maharajganj.

22. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. Evidence of a dockyard has certainly been found at Lothal, but it is located not on the Indus but on the banks of the Bhogava river, a tributary of the Sabarmati in Gujarat. The first part of the statement is correct and the second is incorrect, and a statement is considered correct only when all its parts are correct. Rice husk, a bead-making factory, fire altars and a Persian seal have also been found at Lothal. It was the chief port city of the Harappan civilisation.

Statement 2 is correct. Most Harappan cities were divided into two parts: the citadel and the lower town. Dholavira is the exception, divided into three parts: the citadel, the middle town and the lower town. It is located on Khadir island in Kutch district of Gujarat, between the Mansar and Manhar streams. Huge reservoirs, dams and an advanced drainage system have been found here. A large 'signboard' in the Harappan script has also been found here. In 2021, Dholavira was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

23. Answer: d

2431

Council	Year (approx.)	Place	Ruler	President	Outcome
First	483 BCE	Rajagriha (Saptaparni cave)	Ajatasatru	Mahakasyapa	Compilation of Sutta Pitaka (Ananda) and Vinaya Pitaka (Upali)
Second	383 BCE	Vaishali	Kalashoka	Sabbakamibhaddiya	Division of the Sangha into Sthaviravadins and Mahasanghikas
Third	250 BCE	Pataliputra	Ashoka	Moggalliputta Tissa	Compilation of Abhidhamma Pitaka
Fourth	1st century CE	Kundalvana (Kashmir)	Kanishka	Vasumitra (Vice-president Ashvaghosha)	Division into Hinayana and Mahayana

24. Answer: a

2-4-1-3

Pushyamitra Shunga (c. 185 BCE): He founded the Shunga dynasty by killing the last Mauryan ruler Brihadratha. He performed two Ashvamedha sacrifices, and Patanjali is considered his contemporary.

Kharavela (c. 1st century BCE): This ruler of the Chedi (Mahameghavahana) dynasty of Kalinga was a follower

of Jainism. Information about him comes from the Hathigumpha inscription at Udayagiri near Bhubaneswar. Some scholars place him in the 2nd century BCE, but in both views he comes after Pushyamitra.

Rudradaman (c. 150 CE): He was a Western Kshatrapa (Shaka) ruler. His Junagadh (Girnar) inscription is considered the first long inscription in Sanskrit. It mentions the repair of the Sudarshan lake, which was built during the time of Chandragupta Maurya.

Samudragupta (c. 335-375 CE): The conquests of this Gupta ruler are described in the Prayag Prashasti composed by Harishena. Vincent Smith called him the 'Napoleon of India'.

Therefore the correct order is Pushyamitra, Kharavela, Rudradaman, Samudragupta, i.e., 2-4-1-3.

25. Answer: c

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. In the Thirteenth Major Rock Edict, Ashoka describes the destruction of the Kalinga war and the remorse it caused him. In it, he calls 'Dhamma Vijaya' the best conquest. Also note that the Dhauili and Jaugada rock edicts in the Kalinga region do not have the Thirteenth Edict. In its place there are separate 'Kalinga Edicts'.

Statement 2 is correct. James Prinsep, an official of the East India Company, succeeded in deciphering the Brahmi script in 1837. In the inscriptions, Ashoka is mostly referred to as 'Devanampiyasa Piyadasi'. The name 'Ashoka' is found only in a few inscriptions, such as Maski (Karnataka) and Gujarra (M.P.).

Statement 3 is incorrect. Ashoka's inscriptions are found in four scripts:

Script	Region
Brahmi	Most parts of India
Kharosthi	North-west (Shahbazgarhi, Mansehra, present-day Pakistan)
Greek and Aramaic	Afghanistan (Kandahar)

Kharosthi is written from right to left, whereas Brahmi is written from left to right.

26. Answer: c

A is true, but R is false

A is true. During the Gupta period, the practice of giving land grants to Brahmins and religious institutions increased greatly. Villages given in such grants were called 'agrahara'. The recipients often also got the right to collect revenue and some administrative rights. Historian R.S. Sharma considers this a major cause of the development of Indian feudalism.

R is false. The earliest epigraphic evidence of land grants belongs to the Satavahana rulers, who donated land to Brahmins and Buddhist monks. Therefore the Guptas did not start this practice; rather, they expanded an already existing practice.

27. Answer: a

Muhammad bin Tughlaq

All the Sultans in the options created different departments, so this question demands correct matching of facts:

Sultan	Department	Function
Balban	Diwan-i-Arz	Military department
Alauddin Khalji	Diwan-i-Riyasat	Market control
Alauddin Khalji	Diwan-i-Mustakhraj	Recovery of arrears of revenue
Muhammad bin Tughlaq	Diwan-i-Amir-Kohi	Agriculture department
Firoz Shah Tughlaq	Diwan-i-Khairat	Charity department
Firoz Shah Tughlaq	Diwan-i-Bandagan	Slave department

28. Answer: d

2314

Ibn Battuta (Morocco): He came to India in 1333 during the time of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The Sultan appointed him Qazi of Delhi and later sent him to China as an ambassador. His travelogue is 'Rehla'.

Abdur Razzaq (Persia): He was the ambassador of Shah Rukh of Persia and came to Vijayanagara in 1443 during the time of Devaraya II. He has given a detailed description of the prosperity of Vijayanagara.

Niccolò de' Conti (Italy): He came to Vijayanagara around 1420 during the time of Devaraya I. He has described the festivals of Vijayanagara.

François Bernier (France): He was a physician by profession. He came to India in the last years of Shah Jahan's reign, witnessed the war of succession and stayed till the time of Aurangzeb. His book is 'Travels in the Mogul Empire', in which he spoke of the absence of private ownership of land in India.

29. Answer: b

Only two

Statement 1 is correct. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti came to India around 1192 and made Ajmer his centre. Chishti saints were known for simple living, music (sama) and keeping distance from rulers.

Statement 2 is correct. The Suhrawardi order was established in India by Sheikh Bahauddin Zakariya at Multan. Unlike the Chishtis, these saints kept contact with the state, accepted grants, and some even accepted government posts.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi belonged to the Naqshbandi order. He is called 'Mujaddid-i-Alf-i-Sani'. He was orthodox and opposed Akbar's religious policies. The Naqshbandi order was brought to India by Khwaja Baqi Billah. Dara Shikoh, a follower of Mian Mir, was associated with the Qadiri order.

Statement 4 is incorrect. Nizamuddin Auliya saw the rule of seven Sultans of Delhi, but he never went to the court of any Sultan. In the context of his tension with Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, the saying 'Hanuz Dilli door ast' (Delhi is still far away) is famous. Amir Khusrau was his disciple.

30. Answer: c

2-4-3-1

System	Year	Person associated
Dual government (Bengal)	1765	Robert Clive
Permanent Settlement	1793	Lord Cornwallis
Ryotwari (Madras Presidency)	1820	Thomas Munro
Mahalwari	1822	Holt Mackenzie

Dual government (1765): After the Treaty of Allahabad, the Company got the Diwani (revenue rights) of Bengal, while the Nizamat (administration) remained with the Nawab. It was ended by Warren Hastings in 1772.

Permanent Settlement (1793): Under it, zamindars were recognised as owners of the land and the revenue was fixed permanently. It was implemented in Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

Ryotwari (1820): Under it, the state collected revenue directly from the peasant (ryot). It was first tried by Alexander Read in Baramahal in 1792, but Munro implemented it in the whole Madras Presidency in 1820.

Mahalwari (1822): Under it, revenue was fixed collectively with the whole village (mahal). It was implemented in the North-Western Provinces (Agra-Awadh), Punjab and parts of Central India. It was revised in 1833 during the time of William Bentinck.

31. Answer: a

Only 1

Statement 1 is correct. In Kanpur, Nana Sahib (adopted son of Peshwa Bajirao II) led the revolt, and his associate was Tatya Tope. In December 1857, Colin Campbell recaptured Kanpur.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Begum Hazrat Mahal led the revolt in Lucknow and declared her son Birjis Qadr the Nawab of Awadh. In Allahabad, the leadership was of Liaqat Ali.

Centre	Indian leader	British officer who suppressed it
Delhi	Bahadur Shah Zafar, Bakht Khan	Nicholson, Hodson
Kanpur	Nana Sahib, Tatya Tope	Colin Campbell
Lucknow	Begum Hazrat Mahal	Colin Campbell
Jhansi	Rani Lakshmibai	Hugh Rose
Allahabad	Liaqat Ali	Colonel Neill
Bihar (Jagdishpur)	Kunwar Singh	William Taylor, Vincent Eyre
Bareilly	Khan Bahadur Khan	Colin Campbell

Faizabad	Maulvi Ahmadullah	—
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Special for UPPCS: Most of the major centres of 1857 were in present-day Uttar Pradesh: Meerut, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, Allahabad, Bareilly and Faizabad. That is why this topic is asked repeatedly in UPPCS.

32. Answer: d

2 1 3 4

Bengal Gazette (1780): It was started by James Augustus Hicky from Calcutta. It was India's first newspaper. It is also called 'Hicky's Bengal Gazette' or the 'Calcutta General Advertiser'. It was shut down in 1782 for criticising Company officials.

Sambad Kaumudi (1821): It was Raja Rammohan Roy's Bengali weekly. He also brought out 'Mirat-ul-Akhbar' in Persian.

Amrita Bazar Patrika (1868): It was started in Bengali by Sisir Kumar Ghosh and Motilal Ghosh. In 1878, to escape Lord Lytton's Vernacular Press Act, it became an English newspaper overnight, because that law applied only to vernacular-language papers.

The Hindu (1878): It was started from Madras by G. Subramania Iyer and his associates (Veeraraghavachariar and others).

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing C = 3 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 4 leaves (b), (c) and (d).

33. Answer: b

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. Debendranath Tagore (father of Rabindranath Tagore) formed the Tattvabodhini Sabha in 1839, which propagated the ideas of Rammohan Roy. Later he joined the Brahmo Samaj and gave it a new direction.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Arya Samaj was founded in 1875 in Bombay, not Lahore. Its branch was established in Lahore in 1877, and Punjab became the biggest centre of its spread. That is why students get confused. Dayanand's famous book is 'Satyarth Prakash' and his slogan was "Go back to the Vedas".

Statement 3 is correct. Jyotiba Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873, with the aim of opposing Brahminical dominance and uplifting the lower castes.

His book 'Gulamgiri' was also published in 1873. Along with his wife Savitribai Phule, he opened a school for girls in Pune in 1848.

34. Answer: b

Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

A is true. Dadabhai Naoroji pointed out that India's wealth was being sent to Britain without any return in many forms, such as salaries and pensions of British officials, 'Home Charges', and interest and profits on British capital. His book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' was published in 1901. R.C. Dutt developed this theory further in 'Economic History of India'.

R is true. Naoroji was elected to the House of Commons from Central Finsbury on a Liberal Party ticket in 1892.

Why is R not the explanation of A? Being elected to the British Parliament was not the cause of his economic theory. The drain of wealth theory was the result of his economic analysis. Both facts relate to the same person, but there is no cause-effect relationship between them. Additional facts: Naoroji is called the 'Grand Old Man of India'. He was Congress President three times: 1886, 1893 and 1906. At the Calcutta session of 1906, 'Swaraj' was declared as the goal of the Congress for the first time.

35. Answer: c

Lord Curzon – First Factory Act

Governor-General/Viceroy	Major works
Lord Dalhousie (1848–56)	Doctrine of Lapse (first state Satara, 1848), first railway (1853), postal-telegraph reforms
Lord Lytton (1876–80)	Vernacular Press Act (1878), Arms Act (1878), Delhi Durbar (1877)
Lord Ripon (1880–84)	First Factory Act (1881), local self-government (1882), repeal of the Vernacular Press Act (1882), Ilbert Bill (1883), Hunter Commission (1882)
Lord Curzon (1899–1905)	Indian Universities Act (1904), Ancient Monuments Preservation Act (1904), Partition of Bengal (1905)

36. Answer: a

Only 1, 2 and 4

Statement 1 is correct. The first session of the Congress was held in December 1885 at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay. It was presided over by Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee and was attended by 72 delegates. The session was originally to be held in Poona, but the venue was changed due to an outbreak of cholera there. Statement 2 is correct. At the Surat session of 1907, there was a clash between the Moderates and Extremists over the presidency and the method of the movement, which split the Congress. The President was Rash Behari Ghosh.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Lahore session of 1929 was presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru. The 'Purna Swaraj' resolution was passed in it, and it was decided to celebrate the first Independence Day on 26 January 1930. Subhas Chandra Bose presided over the sessions of 1938 (Haripura) and 1939 (Tripuri).

Statement 4 is correct. Two major events took place at the Lucknow session of 1916 (President Ambika Charan Mazumdar): the agreement between the Congress and the Muslim League (Lucknow Pact), and the reunion of the Moderates and Extremists. In this pact, the Congress accepted separate electorates for Muslims, which was later criticised.

37. Answer: d

3-4-1-2

Event	Date	Key points
August Offer	8 August 1940	Viceroy Linlithgow promised a Constituent Assembly and Dominion status after the war
Individual Satyagraha	17 October 1940	First satyagrahi Vinoba Bhave, second Jawaharlal Nehru
Cripps Mission	March 1942	Stafford Cripps; Gandhiji called it 'a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank'
Shimla Conference	June–July 1945	On the Wavell Plan; failed due to the rigid stand of the Muslim League

Therefore the correct order is August Offer, Individual Satyagraha, Cripps Mission, Shimla Conference, i.e., 3-4-1-2.

Understand through cause and effect: Dissatisfied with the August Offer, the Congress started the Individual Satyagraha. Due to the growing threat from Japan, Britain sent the Cripps Mission. Its failure led to the Quit India Movement (August 1942). Near the end of the war, the Wavell Plan and the Shimla Conference were held to break the deadlock. If you remember the events in this chain, the order forms automatically.

38. Answer: c

Only four

Pair 1 is correct. The 'Ulgulan' (Great Tumult) took place in the Chotanagpur region in 1899–1900 under the leadership of Birsa Munda. It was against zamindars, moneylenders and missionaries. Birsa died in jail in 1900. After this, the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act was enacted in 1908.

Pair 2 is correct. The Santhal Rebellion took place in 1855–56 in the Rajmahal hills ('Damin-i-Koh' area) under the leadership of Sidhu and Kanhu. After this, a separate 'Santhal Parganas' district was created.

Pair 3 is correct. In 1873–76, peasants formed an agrarian league against the zamindars in Pabna district of Bengal. Its leaders were Ishan Chandra Roy and Shambhu Pal. This movement was completely legal and non-violent. It resulted in the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885.

Pair 4 is incorrect. Baba Ramchandra is associated with the Awadh Kisan Sabha (1920), which was active in the Pratapgarh, Rae Bareilly and Sultanpur region. The Moplah Rebellion took place in 1921 in Malabar, Kerala, and its leaders were Ali Musliyar and Variyamkunnath Kunjahammed Haji.

Pair 5 is correct. The Bijolia movement of Mewar (Rajasthan) started in 1897 and continued for decades. Its prominent leaders included Sadhu Sitaram Das, Vijay Singh Pathik and Manikyalal Verma.

Special for UPPCS: Baba Ramchandra and the Awadh Kisan Sabha are associated with Uttar Pradesh. The related 'Eka Movement' (1921–22) took place in Hardoi, Barabanki and Sitapur under the leadership of Madari Pasi.

39. Answer: b

Lala Lajpat Rai

This theory was propounded by Lala Lajpat Rai in 1916 in his paper 'Young India'. His aim was to criticise the Moderate leadership. He based it on the biography of Hume written by William Wedderburn.

Other view: Rejecting this theory, Bipan Chandra gave the concept of the 'lightning conductor'. According to him, Indian leaders used Hume like a lightning conductor, so that the government's suspicion of a political organisation would remain low in the early phase.

40. Answer: a

2143

Kailasanatha Temple, Kanchipuram (Pallava): It was built by the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha). It is an early structural temple of the Dravida style, i.e., built by joining stones, not by cutting rock.

Kailasa Temple, Ellora (Rashtrakuta): It was built by the Rashtrakuta ruler Krishna I. It is a monolithic temple carved from a single huge rock from top to bottom. It is Cave No. 16 of Ellora.

Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho (Chandela): It is an excellent example of the Nagara style, believed to have been built by the Chandela ruler Vidyadhara. The temples of Khajuraho are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sun Temple, Konark (Eastern Ganga): It was built in the 13th century by the Eastern Ganga ruler Narasimhadeva I. It is in the shape of the Sun's chariot, with 24 wheels and 7 horses. European sailors called it the 'Black Pagoda'.

41. Answer: d

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. Sattriya is a dance of Assam, developed in the 15th–16th century by the Vaishnava saint Srimanta Sankardev. It was performed in the Vaishnava monasteries (sattras) of Assam, hence the name Sattriya. In November 2000, the Sangeet Natak Akademi gave it the status of a classical dance, making it the newest classical dance on this list.

Statement 2 is correct. Kuchipudi is named after Kuchipudi village in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.

In its 'Tarangam' performance, the dancer dances balancing on the edges of a brass plate, and sometimes also keeps a water pot on the head.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Mohiniyattam is a solo dance of Kerala performed by women. 'Mohini' means an enchanting woman, linked to the Mohini form of Vishnu. The male-dominated dance-drama of Kerala is Kathakali. Students often confuse the two, because both are from Kerala.

The 8 classical dances of the Sangeet Natak Akademi:

Dance	State
Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu
Kathak	North India (Uttar Pradesh)
Kathakali	Kerala
Mohiniyattam	Kerala
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Odissi	Odisha
Manipuri	Manipur
Sattriya	Assam

The Ministry of Culture adds 'Chhau' and recognises 9 classical dances. In the exam, answer according to the basis of the question. Special for UPPCS: Kathak developed in the Lucknow, Jaipur and Banaras gharanas, so it is the classical dance associated with Uttar Pradesh.

42. Answer: c

4-2-3-1

Structure	Period of construction	Builder	Feature
Qutub Minar	Begun around 1199	Qutubuddin Aibak (completed: Iltutmish)	UNESCO World Heritage Site
Alai Darwaza	1311	Alauddin Khalji	Early example of the true arch and dome in India
Buland Darwaza	1570s	Akbar	In memory of the conquest of Gujarat,

			Fatehpur Sikri
Gol Gumbaz	1656	Muhammad Adil Shah	Bijapur, huge dome and 'Whispering Gallery'

Therefore the correct order is Qutub Minar, Alai Darwaza, Buland Darwaza, Gol Gumbaz, i.e., 4-2-3-1.

Concept: The Alai Darwaza is a turning point in Indo-Islamic architecture. Earlier buildings had 'false' arches built by the corbel (bracket) method. In the Alai Darwaza, the 'true' arch built scientifically, with a keystone, was used for the first time.

Additional fact about the Qutub Minar: Its first storey was built by Aibak and the rest were completed by Iltutmish. Later, Firoz Shah Tughlaq repaired the storeys damaged by lightning.

43. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. The Act of 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms) divided provincial subjects into two parts. 'Transferred' subjects (education, health, local self-government etc.) were with ministers responsible to the legislature. 'Reserved' subjects (finance, police, land revenue etc.) were with the Governor and his Executive Council. This dual system was called dyarchy.

Statement 2 is correct. The Act of 1935 removed dyarchy from the provinces and gave provincial autonomy, and provided for dyarchy at the Centre. But dyarchy at the Centre was never implemented, because it depended on the formation of the All-India Federation, and the Federation was never formed as the princely states did not join. The statement says "provided for", not "implemented", so the statement is correct. The Federal Court was established in 1937 under this Act. The Reserve Bank was also established under a provision of this Act.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Act of 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms) introduced separate electorates only for Muslims. That is why Lord Minto is called the 'Father of Communal Electorate'.

Extension of separate electorates:

Act	Who got separate electorates
1909	Muslims
1919	Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans
1935	Depressed classes (reserved seats as per the Poona Pact), women, labour

44. Answer: b

Only 2

Background: In August 1932, British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald announced the 'Communal Award', in which the depressed classes were also given separate electorates. Gandhiji believed that this would permanently divide Hindu society. In protest, he began a fast unto death in Yerawada Jail (Poona). Finally, on 24 September 1932, an agreement was reached between Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Hindu leaders, which was signed by Madan Mohan Malaviya and others.

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Poona Pact ended separate electorates for the Dalits. In their place, reserved seats for Dalits were provided within joint electorates. That is, all voters voted together, but on some seats only Dalit candidates could contest.

Statement 2 is correct. In return, the reserved seats of the Dalits were increased from 71 to 147, i.e., almost double. Some sources give this number as 148, but most standard books give 147. It was also decided in the pact that the Dalits would get 18% of the seats in the Central Legislature.

45. Answer: d

1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. According to the Cabinet Mission Plan, the Constituent Assembly was to have a total of 389 members: 292 from British provinces, 4 from Chief Commissioner's provinces and 93 from princely states. Members from the provinces were elected by the provincial assemblies through the single transferable vote system, i.e., the election was not direct. Representatives of the princely states were to be nominated by the rulers. After Partition, the membership fell to 299.

Statement 2 is correct. The first meeting was held on 9 December 1946, which was boycotted by the Muslim League. Following the French practice, the seniormost member Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was made the temporary President. On 11 December 1946, Dr. Rajendra Prasad was elected the permanent President. On 13 December 1946, Nehru moved the 'Objectives Resolution', which later became the basis of the Preamble.

Statement 3 is correct. After the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the Constituent Assembly played two roles. As the constitution-making body, it was presided over by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. As the legislative body (Dominion Parliament), it was presided over by G.V. Mavalankar. This dual role continued till 26 November 1949, after which the Constituent Assembly continued as the Provisional Parliament till the first general elections of 1952.

Examiner's view: All the statements in this question are correct. Students often consider statement 3 incorrect, because they remember only Rajendra Prasad's name. The dual role of the Constituent Assembly is asked in the UPPCS Mains examination too.

46. Answer: b

2 1 4 3

Source	Main features
Britain	Parliamentary government, rule of law, single citizenship, cabinet system, bicameralism
Ireland	Directive Principles, method of election of the President, nomination of members to the Rajya Sabha
Australia	Concurrent List, freedom of trade and commerce, joint sitting of Parliament
Germany (Weimar)	Suspension of Fundamental Rights during Emergency
USA	Fundamental Rights, judicial review, impeachment of the President, post of Vice-President
Canada	Federation with a strong Centre, residuary powers with the Centre, appointment of Governor

Soviet Union	Fundamental Duties, ideal of justice (social, economic, political) in the Preamble
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Examiner's view: 'Joint sitting' and 'Concurrent List' are both from Australia, so students recognise Australia. But seeing the word 'Emergency', many students choose Britain or the USA. The suspension of Fundamental Rights was taken from the Weimar Constitution, while the general framework of emergency provisions came from the Government of India Act, 1935.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (b) and (c). Knowing B = 1 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (d). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (c).

47. Answer: a

3-1-4-2

Change	Amendment	Year
'Socialist', 'Secular', 'Integrity' added to the Preamble	42nd	1976
Right to property removed from Fundamental Rights and made a legal right under Article 300A	44th	1978
Voting age from 21 to 18 years	61st	1988
Constitutional status to Panchayats (Part IX)	73rd	1992

Therefore the correct order is 3-1-4-2.

Examiner's view: In option (b), the 42nd and 44th Amendments have been reversed. Both are from close years, and students often forget that the 44th Amendment was made by the Janata government after the Emergency to correct many excesses of the 42nd Amendment. If this cause and effect is remembered, there will be no mistake in the order.

48. Answer: c

A is true, but R is false

A is true. This is the conclusion of the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), in which a bench of 13 judges gave its decision by a 7:6 majority.

R is false. In the Golaknath case (1967), the court had said that Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights at all, because a constitutional amendment is also 'law' within the meaning of Article 13. This was not the

doctrine of basic structure. The doctrine of basic structure came in the Kesavananda Bharati case.

Understand the sequence of events like this:

Year	Event	Effect
1951	Shankari Prasad case	Parliament can amend Fundamental Rights
1967	Golaknath case	Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights
1971	24th Amendment	Parliament restored the amending power by changing Articles 13 and 368
1973	Kesavananda Bharati case	Parliament can amend, but cannot change the basic structure
1976	42nd Amendment	Attempt to declare the amending power unlimited
1980	Minerva Mills case	Those parts of the 42nd Amendment struck down; judicial review and limited amending power are also part of the basic structure

Examiner's view: This question tests whether the student understands the real difference between the Golaknath and Kesavananda Bharati judgments. Both cases relate to the amending power, but their conclusions are completely different.

49. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. It is true that Articles 20 and 21 cannot be suspended during an Emergency. But this provision was not in the original Constitution. It was added to Article 359 by the 44th Amendment (1978). Its background was the Emergency of 1975 and the judgment in ADM Jabalpur vs Shivkant Shukla (1976), in which the court had said that during an Emergency a person cannot go to court even for a violation of Article 21. The 44th Amendment was brought to end the effect of this very judgment. In the Puttaswamy (privacy) judgment of 2017, the Supreme Court explicitly held the ADM Jabalpur judgment to be wrong.

Statement 2 is correct.

Available only to citizens	Available to all persons (including foreigners)
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Articles 15, 16, 19, 29, 30	Articles 14, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 23, 24, 25–28
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Examiner's view: The first part of statement 1 is completely correct, and this is what traps the student. The part "was in the original Constitution itself" is the real test of the question. Asking "when and why was it added" about constitutional provisions is the hallmark of higher-level questions.

50. Answer: d

All four

Statement 1 is correct. The Swaran Singh Committee (1976) had recommended 8 Fundamental Duties, but the 42nd Amendment added 10 duties. They were placed in Part IV-A, Article 51A. This idea was inspired by the Constitution of the then Soviet Union.

Statement 2 is correct. The 86th Amendment (2002) made three changes at once: Article 21A (Fundamental Right to education), a change in Article 45 (care and education of children up to 6 years), and Article 51A(k) (the 11th Fundamental Duty). This question tests the understanding of the interrelation of all three.

Statement 3 is correct. Article 44 directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code throughout India. Goa has had a uniform civil code since the Portuguese period, and in 2024 Uttarakhand passed the Uniform Civil Code Act.

Statement 4 is correct. The 42nd Amendment added four new Directive Principles: Article 39(f) (opportunities for healthy development of children), 39A (equal justice and free legal aid), 43A (participation of workers in the management of industries), and 48A (environment protection). The Fundamental Duty related to the environment, Article 51A(g), also came from this amendment.

Examiner's view: In "all four" type questions, the student assumes that some statement must be wrong, and ends up unnecessarily doubting a correct statement. In this question, statement 4 creates the most doubt, because students assume 48A was part of the original Constitution.

51. Answer: a

Equal pay for equal work for men and women

Category	Article	Example
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Socialist	38, 39, 39A, 41, 42, 43, 43A, 47 (part on nutrition and standard of living)	Equal pay for equal work (39d), prevention of concentration of wealth (39c)
Gandhian	40, 43, 43B, 46, 47 (part on prohibition), 48	Village panchayats, cottage industries, cooperative societies, prohibition, ban on cow slaughter
Liberal-intellectual	44, 45, 48, 48A, 49, 50, 51	Uniform Civil Code, separation of judiciary from executive, international peace

'Equal pay for equal work' is linked to the socialist concept of economic justice and workers' welfare, so it is not a Gandhian principle.

Examiner's view: Students are often confused by Article 47, because it has two parts. Improving nutrition and the standard of living is a socialist idea, while prohibition is Gandhian. Option (d) takes only the prohibition part. Article 43 also has two parts: 'living wage' is socialist, and 'cottage industries in rural areas' is Gandhian. Classification is done by the content of the provision, not by the article.

52. Answer: c

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. According to Articles 109 and 117, a Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, and the prior recommendation of the President is necessary for it. The final decision on whether a bill is a Money Bill or not rests with the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Article 110(3)).

Statement 2 is correct. The Rajya Sabha can neither reject nor amend a Money Bill. It can only make recommendations, which the Lok Sabha may or may not accept. If the Rajya Sabha does not return the bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Under Article 108, a joint sitting is summoned only to resolve a deadlock on ordinary bills. A deadlock on a Money Bill does not arise

at all, because the Rajya Sabha does not have the power to stop it. There is no joint sitting on a Constitutional Amendment Bill either, because it has to be passed by each House separately by a special majority.

Comparison of bills:

Basis	Ordinary Bill	Money Bill	Constitutional Amendment Bill
Where introduced	In either House	Only Lok Sabha	In either House
Prior recommendation of the President	Not required	Required	Not required
Joint sitting	Possible	No	No
Return by the President for reconsideration	Possible	No	No (assent compulsory after the 24th Amendment)

So far only three joint sittings have been held: 1961 (Dowry Prohibition Bill), 1978 (Banking Service Commission Repeal Bill), and 2002 (Prevention of Terrorism Bill, POTA).

53. Answer: a

2134

Public Accounts Committee: It was first formed in 1921 under the Government of India Act, 1919. It has 22 members: 15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha. Since 1967, its chairman has traditionally been from the Opposition, appointed by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. It examines the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), so the CAG is called the 'friend, philosopher and guide' of this committee.

Estimates Committee: It was formed in 1950 on the recommendation of the then Finance Minister John Mathai. All its 30 members are only from the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha has no representation. It is the largest financial committee and suggests 'economies' in government expenditure, so it is called the 'continuous economy committee'.

Committee on Public Undertakings: It was formed in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee. It also has 22 members (15 Lok Sabha, 7

Rajya Sabha). It examines the reports and accounts of public sector undertakings.

Business Advisory Committee: It decides the agenda and timetable of the House. The chairman of the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha himself.

Examiner's view: Both the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings have 22 members. Therefore List-II does not use the number of members as the basis, but gives features that apply to only one committee. This care is taken in higher-level matching questions, so that no option matches two answers.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing C = 3 leaves (a) and (b).

54. Answer: d

Only 2 and 3

Statement 1 is incorrect. According to Article 94, even on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker does not vacate his office immediately. He continues in office until immediately before the first meeting of the new Lok Sabha. The purpose is that the continuity of the House and the work of the secretariat are not disrupted.

Statement 2 is correct. The Speaker addresses his resignation to the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker addresses his resignation to the Speaker. This arrangement exists because both are elected by the House and are responsible to the House, not to the President.

Statement 3 is correct. According to Article 100, the Speaker does not vote in the first instance, so that his impartiality is maintained. In case of a tie, he exercises a casting vote.

An important exception: When a resolution for the removal of the Speaker is under consideration (Article 96), he cannot preside over the House. At that time he can vote in the first instance, but cannot cast a deciding vote in case of a tie. Because of this exception, the word "normally" has been added in statement 3. In higher-level questions, it is necessary to pay attention to such words.

55. Answer: b

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct.

Electors	President (Article 54)	Vice- President (Article 66)
Elected members of Parliament	Yes	Yes
Nominated members of Parliament	No	Yes
Elected members of State Legislative Assemblies	Yes	No
Members of Legislative Councils	No	No

The logic of this difference is that the President represents the whole Union (both Centre and States), so the State Legislative Assemblies also elect him. The Vice-President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, so he is elected only by Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct. The original Constitution had no provision for Union Territories. The 70th Amendment (1992) included the elected members of the legislative assemblies of Delhi and Puducherry in the electoral college of the President. After the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the elected members of the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are also included in it.

Statement 3 is incorrect. According to Article 61, impeachment can be initiated in either House. It requires the signatures of one-fourth of the members of that House and 14 days' prior notice to the President. The resolution must be passed in both Houses by a two-thirds majority of the total membership. Notably, nominated members of Parliament also participate in impeachment, whereas they do not participate in the election of the President. This too is asked repeatedly in exams.

56. Answer: c

The Governor cannot reserve any bill passed by the State Legislature for the consideration of the President.

In some cases reservation is even mandatory. For example, a bill that reduces the powers of the High Court so much

that its constitutional position is endangered must be sent by the Governor to the President.

The other options are correct:

(a) According to Article 156, the Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President. His term is normally five years, but the President can remove him at any time. In the B.P. Singhal case (2010), the Supreme Court said that this power cannot be used arbitrarily and a Governor cannot be removed merely because of a change of government at the Centre.

(b) This provision was added by the 7th Amendment (1956).

(d) Article 213 gives the Governor the power of ordinance, just as Article 123 gives it to the President.

Recent context: On the controversy of Governors withholding bills for long periods, the Supreme Court in the State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu (2025) case laid down time limits for deciding on bills. After this, the President sought the Supreme Court's opinion on this subject under Article 143. This subject is currently at the centre of constitutional debate, so do check its latest status before the exam.

57. Answer: d

2413

Article 74: There shall be a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President. The 42nd Amendment (1976) made it compulsory for the President to accept this advice. The 44th Amendment (1978) gave the President the right to return the advice once for reconsideration, but he must accept the advice given after reconsideration.

Article 78: It is the duty of the Prime Minister to communicate to the President all decisions of the Council of Ministers and legislative proposals, and to furnish information sought by the President. This makes the Prime Minister the link between the President and the Council of Ministers.

Article 111: It relates to the President's assent to a bill passed by Parliament. In the case of an ordinary bill, the President also has a 'pocket veto', because the Constitution does not fix any time limit. In 1986, President Giani Zail Singh used it on the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill.

Article 143: The President can seek the opinion of the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact of public importance. This opinion of the court is not binding on the President. Major examples of this article are: Kerala Education Bill (1958), Berubari Union (1960), Ram Janmabhoomi (1993, in which the court declined to give an opinion), and the Third Judges case (1998).

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 4 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 1 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

58. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. The retirement age of High Court judges was 60 years in the original Constitution, which was raised to 62 years by the 15th Amendment (1963).

The age for Supreme Court judges is 65 years.

Statement 2 is correct. This statement sounds reversed, but it is constitutionally correct. Under Article 32, the Supreme Court can issue writs only for the violation of Fundamental Rights. Under Article 226, the High Court can issue writs for Fundamental Rights as well as "for any other purpose", i.e., also for the violation of ordinary legal rights. Therefore, in the field of writ jurisdiction, the power of the High Court is wider.

There is one more difference. Article 32 is itself a Fundamental Right, which Dr. Ambedkar called the 'heart and soul of the Constitution'. Article 226 is not a Fundamental Right, so the High Court may refuse to issue a writ if it wishes.

Statement 3 is incorrect. According to the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, the motion for removal is introduced with the signatures of at least 100 members in the Lok Sabha and at least 50 members in the Rajya Sabha. So far, no judge has been removed through this process. In 1993, the motion against Justice V. Ramaswami failed in the Lok Sabha for want of the required majority.

Examiner's view: In statement 3, a trap has been made by attaching the Rajya Sabha number (50) to the Lok Sabha. This is the most common confusion of numbers.

59. Answer: c

2-4-3-1

Case	Year	Main principle
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Golaknath	1967	Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights
Kesavananda Bharati	1973	Doctrine of basic structure
Indra Sawhney (Mandal case)	November 1992	27% reservation for OBCs valid; maximum limit of reservation normally 50%; exclusion of the 'creamy layer'
S.R. Bommai	March 1994	Use of Article 356 subject to judicial review; floor test to be held in the House itself; secularism is part of the basic structure

Therefore the correct order is 2-4-3-1.

Examiner's view: The first two positions are easily fixed.

The real test is between Indra Sawhney (1992) and Bommai (1994). Both are major judgments of the early 1990s, so option (d) has been made by reversing these two.

Remember through context: The Mandal

Commission recommendations were implemented in 1990 and the dispute immediately reached the court, so the Indra Sawhney judgment came in 1992. The Bommai case began with the dismissal of the Karnataka government in 1989, but cases of President's Rule imposed in several states after 1992 were also added to it, due to which the judgment came in 1994.

60. Answer: b

Only three

Body	Nature	Basis
National Commission for Scheduled Castes	Constitutional	Article 338 (separate commission since the 89th Amendment, 2003)
National Commission for Backward Classes	Constitutional	Article 338B (102nd Amendment, 2018)

National Human Rights Commission	Statutory	Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993
NITI Aayog	Executive	Resolution of the Union Cabinet (1 January 2015)
GST Council	Constitutional	Article 279A (101st Amendment, 2016)

Therefore three bodies are constitutional: 1, 2 and 5.

Examiner's view: The National Commission for Backward Classes was created in 1993 as a statutory body, and got constitutional status in 2018. Students relying on old information consider it statutory. Similarly, many students think of the GST Council as just an administrative forum, whereas it is a body established in the Constitution. NITI Aayog is neither constitutional nor statutory; it is a purely executive body, like the Planning Commission before it.

61. Answer: a

Only 1

Statement 1 is correct. According to Article 324(5), the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed, like a Supreme Court judge, only on the basis of a resolution passed by a special majority in both Houses of Parliament. Other Election Commissioners cannot be removed except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner. This protection is to save them from executive pressure.

In this context, also note that other Election Commissioners have not been given the same protection as the Chief Election Commissioner, which scholars consider a structural weakness. On the matter of appointment, in the Anoop Baranwal case (2023), the Supreme Court had suggested a committee of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Justice. After this, Parliament passed the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, in which a Union Minister nominated by the Prime Minister was placed in the committee in place of the Chief Justice.

Statement 2 is incorrect. According to Article 148(4), the Comptroller and Auditor General cannot hold any office

under the Government of India or any State Government after retirement or leaving office. The purpose is that while in office he does not go soft on the government in the hope of some future benefit. The term of the CAG is 6 years or up to the age of 65 years (whichever is earlier).

Other offices with a similar restriction:

Office	Restriction after retirement
Comptroller and Auditor General	No office under the Central or State Government
Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission	No office under the Central or State Government
Judges of the Supreme Court	No practice in any court in India

62. Answer: d

1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial constitutional body, consisting of a chairman and four members. It recommends the distribution of taxes between the Centre and the States (vertical devolution) and their distribution among the States (horizontal devolution). Its recommendations are advisory, not binding. The 16th Finance Commission was constituted in December 2023 under the chairmanship of Arvind Panagariya.

Statement 2 is correct. According to Article 317, for removal on the ground of 'misbehaviour', the President refers the matter to the Supreme Court. If the court, after inquiry, advises removal, the President can remove, and this advice is binding on the President. In contrast, on the grounds of insolvency, engaging in any paid employment outside the duties of the office, or mental/physical infirmity, the President can remove even without an inquiry by the Supreme Court.

Statement 3 is correct. This is the most important concept of this question. According to Article 316, the Chairman and members of a State Public Service Commission are appointed by the Governor. But according to Article 317, the power to remove them lies only with the President, not the Governor. The Governor can only suspend them while the inquiry is pending.

Examiner's view: The general notion that "the appointing authority removes" does not apply to the State Public Service Commission. This provision has been made to protect the Commission from the political pressure of the State Government. Special for UPPCS: The same provisions apply to the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (Prayagraj).

63. Answer: c

Only 1, 3 and 4

Statement 1 is correct. The 73rd Amendment (1992) added Part IX (Articles 243 to 243-O) and the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects). It came into force on 24 April 1993, which is why 24 April is celebrated as 'National Panchayati Raj Day'. The 74th Amendment added Part IX-A and the Twelfth Schedule (18 subjects) for Municipalities.

Statement 2 is incorrect. According to Article 243K, the State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor, not by the Election Commission of India. The State Election Commission is an institution completely independent of the Election Commission of India. The State Election Commissioner can be removed only in the same manner as a High Court judge.

Statement 3 is correct. According to Article 243-I, the Governor constitutes a State Finance Commission every five years. It recommends the distribution of taxes, duties and grants between the State and the Panchayats. The same Commission also reviews the financial position of Municipalities under Article 243Y.

Statement 4 is correct. According to Article 243F, the minimum age for contesting Panchayat elections is 21 years, whereas the voting age is 18 years.

Compulsory and voluntary provisions of the 73rd Amendment:

Compulsory	Voluntary (depends on the State)
Three-tier system (in States with a population above 20 lakh)	Reservation for backward classes
Constitution of Gram Sabha	Power of Panchayats to levy taxes
Reservation for SC/ST	Representation of MPs and MLAs in Panchayats

At least one-third reservation for women	Devolution of Eleventh Schedule subjects
5-year term; elections within 6 months of dissolution	
State Election Commission and State Finance Commission	

Examiner's view: Statement 2 is the most dangerous, because on hearing the words "Election Commission", students assume that the Election Commission of India must be connected with Panchayat elections. The entire system of local bodies is at the State level, so the appointment is also made by the Governor.

64. Answer: b

Mizoram

Excluded area	Reason
States of Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram	Traditional tribal self-government institutions
Scheduled Areas of the Fifth Schedule	Special arrangement for tribal areas
Tribal areas of the Sixth Schedule	Autonomous District Councils
Hill areas of Manipur where District Councils exist	Local councils already exist
Areas of Darjeeling in West Bengal where the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists	Special council already exists

Therefore Part IX does not apply to Mizoram.

Why the other options are wrong:

(a) Tripura: Part IX applies to the State of Tripura. Only its Sixth Schedule areas (Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council) are excluded from it. This difference between the whole State and some of its areas is what makes this option a trap.

(c) Arunachal Pradesh: It is a tribal-majority State, so students assume Part IX will not apply here. In reality, it is not in the Sixth Schedule, and the Panchayati Raj system is in force here.

(d) Sikkim: Part IX applies here too, and the State has its own Panchayati Raj Act.

Special provision for Fifth Schedule areas: To extend Panchayati Raj to Scheduled Areas, Parliament passed the PESA Act, 1996. It was made on the recommendation of the Bhuria Committee, and it gave the Gram Sabha extensive rights over minor forest produce, minor minerals and local resources.

65. Answer: c

Only two

Statement 1 is correct. Mature RBCs of mammals expel their nucleus during maturation. This makes the cell biconcave in shape, which has two benefits: more space for haemoglobin, and a larger surface area for the exchange of gases. This flexibility also helps them pass through tiny capillaries.

Statement 2 is correct. This is the deepest concept of this question. The job of RBCs is to carry oxygen. If they had mitochondria, they would themselves consume part of the oxygen being carried. Therefore they produce energy only through glycolysis (the anaerobic pathway), which gives only 2 ATP per glucose molecule.

This is a beautiful "design trade-off" of nature: less energy, but full transport of oxygen.

Statement 3 is incorrect. In adults, RBCs are formed (erythropoiesis) in the red bone marrow. In the embryonic stage, formation takes place successively in the yolk sac, liver and spleen. This is the fact that confuses students.

Additional facts: The lifespan of an RBC is about 120 days. Old RBCs are destroyed mainly in the spleen, so the spleen is called the 'graveyard of RBCs'. The formation of RBCs is controlled by the hormone erythropoietin secreted by the kidney. This is also connected with question 2.

66. Answer: a

3 2 1 4

Melatonin (Pineal gland): It regulates the daily sleep-wake cycle (circadian rhythm). Its secretion increases in darkness and decreases in light. The effect of the blue light of mobile screens at night on sleep is believed to be linked to the suppression of this hormone.

Calcitonin (Thyroid): It is secreted by the parafollicular (C) cells of the thyroid and lowers the level of calcium in the blood. The opposite function is performed by

parathormone of the parathyroid gland, which raises blood calcium. Together they maintain calcium balance. Because of the thyroid's famous hormone thyroxine, students forget calcitonin.

Erythropoietin (Kidney): When there is a shortage of oxygen in the body, the kidneys secrete it, which increases the formation of RBCs in the bone marrow. That is why patients with chronic kidney disease often have anaemia. It is also used illegally by athletes (EPO doping). Most students consider the kidney only an excretory organ, so this pair is difficult.

Aldosterone (Adrenal cortex): It increases the reabsorption of sodium and the excretion of potassium in the kidney, which maintains the balance of water and blood pressure.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a) and (c). Knowing B = 2 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing C = 1 leaves (a), (b) and (d). Knowing D = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (c).

67. Answer: d

Only 2 and 3

Statement 1 is incorrect. Antibiotics attack the cell wall, protein synthesis or metabolism of bacteria. Viruses do not have these structures at all, because a virus reproduces inside the host cell. Therefore antibiotics have no effect on viral infections. Their unnecessary use in viral diseases worsens the problem of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which the World Health Organization considers a global threat.

Statement 2 is correct. An mRNA vaccine gives the cell an "instruction" to make a harmless protein of the virus (like the spike protein of the coronavirus). The immune system recognises this protein and makes antibodies. This mRNA works only in the cytoplasm, does not enter the nucleus, and is destroyed after some time. Therefore it does not change DNA. Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman received the 2023 Nobel Prize in Medicine for the research that formed the basis of mRNA vaccines.

Statement 3 is correct.

Type	Who makes the antibodies	Example	Duration

Active immunity	The body itself	After infection, vaccination	Long-term
Passive immunity	Ready-made antibodies received from outside	Colostrum, through the placenta, anti-venom, anti-tetanus serum	Short-term

Colostrum contains especially IgA antibodies, which protect the newborn from early infections.

68. Answer: b

Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

A is true and R is also true. But R is not the explanation of A, and this is the real concept of this question.

In a blood transfusion, the decisive point is which antigens are on the surface of the donor's RBCs. If the donor's RBCs have an antigen against which the recipient's plasma has antibodies, the RBCs will agglutinate (clump).

The RBCs of O- blood have neither the A antigen, nor the B antigen, nor the Rh (D) antigen. Therefore no antibody in the recipient's plasma attacks them. This is the real reason why O- is the universal donor.

The point stated in R (anti-A and anti-B antibodies in O plasma) is true, but it is not the reason for being a donor.

On the contrary, this fact makes O the most restricted recipient: an O person can receive only O blood.

Blood group	Antigen on RBC	Antibody in plasma	Feature
A	A	Anti-B	—
B	B	Anti-A	—
AB	A and B	None	Universal recipient (AB+)
O	None	Anti-A and anti-B	Universal donor (O-)

Examiner's view: This question is difficult because R seems connected to A and "scientific". Students who only memorise choose (a). Those who understand the difference between the donor's RBCs and the recipient's plasma reach (b).

Additional facts: The ABO blood group was discovered by Karl Landsteiner in 1900–01. The Bombay blood group (hh) was discovered in Mumbai in 1952 by Dr. Y.M.

Bhende. In it, even the H antigen is absent on the RBCs, so such a person cannot receive even O blood.

69. Answer: a

Bile juice contains no digestive enzyme, yet it helps in the digestion of fats.

(a) is correct. Bile juice is made in the liver and stored in the gall bladder. It contains no enzyme, but its bile salts break large fat droplets into tiny droplets. This is called emulsification. This is the same chemical principle by which soap removes oil stains. The total surface area of the small droplets increases, which allows the enzyme lipase to digest fat quickly. Bile juice is also alkaline, which helps neutralise the acidic food coming from the stomach.

(b) is incorrect. The pH of saliva is about 6.8, i.e., nearly neutral. pH 2 is that of gastric juice. The enzyme ptyalin (salivary amylase) present in saliva converts starch into maltose.

(c) is incorrect. Pepsin digests protein and is most active in a highly acidic medium (pH about 2). It is secreted as inactive pepsinogen, and the HCl of the stomach converts it into active pepsin.

(d) is incorrect. Trypsin is secreted by the pancreas as inactive trypsinogen. In the small intestine (duodenum), the enzyme enterokinase converts it into active trypsin.

Concept: Why are both the protein-digesting enzymes pepsin and trypsin secreted in inactive form? Because if they were made in active form, they would digest the proteins of the very cells in which they are made. This is the body's self-protection mechanism.

70. Answer: d

2143

Blue colour of the sky (Scattering): Molecules of the atmosphere scatter light. According to Rayleigh's law, scattering is inversely proportional to the fourth power of the wavelength. Blue light has a short wavelength, so it is scattered much more than red light. At sunrise and sunset, light travels a long distance through the atmosphere, blue light is scattered away on the way and mainly red-orange light reaches us. Astronauts see the sky as black, because there is no atmosphere there to scatter light.

Sparkling of diamond (Total internal reflection): The refractive index of diamond is about 2.42, which is very high. Because of this its critical angle is only about 24°. Most of the light entering a diamond undergoes total internal reflection repeatedly and comes out only from some particular faces. Diamonds are cut in such a way that this effect is maximised.

Twinkling of stars (Atmospheric refraction): The temperature and density of the layers of the atmosphere keep changing, so their refractive index also changes. Stars are very far away and are like point sources, so even a slight change in their light path makes their brightness appear to fluctuate. Planets do not twinkle, because they are relatively close and behave like extended sources.

Colours in soap bubbles (Interference): Light waves reflected from the upper and lower surfaces of the thin film of a bubble combine and reinforce some colours and weaken others. The colours seen in a thin film of oil on water are also due to this.

Examiner's view: A mirage is also an example of total internal reflection (and gradual refraction). That is why mirage has not been placed in List-I, so that two phenomena are not linked to the same principle. This is the first condition of a good matching question.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

71. Answer: c

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The formula for orbital speed is $v = \sqrt{GM/r}$, where M is the mass of the Earth and r is the radius of the orbit. The mass of the satellite does not appear in this formula at all. This means that in the same orbit, a small satellite and a huge space station will move at the same speed. Orbital speed depends only on height: as height increases, speed decreases.

Statement 2 is incorrect. A geostationary satellite certainly has a period of 24 hours, but it revolves in an equatorial orbit, in the direction of the Earth's rotation (west to east), at a height of about 35,786 km. Only then does it appear stationary from the Earth. A satellite revolving in a polar orbit can never appear stationary.

Orbit	Height	Use
Geostationary (equatorial)	About 35,786 km	Communication, broadcasting, weather (INSAT, GSAT)
Sun-synchronous polar	About 600–800 km	Remote sensing, mapping (IRS, Cartosat)
Low Earth orbit	Less than 2,000 km	Space stations, internet satellite constellations

Satellites for the geostationary orbit are launched by GSLV and those for the polar orbit mainly by PSLV. This pairing is asked repeatedly in space technology questions.

Statement 3 is correct. The formula for escape velocity is $v_e = \sqrt{2GM/R}$. This too does not contain the mass of the object. Near the Earth's surface, the escape velocity is $\sqrt{2}$ times the orbital velocity ($11.2 \approx \sqrt{2} \times 7.9$). The escape velocity of the Moon is only about 2.38 km/s. This is why the Moon could not retain its atmosphere, because the thermal speed of gas molecules there reaches the escape velocity.

72. Answer: b

2-4-3-1

Discovery	Scientist	Year	Experiment
Radioactivity	Henri Becquerel	1896	Photographic plate affected by uranium salts
Electron	J.J. Thomson	1897	Cathode ray tube
Proton	Ernest Rutherford	1917–1919	Bombardment of nitrogen with alpha particles
Neutron	James Chadwick	1932	Bombardment of beryllium with alpha particles

Therefore the correct order is 2-4-3-1.

Examiner's view: Option (a) is the biggest trap. Students assume that the first particle of the atom (the electron) must have been discovered first, but radioactivity had been discovered a year before it. The second trap is the date of the proton. In 1886, Goldstein discovered 'canal rays' (positive rays), which some books link with the discovery of the proton. But the proton was identified

as a fundamental particle by Rutherford, and he also gave the name 'proton' in 1920.

Concept: Why was the neutron discovered last? Because it has no charge. Electric or magnetic fields cannot deflect it, so it was the most difficult to detect. This very absence of charge makes it the most effective at penetrating the atomic nucleus, and this later led to the discovery of nuclear fission (1938). This is also connected with question 16.

73. Answer: a

Only 1

Statement 1 is correct. Mass is the quantity of matter, which remains the same everywhere. Weight is the force with which a planet pulls a body towards itself ($W = mg$). The gravitational acceleration of the Moon is about $1/6$ that of the Earth, so the weight also becomes about $1/6$. Mass is measured with a balance and weight with a spring balance. Therefore on the Moon, a balance will give the same reading, but a spring balance a lower one.

Statement 2 is incorrect. In a freely falling lift, a person's apparent weight becomes zero, not double.

State of the lift	Apparent weight
At rest or moving with uniform velocity	$W = mg$ (normal)
Going up with acceleration a	$W = m(g + a)$, weight increases
Going down with acceleration a	$W = m(g - a)$, weight decreases
Falling freely ($a = g$)	$W = 0$, weightlessness

Concept: Astronauts in a space station are not weightless because there is no gravity there. At a height of about 400 km, gravitational acceleration is about 90% of that at the Earth's surface. Astronauts feel weightless because the entire station and the astronauts in it are continuously "falling" towards the Earth, i.e., they are in free fall. The same principle applies to a freely falling lift.

74. Answer: c

A is true, but R is false

A is true. In near-sightedness (myopia), a person can see nearby objects clearly, but distant objects appear blurred.

R is false, and it contains two errors. First, in this defect the image is formed in front of the retina, not behind it. Second, it is corrected with a concave (diverging) lens, not a convex lens. The concave lens spreads the light rays slightly, so that after passing through the eye lens they meet exactly on the retina.

Defect	Where the image is formed	Reason	Correction
Near-sightedness (Myopia)	In front of the retina	Elongated eyeball or excessive converging power of the lens	Concave lens
Far-sightedness (Hypermetropia)	Behind the retina	Shortened eyeball or low converging power of the lens	Convex lens
Presbyopia	Both types of problem	Decrease in accommodation power with age	Bifocal lens
Astigmatism	Different focus in different directions	Uneven curvature of the cornea	Cylindrical lens

Examiner's view: All the information given in R actually belongs to far-sightedness. The question deliberately swaps the features of the two defects. This is a test of combined knowledge of biology (structure of the eye) and physics (optics of lenses).

75. Answer: d

2413

Plaster of Paris ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$): It is formed by heating gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$) at about 373 K (100°C). On adding water, it changes back into gypsum and becomes hard. That is why it is used for setting broken bones, making

statues and for decoration. It has to be kept in a moisture-proof container, otherwise it slowly hardens due to atmospheric moisture.

Baking soda (NaHCO_3): On heating, it releases CO_2 gas, which makes cakes and bread rise. It is mildly alkaline, so it is also used in medicines that reduce stomach acidity. Baking powder contains a mild acid like tartaric acid along with baking soda.

Washing soda ($\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$): It is used for removing permanent hardness of water and in the glass, soap and paper industries.

Bleaching powder (CaOCl_2): It is made by passing chlorine gas over dry slaked lime $[\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2]$. It is used for disinfecting drinking water and bleaching clothes.

Examiner's view: Plaster of Paris and gypsum differ only in the number of water molecules ($\frac{1}{2}$ and 2). Similarly, baking soda and washing soda are both compounds of sodium. Option (c) has been made by reversing these two pairs.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing B = 4 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing C = 1 leaves (c) and (d). D is '3' in every option, so it does not help.

76. Answer: b

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. In the stratosphere, ultraviolet radiation breaks CFC molecules and releases chlorine atoms. These atoms act like a catalyst: one chlorine atom breaks one ozone molecule and then, being freed itself, attacks the next molecule. In this way a single chlorine atom can destroy thousands of ozone molecules. The ozone hole is largest over Antarctica, because the polar stratospheric clouds there speed up these reactions.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) are mainly responsible for acid rain. They combine with rainwater to form sulphuric and nitric acids. When the pH of rainwater is less than 5.6, it is called acid rain. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas which binds with haemoglobin about 200 times more strongly than oxygen. It is fatal to health, but it is not the main cause of acid rain.

Special for UPPCS: The yellowing and corrosion of the marble of the Taj Mahal, called 'marble cancer', was

considered to be linked with acid rain. In this context, concern was raised about emissions from the Mathura oil refinery, and in the M.C. Mehta case the Supreme Court imposed restrictions on polluting industries in the 'Taj Trapezium Zone'.

Statement 3 is correct. This statement is the most subtle. After the Montreal Protocol (1987), the use of HFCs increased as a substitute for CFCs. HFCs do not harm the ozone layer, but they are extremely powerful greenhouse gases. Therefore the amendment made in 2016 at Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, set the target of phasing down HFCs. In this way an ozone-protection treaty was used to fight climate change. This is the best example of the interrelation of chemistry, environment and international agreements.

77. Answer: c

3-2-4-1

Mission	Launch	Main achievement
Chandrayaan-1	22 October 2008	Important contribution to the discovery of evidence of water molecules on the Moon
Mangalyaan	5 November 2013	Entered Mars orbit on 24 September 2014; the first country and the first Asian country to succeed in the very first attempt
Chandrayaan-3	14 July 2023	Successful soft landing near the south pole of the Moon on 23 August 2023
Aditya-L1	2 September 2023	Placed in a halo orbit around the L1 point on 6 January 2024; India's first solar mission

Therefore the correct order is 3-2-4-1.

Examiner's view: The first two positions are easily fixed. The real test is between Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1, because both were launched in 2023 only seven weeks apart. Option (d) has been made by reversing these two. **Additional facts:** The date of Chandrayaan-3's landing, 23 August, was declared 'National Space Day' in India,

and the landing site was named 'Shiv Shakti Point'. The lander of Chandrayaan-2 (2019) crashed in the final phase, but its orbiter continued to work successfully.

78. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. CRISPR-Cas9 is called "molecular scissors". In it, a guide RNA takes the Cas9 enzyme exactly to the place in the DNA where the change is to be made, and Cas9 cuts the DNA there. This technique is actually based on the natural immune system of bacteria, by which they recognise and cut the DNA of viruses. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna received the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this. Students often mistake it for the Nobel in Medicine.

Statement 2 is correct. The Cry gene of the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* has been inserted into Bt cotton, which produces the Cry protein. This protein remains in inactive form in the plant. When an insect like the bollworm eats it, it becomes active in the alkaline environment of the insect's gut and destroys the gut cells. The human stomach is acidic, so this protein does not affect humans in this way. Here too the pH concept, as in question 5, is at work. Bt cotton was approved in 2002 and it is the only GM crop grown commercially in India, and it is not a food crop.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Bt brinjal was approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in 2009, but in 2010 the Central Government imposed an indefinite moratorium on it. GM mustard (DMH-11) got permission for environmental release in 2022, but since the matter is pending in the Supreme Court, its full commercial cultivation has not yet been established.

Difference between GM and genome-edited crops: In a GM crop, a gene of another organism is inserted, as a bacterial gene in Bt cotton. In a genome-edited crop, precise changes are made in the plant's own genes, and no foreign gene is inserted. In India, some categories (SDN-1 and SDN-2) of genome-edited crops have been exempted from GM rules. In May 2025, India released two varieties of rice developed through genome editing. Do check the latest status of this topic before the exam.

79. Answer: d

2134

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging): It sends laser pulses, measures the time of their return and calculates distance from it. Millions of pulses create an accurate 3D map of an area. It is used in autonomous vehicles, forest surveys, archaeology (discovering ancient cities hidden under dense forests) and disaster management. It works on the same principle as radar, but uses light instead of radio waves.

Li-Fi (Light Fidelity): It varies the intensity of LED light so fast that the human eye cannot catch it, but a sensor reads it as data. Its concept was given by Harald Haas in 2011. It is useful in places like hospitals and aircraft, where radio waves can interfere with equipment. Its limitation is that light cannot pass through walls.

Blockchain: In it, the record of every transaction is in a "block", and every block is cryptographically linked to the previous block. This record is kept not on one central server, but simultaneously on thousands of computers of the network. Therefore changing any old record is almost impossible. Cryptocurrency is its most famous use, but it is also used for land records, supply chains and verification of certificates.

Quantum Key Distribution (QKD): It is based on the principle of quantum mechanics that measuring a quantum state changes it. Therefore if a third person tries to secretly read the key, his presence is immediately detected. India approved the National Quantum Mission in 2023, in which quantum communication is also a key area.

Examiner's view: LiDAR and Li-Fi are both based on light and both names start with "Li". Option (a) has been made by reversing these two.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (b), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 3 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing D = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

80. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. The function of a moderator is to reduce the speed of neutrons, not increase it. Neutrons released from fission are very fast, and a uranium-235 nucleus cannot easily capture a fast neutron. With slow (thermal) neutrons the probability of fission increases greatly. Therefore the neutrons are

slowed down by passing them through a moderator like heavy water, graphite or ordinary water.

It is necessary to understand the difference between the three main components of a reactor:

Component	Function	Example
Moderator	Slowing down neutrons	Heavy water, graphite
Control rods	Absorbing excess neutrons to control the rate of reaction	Boron, cadmium
Coolant	Carrying the heat of the reactor out	Water, heavy water, liquid sodium

Statement 2 is correct. Seeing India's limited uranium and huge thorium reserves, Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha designed the three-stage programme:

Stage	Reactor	Fuel	Product
First	Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR)	Natural uranium	Plutonium-239
Second	Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR)	Plutonium-239	More plutonium and uranium-233
Third	Thorium-based reactor	Thorium-232 and uranium-233	—

Thorium itself is not fissile. It captures a neutron and changes into uranium-233, which is fissile. India's thorium reserves are mainly in the coastal monazite sands of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Odisha. For the second stage, the process of fuel loading (core loading) began in March 2024 in the 500 MW Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu).

Concept: The second stage is called a fast breeder reactor because it has no moderator and uses fast neutrons themselves. 'Breeder' means that it produces more fissile fuel than it consumes. This is the subtle connection of this question with statement 1: not every reactor has a moderator.

81. Answer: a

It is the point between the Earth and the Sun where the gravitational pull of both and the orbital motion are balanced, and it is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.

(a) is correct. Lagrange points are the five positions in a system of two large bodies (like the Sun and the Earth) where a small body can stay in a nearly fixed position relative to both. L1 is on the line joining the Earth and the Sun, about 1.5 million km from the Earth. This is only about 1% of the Earth-Sun distance.

Normally, a body orbiting closer to the Sun moves faster than the Earth. But at L1 the Earth's gravity slightly reduces the Sun's pull, so a satellite located there orbits the Sun at exactly the Earth's pace, i.e., in one year. Because of this it always stays between the Earth and the Sun.

(b) is incorrect. L1 is between the Earth and the Sun, so the Earth's shadow never falls there. Uninterrupted and continuous observation of the Sun is possible from here. This is the biggest advantage of this point, and that is why Aditya-L1 was sent here. The NASA-European Space Agency's SOHO spacecraft is also at L1. (c) is incorrect. The Earth-Moon system also has its own Lagrange points, but the L1 useful for studying the Sun belongs to the Sun-Earth system. The Moon is about 3.84 lakh km from the Earth, whereas the Sun-Earth L1 is about 15 lakh km away.

(d) is incorrect. The James Webb Space Telescope is at the L2 point, which is behind the Earth, in the direction opposite to the Sun, about 1.5 million km away. There the Sun, Earth and Moon all remain in the same direction, so the telescope can block their heat and light together with its shield. It is essential for an infrared telescope to stay extremely cold.

Concept: L1 is ideal for watching the Sun, while L2 is for avoiding the Sun and viewing the distant universe. Of the five Lagrange points, L4 and L5 are stable, while L1, L2 and L3 are unstable. Therefore at L1 a satellite is placed not exactly at the point but in a halo orbit around it, and its position has to be corrected from time to time.

82. Answer: c

Only 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The aim of Gaganyaan is to send Indian astronauts to a low Earth orbit of about 400 km and bring them back safely. Four Indian Air Force pilots

have been selected for this. Of these, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to go to the International Space Station under the Axiom-4 mission in June 2025. Uncrewed test flights are to be conducted before the crewed flight; do check their latest status before the exam.

Statement 2 is correct. SpaDeX was launched in December 2024 by PSLV-C60, and its two satellites were successfully docked in January 2025. After the USA, Russia and China, India became the fourth country to acquire this capability. This technology is necessary for the future Indian space station, missions to bring back samples from the Moon and servicing of satellites in space.

Statement 3 is correct. NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) was launched by GSLV in July 2025. Its L-band radar was built by NASA and the S-band radar by ISRO. It is the first such dual-frequency Earth observation satellite.

Here a physics concept comes in. A synthetic aperture radar itself sends microwaves and reads their reflection. Therefore it does not depend on light and can see both day and night, even through clouds. L-band has a long wavelength, so it penetrates deeper into dense forests and soil. S-band has a short wavelength, which is better for fine surface details and the study of crops. Together they monitor earthquakes, landslides, glaciers and crops.

Statement 4 is incorrect. 5G works on three types of frequency bands:

Band	Frequency	Feature
Low band	Less than 1 GHz	Wide area coverage, low speed
Mid band	1–6 GHz (in India mainly 3.3–3.6 GHz)	Balance of speed and coverage
Millimetre-wave (high band)	More than 24 GHz (26 GHz in India)	Very high speed, but very short range and difficulty in penetrating walls

Here too the same physics principle applies as in statement 3: the higher the frequency (the shorter the wavelength), the greater the data capacity, but the lower the

penetration and range. 5G services started in India in October 2022.

83. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. Elasticity of demand greater than one means that a small change in price causes a proportionately larger change in demand. In such a situation, reducing the price increases sales so much that total revenue increases.

Elasticity of demand	Total revenue on reducing price	Example
Greater than one (elastic)	Increases	Luxury goods, branded clothes
Equal to one	Unchanged	—
Less than one (inelastic)	Decreases	Salt, life-saving drugs, petrol

Practical use of the concept: For more tax revenue, the government usually imposes high taxes on goods whose demand is inelastic, such as petrol, tobacco and liquor. Even when prices rise, their demand does not fall much, so tax collection is maintained. This is why petroleum products are a major source of revenue for both the Centre and the States (see question 12).

Statement 2 is correct. A Giffen good is an exception to the law of demand. The concept is named after Robert Giffen, who observed that in 19th-century Britain, poor families bought more bread even when its price rose. The reason was that as bread became costlier, their real income fell so much that they gave up costlier items like meat and depended even more on bread.

Technically, in a Giffen good the negative income effect is greater than the substitution effect. A negative income effect occurs only in inferior goods, so every Giffen good is an inferior good. But the reverse is not true: not every inferior good is a Giffen good.

Examiner's view: Giffen goods are often confused with Veblen goods. Veblen goods are luxury goods, like diamonds or expensive watches, whose demand increases with price because of prestige. Both are exceptions to the law of demand, but the reasons are exactly opposite: one due to poverty, the other due to show-off.

84. Answer: d

Perfect competition: In it, innumerable sellers sell an identical (homogeneous) good, and no single seller can influence the price. The price is determined by market demand and supply, and the firm accepts it. Perfect competition is hardly found in real life; a grain market or the stock market are its closest examples.

Monopoly: In it there is only one seller and there is no close substitute for his product. He is a price maker. Indian Railways passenger services are an example.

Oligopoly: In it, a few large firms dominate the market, and the decision of every firm affects the other firms. India's telecom and cement industries are examples. The concept of the kinked demand curve in it was given by Paul Sweezy. Its logic is that if one firm raises its price, other firms do not, and it loses customers; if it lowers its price, others also lower theirs and it gains nothing. Therefore prices remain stable for a long time in an oligopoly.

Monopolistic competition: Its concept was given by Edward Chamberlin. In it there are many sellers, but each one's product is slightly different on the basis of brand, packaging or quality, such as toothpaste, soap and shampoo. That is why there is heavy expenditure on advertising (selling costs) in it, which does not happen in perfect competition.

Examiner's view: Reversing oligopoly and monopolistic competition is the most common mistake. Option (c) is based on this. The formula for identification is: if sellers are "few", it is oligopoly; if "many" but with different brands, it is monopolistic competition.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 2 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

85. Answer: a

Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. A is true and R is its correct explanation. Suppose an economy produces wheat and cloth. Initially, when wheat production is increased, the resources withdrawn from cloth production are those most suitable for wheat and least suitable for cloth. So a lot of wheat is gained by giving up a little cloth. But as wheat production is increased further, resources more

efficient at making cloth also have to be put into wheat. Now more cloth has to be given up than before for one extra unit of wheat.

That is, the marginal opportunity cost keeps rising, and this rising cost makes the curve bulge outward (concave to the origin). The basic reason is that not all resources are equally efficient in producing every good.

Status	Meaning
Any point on the curve	Full and efficient use of resources
Any point inside the curve	Unemployment or inefficient use of resources
Any point outside the curve	Unattainable with present resources
Outward shift of the curve	Economic growth, new technology or increase in resources
Curve being a straight line	Constant opportunity cost (all resources equally efficient in both goods)

Examiner's view: In Assertion-Reason questions, students assume that the correct answer is rarely (a), and in search of some flaw they choose (b). Here R is actually the complete scientific reason for A. Trust the concept rather than guesswork.

86. Answer: c

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. Banks keep the CRR amount with the RBI in cash. The RBI pays no interest on it, so for banks it is an "idle" amount. When CRR is raised, banks have less money left to lend and the money supply in the market falls.

Statement 2 is incorrect. This is the main trap of this question. Under SLR, banks keep the assets with themselves, not with the RBI. These assets are in liquid form: cash, gold and government securities. The provision for SLR is in Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, while the provision for CRR is in Section 42 of the RBI Act, 1934.

Basis	CRR	SLR
Where it is kept	With the RBI	With the bank itself

In what form	Only cash	Cash, gold, government securities
Interest	Not received	Received on securities
Legal basis	RBI Act, 1934	Banking Regulation Act, 1949

Statement 3 is correct. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI gives short-term loans to banks. When the repo rate rises, borrowing from the RBI becomes costlier for banks, which they pass on to customers in the form of higher interest rates. This reduces the demand for loans, lowers liquidity in the market and controls inflation. That is why the RBI usually raises the repo rate when inflation rises. This is where the topics of banking and inflation connect (see question 10).

Framework of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF): In April 2022, the RBI introduced the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF), which is now the lower limit of this framework. Its upper limit is the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate, and the repo rate lies between the two. The special feature of the SDF is that the RBI does not need to give securities in return for taking money from banks.

87. Answer: a

2-1-4-3

Event	Year	Background
Nationalisation of RBI	1 January 1949	The RBI was established on 1 April 1935 on the recommendation of the Hilton Young Commission as a bank with private shareholders
State Bank of India	1 July 1955	By nationalising the Imperial Bank on the recommendation of the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee (A.D. Gorwala)
Regional Rural Banks	2 October 1975	On the recommendation of the Narasimham Working Group; legal basis the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976

NABARD	12 July 1982	On the recommendation of the Sivaraman Committee (CRAFICARD)
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Therefore the correct order is 2-1-4-3.

Examiner's view: Option (c) is the biggest trap, in which NABARD has been placed before Regional Rural Banks. Students assume that the institution supervising rural banks must have been created first. But the order is the reverse: Regional Rural Banks were created in 1975, and later in 1982 NABARD was created, which was given the responsibility of supervising Regional Rural Banks and cooperative banks.

Additional facts: The first major nationalisation of commercial banks took place on 19 July 1969 (14 banks) and the second in April 1980 (6 banks). The ownership of Regional Rural Banks is shared between the Central Government, the State Government concerned and the sponsor bank in the ratio 50:15:35. In 2025, they were consolidated on a large scale under the policy of "One State, One Regional Rural Bank".

88. Answer: d

Only 1, 2 and 4

Statement 1 is correct. According to the RBI's Income Recognition and Asset Classification (IRAC) norms, a loan overdue for more than 90 days is an NPA. NPAs are further divided into three categories:

Category	Duration
Substandard asset	NPA for up to 12 months
Doubtful asset	NPA for more than 12 months
Loss asset	Recovery considered impossible

Statement 2 is correct. The IBC provided for time-bound resolution of insolvency cases of companies. It gave 180 days for the resolution process and an extension of 90 days if necessary, which was later capped at a maximum of 330 days including litigation. Company cases go to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), and the regulator is the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Statement 3 is incorrect. The concept of Payments Banks came from the recommendation of the Nachiket Mor Committee. Their aim is financial inclusion, i.e., providing deposit and payment facilities to people in remote areas. They can accept deposits (up to a limit

per customer), issue debit cards and make remittances. But they cannot give loans and cannot issue credit cards. This restriction is there because their entire business model has been kept risk-free.

Statement 4 is correct. Small Finance Banks provide full banking services: both accepting deposits and giving loans. Their targets are small businesses, marginal farmers and the unorganised sector, so high priority-sector lending targets apply to them.

Examiner's view: Payments Banks and Small Finance Banks both came at the same time (2014-15) for financial inclusion, so students mix up their powers. Remember the formula for the difference: a Payments Bank only "keeps and sends money", a Small Finance Bank "also lends money".

89. Answer: b

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. GDP is a "domestic" concept, i.e., its basis is the geographical boundary, not citizenship. The production of a foreign company's factory located in India will be counted in India's GDP. Only "final" goods are counted, to avoid double counting. For example, flour used in making bread is an intermediate good, so only the value of bread is counted.

Statement 2 is correct. GNP is a "national" concept, whose basis is citizenship.

$GNP = GDP + \text{Net factor income from abroad}$

$\text{Net factor income from abroad} = \text{Income earned by Indians abroad} - \text{Income earned by foreigners in India}$

In India this amount is usually negative, because the profits, interest and royalties that foreign companies take out of India are more than the factor income earned by Indians abroad. Therefore India's GNP (Gross National Income) remains slightly less than its GDP.

A subtle point: Money sent home by Indians working abroad (remittances) is mostly treated as "current transfers", not factor income. Therefore, despite India being the world's largest recipient of remittances, its net factor income remains negative.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Its first part is correct: $GDP = GVA + \text{product taxes} - \text{product subsidies}$. But the second part is incorrect. GVA would always be greater than GDP only if subsidies were greater than taxes. In India,

product taxes are usually greater than subsidies, so GDP normally remains greater than GVA. The word "always" makes this statement incorrect.

Importance of GVA: GVA measures the economy from the producers' point of view and shows sector-wise (agriculture, industry, services) growth. GDP measures from the point of view of consumers and demand. India adopted the GVA method in 2015 (with base year 2011-12). The process of revising the base year of national accounts is under way, so do check the latest base year before the exam.

Office	Formula
Net Domestic Product (NDP)	$GDP - \text{Depreciation}$
Gross National Product (GNP)	$GDP + \text{Net factor income from abroad}$
Net National Product (NNP)	$GNP - \text{Depreciation}$
National income	NNP at factor cost

90. Answer: c

A is true, but R is false

A is true. Suppose in a year GDP at current prices grew by 10%, but prices also rose by 6% in the same year. Then real output has grown by only about 4%; the remaining 6% "growth" is only due to inflation. GDP at constant prices removes the effect of prices and shows only the real growth in the quantity of goods and services.

R is false. In calculating GDP at constant prices (real GDP), base-year prices are used, not current-year prices. Current-year prices are used in nominal GDP. R has swapped the definitions of the two.

Basis	Nominal GDP	Real GDP
Prices	Of the current year	Of the base year
Effect of inflation	Included	Removed
Use	Size of the economy, budget and deficit ratios	Real economic growth

GDP deflator: This is the bridge connecting the two.

$\text{GDP deflator} = (\text{Nominal GDP} \div \text{Real GDP}) \times 100$

It is the broadest measure of inflation, because it includes all goods and services of the economy, whereas WPI and CPI measure the prices of only a fixed basket. This is where the topics of national income and inflation connect.

Examiner's view: A practical point: in the budget, ratios like the fiscal deficit are stated as a percentage of nominal GDP, whereas news about "India's growth rate" is based on real GDP. Understanding this difference is useful in the Mains exam too.

91. Answer: d

4312

Stagflation: This word is made from "stagnation" and "inflation". According to general economic theory (the Phillips curve), there is an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment. In stagflation both are high at the same time, which is the most difficult situation for policy-makers. Its most famous example is the oil crisis of the 1970s.

Deflation: In it the general price level falls continuously, i.e., the rate of inflation is negative. It sounds good, but it is dangerous for the economy. People postpone purchases thinking prices will fall further, which reduces demand, reduces production and increases unemployment. Japan struggled with this problem for a long time from the 1990s.

Disinflation: This is the most subtle concept. In it prices do not fall; rather, the speed of their rise slows down. For example, if inflation falls from 7% to 4%, prices are still rising, but at a slower pace than before. In deflation the price level goes down, whereas in disinflation only the rate of increase goes down.

Core inflation: Food and fuel prices move up and down very rapidly due to weather, crops and international events. Inflation measured after removing them shows the long-term trend of prices in the economy better. Central banks pay special attention to it in policy decisions. Overall inflation including food and fuel is called headline inflation.

Examiner's view: The Hindi names of deflation and disinflation are similar, and so are the English names. Option (c) has been made by reversing these two.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 4 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 3 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 1 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 2 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

92. Answer: a

Only 1

Statement 1 is correct. In 2014, the Urjit Patel Committee recommended that the main objective of the RBI should be price stability and that CPI should be made the basis for it. In 2016, Section 45ZA was added by amending the RBI Act, under which the Central Government, in consultation with the RBI, fixes the inflation target for every five years. The first target was set at 4% ($\pm 2\%$), i.e., between 2% and 6%.

The same amendment created the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which has 6 members: 3 members of the RBI including the RBI Governor (chairperson), and 3 external members appointed by the Central Government. In case of a tie, the Governor has the casting vote. If inflation remains outside the tolerance band for three consecutive quarters, the RBI has to explain the reasons and corrective measures to the government in writing.

Why was CPI made the basis? Because the common man is affected by inflation through retail prices, not wholesale prices. CPI has a large weight of food items and services, which better reflects the expenditure of an ordinary family.

Statement 2 is incorrect. WPI includes only goods, not services. This is its biggest shortcoming, because the share of the services sector in India's GDP is more than half.

Basis	WPI	CPI
Level of prices	Wholesale	Retail
Services	Not included	Included
Issuing agency	Office of the Economic Adviser (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)	National Statistics Office (NSO)
Basis of RBI's target	No	Yes

Caution: The inflation target is reviewed every five years, and the process of revising the base years of CPI

and WPI is also under way. Check their latest status before the exam.

93. Answer: c

₹5 lakh crore

Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit – Interest payments = 16 – 11
= ₹5 lakh crore

What does the primary deficit indicate? The fiscal deficit tells how much the government had to borrow in total. But it also includes interest paid on past loans, which is the result not of the current government's decisions but of past borrowing. What remains after removing interest is the primary deficit. It tells how much the government had to borrow because of current policies.

In this question the primary deficit is ₹5 lakh crore. This means that about 70% of the government's total borrowing is going only into paying interest on old loans. This analytical understanding is expected in the Mains exam.

Formulas of major deficits:

Deficit	Formula
Revenue deficit	Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts
Effective revenue deficit	Revenue deficit – Grants for creation of capital assets
Fiscal deficit	Total expenditure – (Revenue receipts + Non-debt capital receipts)
Primary deficit	Fiscal deficit – Interest payments

Traps in the options: Option (a) is based on the mistake of adding instead of subtracting. Option (b) on the confusion of treating interest payments themselves as the primary deficit. Option (d) is for the student who believes a primary deficit exists only when there is no interest payment.

When is the primary deficit zero? When the fiscal deficit is exactly equal to interest payments. This means that the government is borrowing only to pay interest on old loans, and all its remaining expenditure is being met from its own income.

Related law: The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 was made to control deficits. In recent years, along with the annual fiscal deficit target, the government has moved towards

making the debt-GDP ratio the main anchor of fiscal policy.

94. Answer: b

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. A destination-based tax means that the tax goes to the state where the good or service is consumed, not where it is produced. In the old system, the Central Sales Tax went to the producing state, which benefited industrial states like Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu more. Under GST, large consumer states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar benefit more, because consumption is higher there.

GST came into force on 1 July 2017 on the basis of the 101st Constitutional Amendment. It has three components: CGST (Centre), SGST (State) and IGST (levied by the Centre on inter-state supplies and then shared with the destination state). The GST Council is a constitutional body under Article 279A (see Polity question 16).

Statement 2 is correct. According to the Constitution, these five petroleum products are in principle within the scope of GST, but the date from which GST will be levied on them is to be decided by the GST Council, which has not happened yet. Therefore the Centre's excise duty and the States' Value Added Tax (VAT) are still levied on them. The main reason is linked to question 1: the demand for petroleum is inelastic, so they are the biggest sources of revenue for both the Centre and the States, and the States do not want to give up their control over it.

In contrast, alcohol for human consumption has been permanently kept out of GST by the Constitution itself. The difference between these two categories is also asked in exams.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Income tax is a direct tax. The type of a tax is determined by who bears its burden.

Basis	Direct tax	Indirect tax
Burden	On the same person on whom the tax is levied	Can be shifted to others
Example	Income tax, corporation tax	GST, customs duty, excise duty

Nature	Generally progressive	Generally regressive (same rate on poor and rich)
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Statement 3 has applied the definition of an indirect tax to income tax.

Caution: In September 2025, a major rationalisation of GST rates took place, in which most goods were brought under two main rates. Also, the new Income-tax Act, 2025 was passed in place of the old Income Tax Act, 1961. Do check the latest status and provisions of both before the exam.

95. Answer: a

2143

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (2019): Under it, eligible farmer families are given income support of ₹6,000 per year in three instalments of ₹2,000 directly into their bank accounts. It is a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Centre. Its first instalment was released from Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh).

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (2014): Its aim is to connect every household with the banking system. It provides a zero-balance account, a RuPay debit card, accident insurance on it and an overdraft facility. This scheme is the basis of the 'JAM Trinity' of question 16.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (2015): Under it, collateral-free loans are given to non-farm micro enterprises:

Category	Loan amount
Shishu	Up to ₹50,000
Kishore	₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh
Tarun	₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh
Tarun Plus	₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh (for those who have successfully repaid a Tarun category loan)

The 'Tarun Plus' category was announced in the 2024-25 Budget. The full form of "MUDRA" is Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency.

Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (2023): It was launched on 17 September 2023 and is for artisans of 18 traditional trades like carpenters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, cobblers and barbers. It provides skill training, an incentive for a toolkit, loans at concessional interest and incentives for digital transactions.

Special for UPPCS: Uttar Pradesh's own 'Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana' (2018) has been running since before the Centre's Vishwakarma Yojana. Also, Uttar Pradesh's 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme is connected with traditional artisans and micro enterprises, so a comparative study of all these is useful.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 2 leaves (a) and (c). Knowing B = 1 leaves (a) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (d). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (c).

96. Answer: d

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. PM-JAY was launched in September 2018 from Ranchi (Jharkhand). It is for secondary and tertiary care, i.e., treatment requiring hospitalisation; general OPD treatment is not included. Beneficiaries were identified mainly from the data of the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011. It is completely cashless and paperless, and its benefit can be availed in empanelled hospitals across the country. It is run by the National Health Authority (NHA).

Ayushman Bharat has two pillars: PM-JAY (insurance cover), and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (formerly Health and Wellness Centres), which provide primary health services.

Statement 2 is correct. In October 2024, all senior citizens aged 70 years or above were included in the scheme without any income condition, and they are given the 'Ayushman Vay Vandana Card'. Senior citizens who are already part of an eligible family get a separate additional top-up cover of up to ₹5 lakh for themselves. **Statement 3** is incorrect. PM-JAY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, in which the Centre and the States share the expenditure:

Region	Centre : State
General States	60 : 40
North-Eastern and Himalayan States	90 : 10
Union Territories with legislature	60 : 40
Union Territories without legislature	100 : 0

Examiner's view: The difference between a "Central Sector Scheme" and a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme" is asked repeatedly in UPPCS. A Central Sector Scheme is fully funded and implemented by the Centre, like PM-

KISAN (question 13). In a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, expenditure is shared and implementation is by the States, like PM-JAY. Remember these two schemes together, and you will never forget this difference.

97. Answer: c

2-4-3-1

Scheme	Launch	Main objective
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana	28 August 2014	A bank account for every household
Stand-Up India	5 April 2016	Loans of ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs for new (greenfield) enterprises
Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana	1 May 2016	Free LPG connections in the name of women of poor households
Jal Jeevan Mission	15 August 2019	Tap water to every rural household (Functional Household Tap Connection)

Therefore the correct order is 2-4-3-1.

Examiner's view: Fixing the first and last positions is easy. The real test is between Stand-Up India and Ujjwala, which were launched in 2016 only about four weeks apart. Option (b) has been made by reversing these two. This is the same kind of trap as between Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 in Science question 13.

Special for UPPCS: The Ujjwala scheme was launched from Ballia (Uttar Pradesh), and its second phase, Ujjwala 2.0, was launched in August 2021 from Mahoba (Uttar Pradesh). Since both places are in Uttar Pradesh, questions on this scheme are more likely in UPPCS.

Additional facts on Jal Jeevan Mission: The original target date of this mission was 2024, which was extended to 2028 in the 2025-26 Budget. Its counterpart for urban areas is AMRUT 2.0 (2021).

98. Answer: b

Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A

A is true. JAM stands for Jan Dhan (Jan Dhan accounts), Aadhaar and Mobile. This term came up in the Economic

Survey 2014-15. Together the three form a complete system:

Component	Role
Jan Dhan account	Bank account to send the benefit amount (where to send)
Basis	Unique identity of the beneficiary, which removes fake and duplicate beneficiaries (to whom to send)
Mobile	Information about transactions and digital payment (how to know)

Through this system, government benefits go directly into the beneficiary's account and the scope for leakage in between is reduced. DBT started on 1 January 2013, but its scope expanded greatly after the expansion of JAM. LPG subsidy (PAHAL), PM-KISAN and scholarships are its major examples.

R is also true. UIDAI was created in 2009 by an executive order, but after the Aadhaar Act, 2016 it became a statutory body.

Why is R not the explanation of A? The reason for JAM's success is the linking of Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile. What type of body UIDAI is, statutory or executive, has no direct relation with the reduction of leakages in DBT. Aadhaar continued under an executive body from 2009 to 2016, and it was being used in DBT during that period too. Therefore the statutory status of UIDAI is not the reason for JAM's success.

Examiner's view: This question connects three areas: government schemes (DBT), banking (financial inclusion) and polity (the difference between constitutional, statutory and executive bodies, which came in Polity question 16). R seems so "relevant" that students in a hurry choose (a).

Related judicial decision: In the K.S. Puttaswamy (Aadhaar) case, 2018, the Supreme Court held the Aadhaar Act constitutional, but also imposed some limits. For example, private companies cannot make Aadhaar mandatory, and Aadhaar will not be mandatory for bank accounts and mobile connections. But making it mandatory for government subsidies and welfare schemes was held valid.

99. Answer: c

Only two

Statement 1 is correct. The pyramid of energy can never be inverted, and the reason is the second law of thermodynamics. At every trophic level, a large part of the energy is lost as respiration, body heat and indigestible food. Therefore less energy always reaches the upper level than the lower level. The flow of energy is unidirectional: from the Sun to producers, then consumers, and it does not return.

Statement 2 is correct. This is the most subtle concept of this question. In the sea, the producers are mainly phytoplankton, which are very small and reproduce very fast. At any one time their total biomass is low, but they are formed and eaten so fast that they can nourish zooplankton and fish with more biomass than themselves. Therefore the biomass pyramid measured at any one instant appears inverted, while the energy pyramid still remains upright.

Pyramid	Normal shape	Example of being inverted
Energy	Always upright	Never
Biomass	Generally upright	Marine ecosystem
Number	Generally upright	Countless insects dependent on one tree and parasites on them

Statement 3 is incorrect. According to Lindeman's (1942) 10% law, only about 10% of the energy of each trophic level reaches the next level, not 90%. The remaining 90% of the energy is lost on the way. That is why food chains are generally not longer than four or five levels, because by the time the fifth level is reached, very little energy remains.

Practical conclusion: This very law explains why vegetarian food is more efficient in terms of energy. On eating grain directly, humans get almost all of its available energy, whereas feeding the same grain to an animal and eating its meat gives only about 10% of the energy.

100. Answer: a

Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. A is true and R is its correct explanation. The amount of DDT dissolved in water may be very small. But plankton

absorb it, small fish eat a lot of plankton, big fish eat a lot of small fish, and fish-eating birds eat a lot of big fish. At every level DDT keeps accumulating and its concentration keeps increasing manifold.

This is possible only when two conditions are met, and R states exactly these two conditions. First, the substance should be fat-soluble, so that it gets stored in body fat and does not come out through watery routes like urine. Second, it should be persistent, i.e., the organism's enzymes cannot break it down. If the substance were water-soluble or easily broken down, it would be expelled at every level and biomagnification would not occur.

Difference between two similar terms:

Term	Meaning
Bioaccumulation	Accumulation of a substance in the body of a single organism over time
Biomagnification	Increase in the concentration of a substance from one trophic level of a food chain to the next

Historical importance: Because of DDT, the eggshells of birds of prey began to thin and broke during incubation, which rapidly reduced the numbers of birds like falcons and vultures. In 1962, Rachel Carson's book 'Silent Spring' brought this danger before the world, and it is considered the beginning of the modern environmental movement. The Stockholm Convention was made in 2001 to control Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). In India, the use of DDT in agriculture is banned, but there has been a limited exemption for controlling mosquitoes that carry diseases like malaria.

101. Answer: d

4 2 1 3

Ecotone: It is the transition zone between two ecosystems, where the features of both meet. Examples: mangrove forests (between land and sea), river banks (between water and land), and the area between a forest and a grassland. An ecotone is usually a narrow strip and environmental conditions change rapidly here.

Edge effect: This is a feature of an ecotone. In the transition zone, species of both neighbouring ecosystems are found, and some species are found only in this zone. Therefore the number and density of

species here is often greater than in either ecosystem. Species that live mainly in this zone are called 'edge species'.

Niche: It is the "profession" of a species in an ecosystem, i.e., what it eats, whose food it becomes, when it is active and in what conditions it lives. 'Habitat' is the "address" of that species, while 'niche' is its "job". According to Gause's competitive exclusion principle, two species cannot co-exist for long in the same niche; one eliminates the other.

Ecological succession: It is the gradual change occurring in the biological community of an area over time, which finally reaches a stable climax community.

Type	Launch	Pioneer species	Speed
Primary succession	Bare rock, where there was no life earlier	Lichens	Very slow
Secondary succession	Where the community has been destroyed but the soil remains (as after a forest fire)	Grasses	Relatively fast

Examiner's view: Ecotone and edge effect are deeply connected with each other. An ecotone is a place and the edge effect is a phenomenon occurring at that place.

Option (a) confuses the meanings of these two.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 4 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 2 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 1 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

102. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. Four of the world's biodiversity hotspots are located wholly or partly in India, but none of them lies entirely within India.

Hotspot	Area in India	Other countries
Himalaya	The entire Indian Himalayan region	Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, China etc.

Indo-Burma	North-East India (part south of the Brahmaputra)	Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam etc.
Western Ghats and Sri Lanka	Western Ghats	Sri Lanka
Sundaland	Nicobar Islands	Indonesia, Malaysia etc.

Statement 2 is correct. The concept of hotspots was given by the British ecologist Norman Myers in 1988. Later, Conservation International fixed two criteria for it, and both must be met together:

First, high endemism: at least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species, i.e., species found nowhere else in the world.

Second, high threat: at least 70% of the original natural habitat must have been lost.

Concept: A hotspot does not simply mean "an area of high biodiversity". It is an area that is both extremely rich and extremely threatened. Therefore these areas are given priority for conservation with limited resources. At present, 36 hotspots are recognised in the world.

Related concept: India is one of the world's 17 'megadiverse countries'. India has only about 2.4% of the world's total land area, but about 7-8% of the world's known species are found here.

103. Answer: c

1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The categories of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List in decreasing order of risk are as follows:

Category	Meaning
Extinct (EX)	The last member has died
Extinct in the Wild (EW)	Surviving only in zoos or captivity
Critically Endangered (CR)	Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
Endangered (EN)	Very high risk of extinction in the wild
Vulnerable (VU)	High risk of extinction in the wild
Near Threatened (NT)	May become threatened in the near future
Least Concern (LC)	Widespread and abundant

Of these, CR, EN and VU are collectively called the 'threatened' categories.

Statement 2 is correct. The Great Indian Bustard is one of the most threatened birds of India. Most of its surviving population is around the Desert National Park (Jaisalmer) in Rajasthan, and it is also the state bird of Rajasthan. The biggest threat to it is overhead power lines. This bird is heavy and its eyes do not face forward, so while flying it cannot turn quickly on seeing wires and dies by colliding with them. On this, the Supreme Court in 2021 had directed that power lines be laid underground, which was modified in 2024.

Here the conflict between environment and energy policy is visible: the same region of Rajasthan is also the most suitable for solar and wind energy.

Statement 3 is correct. The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 reduced the number of schedules from six to four, but Schedule I is still the schedule with the highest protection. It includes species like the tiger, elephant, Great Indian Bustard and Gangetic dolphin. The harshest punishment is provided for hunting them.

Schedule (after 2022)	Subject
I	Animals with the highest protection
II	Animals with a lower level of protection
III	Protected plants
IV	Specimens listed in the CITES Appendices

Examiner's view: The IUCN category and the schedule of Indian law are two separate systems. IUCN is an international assessment, which is not legally binding. The schedules of the Wild Life Act are legally enforceable in India. A species can be 'Least Concern' in IUCN and still be in Schedule I in India, like the peacock (national bird).

104. Answer: a

Seed bank

Basis	In-situ conservation	Ex-situ conservation

Meaning	Conservation of a species in its natural habitat	Conservation of a species by keeping it outside its natural habitat
Example	National parks, wildlife sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, sacred groves	Zoos, botanical gardens, seed banks, gene banks, cryopreservation
Benefit	Conservation of the entire ecosystem and the natural evolutionary process	Last resort to save extremely threatened species

In a seed bank, seeds are preserved for a long time at controlled temperature and humidity, so that if a species is destroyed in future it can be grown again. This is outside the natural habitat, so it is ex-situ conservation. In India, the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi does this work. Globally, Norway's Svalbard Global Seed Vault is famous, which is also called the 'Doomsday Vault'.

Importance of sacred groves (option d): These are forest patches that local communities have protected for centuries because of religious faith, and where cutting trees is forbidden. Examples: 'Devrai' of Maharashtra, 'Kavu' of Kerala and 'Law Kyntang' of Meghalaya. They are the oldest form of community conservation and come fully under in-situ conservation. Students often fail to identify them, because they are not government protected areas.

Structure of a biosphere reserve: It has three zones. In the core zone there is no human activity. In the buffer zone there are limited activities like research and education. In the transition zone local people carry out sustainable activities including farming and settlement. It is linked to UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere' (MAB) programme. India's first biosphere reserve is the Nilgiri (1986).

105. Answer: d

Only 2 and 3

Statement 1 is incorrect, and it is completely reversed. Global Warming Potential tells how much more heat one unit of a gas traps over a certain period compared to the

same unit of carbon dioxide. The Global Warming Potential of carbon dioxide is taken as 1.

Gas	Global Warming Potential over 100 years (approx.)	Main sources
Carbon dioxide	1	Fossil fuels, deforestation
Methane	About 28	Paddy fields, livestock digestion, landfills
Nitrous oxide	About 265	Chemical fertilisers
Sulphur hexafluoride	More than 23,000	Electrical equipment

Methane is far more powerful per molecule than carbon dioxide. Its lifetime is only about 12 years, so over a 20-year period its warming potential is even higher (about 80 times). This means that reducing methane emissions can have the fastest effect on temperature rise in the short term. For this reason the Global Methane Pledge came at COP26 (2021), with the target of reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030. India did not join it, because a major source of methane in India is paddy cultivation and animal husbandry, which are linked to the livelihoods of crores of farmers.

Statement 2 is correct. The scientist Charles David Keeling began continuous measurement of carbon dioxide at Mauna Loa in 1958. The graph made from these data is called the 'Keeling Curve'. Two things are seen in it: the concentration continuously rising, and a zigzag wave every year. This wave is caused by the seasons of the Northern Hemisphere: in spring and summer plants absorb more carbon dioxide, which slightly lowers the concentration, and in winter it rises again. Here climate science, ecology and chemistry meet together.

Statement 3 is correct. Article 2 of the Paris Agreement (2015, COP21) sets this goal. The biggest feature of this agreement is that each country sets its own target, called the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and it has to be updated every five years. The Kyoto Protocol had binding targets only on developed

countries, whereas all countries participate in the Paris Agreement.

106. Answer: b

3-1-4-2

Event	Year	Place/Conference
Kyoto Protocol coming into force	February 2005	—
Bali Action Plan	2007	COP13, Bali (Indonesia)
Announcement of Panchamrit	2021	COP26, Glasgow (UK)
Agreement on the Loss and Damage Fund	2022	COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt)

Therefore the correct order is 3-1-4-2.

Examiner's view: The biggest trap of this question is the date of the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997, but it came into force in 2005, because for it to come into force the countries ratifying it had to be responsible for at least 55% of total world emissions. The USA did not ratify it, and this condition was met after Russia's ratification in 2004. The question says "coming into force", not "adoption". Even a student who remembers only 1997 will get the correct order, but option (a) is for the student who assumes the Bali Action Plan came before Kyoto.

Brief importance of the major events:

Bali Action Plan: It made the framework for negotiations on the post-Kyoto arrangement and for the first time expected "nationally appropriate mitigation actions" from developing countries too.

Panchamrit (COP26): India announced five targets, the most prominent of which is the target of net zero emissions by 2070. At this very conference, due to India's intervention, the language of "phase down" of coal was adopted in place of "phase out".

Loss and Damage Fund (COP27): It is for helping developing countries that are suffering unavoidable damage from climate change, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather events. It was operationalised at COP28 (Dubai, 2023).

Later conferences: COP29 (Baku, 2024) focused on the New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance, and

COP30 (Belém, Brazil, 2025) was held in the Amazon region. Do check their outcomes before the exam.

107. Answer: c

3 1 2 4

Minamata disease (Mercury): It was first identified in the 1950s in the town of Minamata in Japan. A chemical factory was releasing methylmercury into the sea in its waste water. This mercury accumulated in fish through biomagnification (the concept of question 2), and people who ate them suffered serious nerve damage, numbness of limbs and birth defects. The Minamata Convention was made in 2013 to control the use and emission of mercury, which India ratified in 2018.

Itai-itai disease (Cadmium): This too occurred in Japan (Toyama region) due to irrigation of paddy with cadmium-laden water from mining. In Japanese, "itai-itai" means "it hurts, it hurts", because in it the bones become weak and brittle and there is unbearable pain. Cadmium disrupts calcium metabolism in the body.

Blue baby syndrome (Nitrate): Its scientific name is methaemoglobinaemia. When there is excess nitrate in drinking water, it changes into nitrite in infants' bodies, which converts haemoglobin into a form that cannot carry oxygen. Due to lack of oxygen, the infant's skin starts turning blue. The main source of nitrate is excessive use of chemical fertilisers in fields, which seep into groundwater. According to the Bureau of Indian Standards, the maximum acceptable limit of nitrate in drinking water is 45 mg per litre.

Blackfoot disease (Arsenic): This disease was identified in Taiwan, in which drinking arsenic-laden groundwater damages the blood vessels of the feet and the tissues turn black. Long-term exposure to arsenic can also cause skin spots, skin cancer and cancer of internal organs.

Special for UPPCS: Naturally excessive arsenic is found in groundwater in many parts of the Ganga plain, especially in districts of West Bengal, Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh, such as Ballia. Similarly, in some districts of Uttar Pradesh excess fluoride in groundwater causes fluorosis (deformity of teeth and bones). In the Jal Jeevan Mission (Economy question 15), such quality-affected areas have been given priority.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 2 leaves (b) and (c). Knowing D = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (c).

108. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. PM_{2.5} are particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less, about one-thirtieth the thickness of a human hair. The natural barriers of the nose and throat largely stop larger particles (PM₁₀), but PM_{2.5} escape them and reach the innermost air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs. From there they enter the bloodstream and increase the risk of heart disease, stroke and lung cancer. Therefore the smaller the particle, the more dangerous it is for health.

Statement 2 is correct. India's National AQI was launched in October 2014. Its eight pollutants are: PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, ammonia and lead. Data of at least three pollutants are needed to calculate the AQI, one of which must be PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5}. It has six categories: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very poor and Severe.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Ground-level ozone is a secondary pollutant. It is not emitted directly from any source, but is formed in the atmosphere. Oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released from vehicles and industries react in the presence of sunlight to form ozone. That is why its concentration is highest on sunny, hot afternoons, and it is the main component of photochemical smog.

Type	Meaning	Example
Primary pollutants	Emitted directly from the source	Carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen
Secondary pollutants	Formed by reactions in the atmosphere	Ground-level ozone, peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN), acids of acid rain

Examiner's view: The dual character of ozone. Stratospheric ozone protects life by blocking ultraviolet radiation (Science question 12), whereas ground-level ozone is a harmful pollutant that increases respiratory diseases and damages crops. The same molecule, on

changing place, turns from protector into pollutant. Understanding this paradox is useful in the UPPCS Mains exam too.

Related policies: The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched in 2019 to control air pollution, which includes many cities of Uttar Pradesh. In Delhi-NCR, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is in force for step-by-step measures according to the level of pollution.

109. Answer: d

4132

Kaziranga (Assam) – One-horned rhinoceros: It has the world's largest population of one-horned rhinos. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. It is located in the flood plain of the Brahmaputra, and the annual floods are a natural part of this ecosystem, renewing the grasslands. But during floods, animals cross the nearby National Highway to move to higher ground, so the protection of wildlife corridors is a major challenge here.

Gir (Gujarat) – Asiatic lion: It is the only natural habitat of Asiatic lions in the world. The entire population being in a single area is a big threat to this species, because a single epidemic could wipe out the whole species. For this reason the Supreme Court in 2013 had directed that some lions be translocated to Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, but this has not happened so far. Instead, African cheetahs have been settled in Kuno since 2022.

Keibul Lamjao (Manipur) – Sangai deer: It is the world's only floating national park, located in Loktak Lake. It is made of thick layers of vegetation and soil floating on the lake, called 'phumdis'. The Sangai deer is the state animal of Manipur and is also called the 'dancing deer', because its gait appears like dancing while walking on the phumdis.

Hemis (Ladakh) – Snow leopard: It is counted among the largest national parks of India and is one of the best habitats of the snow leopard. The snow leopard is called the 'ghost of the mountains', because it is very rarely seen.

Special for UPPCS: The one-horned rhinoceros is also found in Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh. In

1984, rhinos were brought from Assam and Nepal and rehabilitated in Dudhwa, because this area had historically been a natural habitat of rhinos.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 4 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 3 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 2 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

110. Answer: b

Only three

Pair 1 is correct. Dudhwa is located in the Terai region near the Nepal border in Lakhimpur Kheri district. It became a National Park in 1977 and a Tiger Reserve in 1987. The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve also includes the Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and the Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. Tigers, rhinos and swamp deer (barasingha) are prominent here.

Pair 2 is correct. Ranipur was declared the fourth Tiger Reserve of Uttar Pradesh in 2022. It is in Chitrakoot district in the Bundelkhand region. It is geographically different from the other tiger reserves of Uttar Pradesh, because they are in the Terai region, whereas Ranipur is in the dry deciduous forests of the Vindhyas.

Pair 3 is incorrect. Katarniaghat is located in Bahraich district, not Pilibhit. It is on the banks of the Girwa river and is famous for gharials, Gangetic dolphins and tigers. Pilibhit has the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (2014), which received the international TX2 Award in 2020 for doubling its tiger population. Both districts are in the Terai on the Nepal border (Geography question 21), so students mix them up.

Pair 4 is incorrect. Sur Sarovar (Keetham Lake) is in Agra district, not Etawah. It was declared a Ramsar site in 2020. Near Etawah, on the Chambal river, is part of the National Chambal Sanctuary, which spreads over Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and is the largest habitat of gharials.

Pair 5 is correct. Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary (now Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad Bird Sanctuary) is in Unnao district near the Lucknow-Kanpur highway. It was declared a Ramsar site in 2019. In winter, a large number of migratory birds come here.

Tiger Reserves of Uttar Pradesh:

Tiger Reserve	District	Declared
Dudhwa	Lakhimpur Kheri	1987

Amangarh	Bijnor	2012
Pilibhit	Pilibhit	2014
Ranipur	Chitrakoot	2022

The Amangarh Tiger Reserve is the buffer area of the Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve of Uttarakhand.

Caution: The number of protected areas and Ramsar sites is continuously increasing. Do check the latest list of Ramsar sites and tiger reserves of Uttar Pradesh before the exam.

111. Answer: c

Only 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The Ramsar Convention was adopted in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar and came into force in 1975. India became a Party to it in 1982, and Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were India's first Ramsar sites. Ramsar sites whose ecological condition is under threat are placed in the 'Montreux Record'. In recent years the number of India's Ramsar sites has increased rapidly, so check their latest number before the exam.

Statement 2 is correct. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) was adopted in 1973 in Washington and came into force in 1975. India became a Party to it in 1976. It is legally binding on the Parties, but each country implements it through its national laws. In India, Schedule IV has been added to the Wild Life (Protection) Act for this (question 5).

CITES Appendix	Meaning
Appendix I	Species threatened with extinction; commercial trade almost completely banned
Appendix II	Not yet threatened with extinction, but may become so if trade is not controlled
Appendix III	Species protected by one country, which seeks the help of others in controlling their trade

Statement 3 is correct. The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. It has two protocols:

Cartagena Protocol (2000): It relates to the safe transfer and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs)

produced by modern biotechnology. It is connected with GM crops (Science question 14).

Nagoya Protocol (2010): It ensures that when a company earns profits by using the genetic resources or traditional knowledge of a country, a fair share of that profit also goes to that country and its local communities. India has used the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which was amended in 2023, for its implementation.

Related recent development: In 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted under the CBD, whose most prominent target is '30x30', i.e., conservation of at least 30% of the world's land and 30% of its marine areas by 2030.

Statement 4 is incorrect. The Bonn Convention (Convention on Migratory Species, 1979) relates to all types of migratory species: terrestrial, aquatic and avian. India became a Party to it in 1983, and its 13th Conference of Parties (COP13) was held in 2020 at Gandhinagar (Gujarat). Its mascot 'Gibi' was based on the Great Indian Bustard (connected with question 5). India lies on the Central Asian Flyway, through which lakhs of migratory birds come to India every winter, as at Nawabganj and Sur Sarovar of question 12.

112. Answer: c

Only two

Background: On 12 August 2026, the day after it was passed by the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha also passed the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026. The Kerala Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution for this change of name in June 2024.

Statement 1 is incorrect. This is the central concept of this question. Parliament gets the power to change the name of a State from Article 3, and such a bill is passed by a simple majority. Article 4(2) makes it clear that laws made under Articles 2 and 3, despite changing the Schedules of the Constitution, shall not be deemed to be amendments of the Constitution within the meaning of Article 368.

Statement 2 is correct. According to the proviso to Article 3, such a bill cannot be introduced without the recommendation of the President, and the President refers it to the State Legislature to express its views

within a fixed time limit. Whether the State Legislature agrees or disagrees, Parliament is not bound to accept its opinion. This is the proof of Indian federalism being "an indestructible Union of destructible States".

Statement 3 is correct. This bill amends the First and Fourth Schedules of the Constitution, and also makes consequential changes in Articles 31A and 290A. The First Schedule contains the names and territories of the States, and the Fourth Schedule the state-wise allocation of Rajya Sabha seats.

Examiner's view: Since a Schedule changes, students assume that it will be a constitutional amendment. But a change in a Schedule and an amendment under Article 368 are two different things. Similar past examples are: Orissa to Odisha (2011) and Puducherry (2006).

113. Answer: a

Only 1

Statement 1 is correct. In the 2026 election results, the BJP won more than 200 seats in the 294-member West Bengal Assembly and formed its first government in the State, and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost the Bhabanipur seat to Suvendu Adhikari by 15,105 votes. After this, Suvendu Adhikari took oath as Chief Minister. In Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma became Chief Minister again, and he is the first non-Congress leader of Assam to get two consecutive terms.

Statement 2 is incorrect. This is where current affairs connects with polity. According to Article 164(4), a minister, including the Chief Minister, who for a period of six consecutive months is not a member of the State Legislature, shall cease to hold office at the end of that period. This means that a person can be appointed Chief Minister even without being a member of the legislature, provided he becomes a member within six months. At the Centre, the same rule applies to the Prime Minister and Union Ministers through Article 75(5).

Examiner's view: In States that have a Legislative Council (like Uttar Pradesh), the Chief Minister can also become a member through the Legislative Council. West Bengal does not have a Legislative Council, so membership of the Legislative Assembly is the only

route there. This is the practical difference between bicameral and unicameral States.

114. Answer: d

1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. In July 2025, Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned from the office of Vice-President due to health reasons, in the middle of his term. After this, in the election held in September 2025, C.P. Radhakrishnan was elected the 15th Vice-President of India. With this he also became the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement 2 is correct. According to Article 67(a), the Vice-President may resign by writing addressed to the President. This is different from the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in Polity question 10, who gives his resignation to the Deputy Speaker. For comparison: the President gives his resignation to the Vice-President.

Statement 3 is correct. According to Article 91, when the office of the Chairman is vacant, the Deputy Chairman, and if the office of the Deputy Chairman is also vacant, a member of the Rajya Sabha appointed by the President, performs the duties of the Chairman.

Concept: A Vice-President elected in an election held on a mid-term vacancy gets not the remaining term of the previous Vice-President, but a new full term of five years (Article 67). The electoral college of the Vice-President consists of all members (including nominated) of both Houses of Parliament, which was explained in detail in Polity question 11.

115. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. Census is a subject of the Union List (Seventh Schedule, Entry 69). It is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Employees of State Governments are engaged in the enumeration work, but the constitutional power to conduct the census lies with the Centre. The Census Act, 1948 is a Central law.

Statement 2 is correct. In all censuses from 1951 to 2011, only Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were enumerated. The last comprehensive enumeration of all other castes took place in 1931 during the British

period. The Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) held in 2011 was not under the Census Act but a separate survey, and its caste data were never fully published.

Other features of Census 2027: It will be India's first digital census, in which data will be collected through a mobile app and citizens will also get the option of self-enumeration. The reference date for most of the country is 1 March 2027, while for snow-bound areas (Ladakh, Jammu-Kashmir and parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) it is 1 October 2026. The last census was held in 2011, and the 2021 census was postponed due to COVID-19.

Examiner's view: Census data are used in the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats. According to the 84th Amendment (2001), the fresh delimitation of seats is to be based on the data of the first census held after 2026. Therefore the political and constitutional importance of Census 2027 is not limited to statistics alone.

116. Answer: a

1-3-4-2

Event	Time
Vice-Presidential election	September 2025
Presidential assent to the VB-G RAM G Bill	December 2025 (after the Winter Session)
Election results of West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry	4 May 2026
Passing of the Keralam Bill by Parliament	August 2026 (Monsoon Session)

Therefore the correct order is 1-3-4-2.

Examiner's view: The position of the Keralam Bill is the most difficult. The Union Cabinet had approved this proposal on 24 February 2026, i.e., before the Kerala Assembly elections. A student who remembers only the Cabinet approval will place it before the election results. But the question says "passed by Parliament", which happened in August 2026. Option (d) is based on this confusion.

When a process has many stages (Cabinet approval, the State's opinion, passing by Parliament, Presidential

assent), read carefully in chronology questions which stage is being asked.

117. Answer: d

4 2 3 1

18th BRICS Summit (New Delhi): It was held under India's 2026 chairship on 12–13 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and the 'New Delhi Declaration' was adopted at it.

COP31 (Antalya): It is to be held from 9 to 20 November 2026 at Antalya, Türkiye.

17th BRICS Summit (Rio de Janeiro): Brazil held the chairship in 2025 and organised the 17th Summit at Rio de Janeiro on 6–7 July 2025, which was the first summit after the major expansion of the group.

COP30 (Belém): It was held in November 2025 at Belém, a city in the Amazon region of Brazil.

Examiner's view: In 2025 Brazil hosted both BRICS and COP30, but in two different cities. Students often link both with the same city. Option (a) has been made by reversing these two.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 4 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 2 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 3 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 1 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

118. Answer: c

Both 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. This is an unprecedented arrangement in the history of the COP. Traditionally, the President of the COP is from the host country, but this time Türkiye will host the conference in Antalya, while Australia's Climate Minister Chris Bowen will lead the negotiations. According to the agreement, if there is a difference of views between the two countries, consultations will continue until a mutually satisfactory solution is reached. Australia wanted to make it a 'Pacific COP' together with the Pacific island countries, so the agreement also included a pre-COP meeting in the Pacific region before the main conference.

Statement 2 is correct. The UN has five regional groups: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and Others (WEOG). The hosting of the COP rotates among them. The responsibility of hosting COP31 was with the WEOG group, which includes both Australia and Türkiye. Had

the two not reached an agreement, the conference would automatically have moved to Bonn, the headquarters of the UN climate body.

Examiner's view: Geographically, Australia is in the Asia-Pacific, and a large part of Türkiye is in Asia. Still, both are in the WEOG group, because these groups are formed not on a geographical but on a political-historical basis. India is in the Asia-Pacific group and has proposed to host COP33 in 2028.

119. Answer: b

Only 2 and 3

Statement 1 is incorrect. BRICS has neither a charter nor a permanent secretariat; it works through annual summits, ministerial meetings and working groups. Its chairship rotates every year among the member countries. This distinguishes it from formal organisations like the UN or SAARC. The only major formal institution of BRICS is the New Development Bank (headquarters Shanghai).

Statement 2 is correct. India had earlier held the chairship of BRICS in 2012, 2016 and 2021, and the 2026 chairship was its fourth, which coincided with the completion of 20 years of the founding of BRICS. The theme of India's chairship was 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'.

Statement 3 is correct. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS in 2024, and Indonesia became a full member in 2025.

Evolution of BRICS:

Year	Event
2001	Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term 'BRIC'
2009	First BRIC Summit (Yekaterinburg, Russia)
2010	BRICS formed with the joining of South Africa
2024	Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates joined
2025	Indonesia became a full member

Examiner's view: There is no uniformity in sources regarding Saudi Arabia's membership, because it has not formally adopted a clear position on the invitation. Therefore framing a question on such an ambiguous fact has been avoided.

120. Answer: a

Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. A is true. The RBI made a total cut of 125 basis points in 2025: 25 in February, 25 in April, 50 in June and 25 in December, which brought the repo rate to 5.25%; after this the rate remained unchanged in February, April and June 2026. In the August 2026 meeting too, the MPC unanimously kept the repo rate at 5.25%, while the SDF rate was 5% and the MSF rate and Bank Rate were 5.5%. R is true and is the correct explanation of A. In June 2026, citing the West Asia conflict, high energy prices and the uncertainty of the monsoon and El Niño, the RBI raised its inflation projection for FY2027 from 4.6% to 5.1%.

India imports most of the crude oil it needs. When oil becomes costlier, the costs of transport, fertilisers and manufacturing rise, which raises prices across the entire economy. This is called imported inflation. It is supply-side inflation, which interest rates cannot directly control. But cutting rates at such a time increases demand, and demand pressure gets added on top of the supply-side pressure. Therefore central banks adopt a "wait and watch" policy at such times.

Connection with the concept: If this situation persists for long and economic growth also slows down, it can move towards stagflation (Economy question 9). This is the most difficult situation for the RBI, because raising rates to control inflation slows growth further, and cutting rates for growth raises inflation. That is why the MPC has maintained a 'neutral' stance.

121. Answer: c

Only 1 and 3

The base year of GDP was changed from 2011-12 to 2022-23 and the new series was released on 27 February 2026; the base year of CPI was changed from 2012 to 2024 and the new series was released on 12 February 2026; the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) was also made 2022-23; and double deflation instead of single deflation was adopted for the manufacturing sector.

Statement 1 is correct.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The base year of CPI is 2024, not 2022-23. This is the main trap of this question. The base year of GDP and IIP is a financial year (2022-23), whereas the base of CPI is a calendar year (2024). The

weights of the new CPI series were fixed on the basis of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24, and modern services like OTT subscriptions and e-commerce prices were also added to it.

Statement 3 is correct. In single deflation, the value of a sector's output is converted into real value using a single price index. In double deflation, output and inputs are deflated using separate price indices, and then the difference between the two is taken to arrive at real value added. This is more accurate, because the prices of raw materials and finished goods change at different speeds.

Why is changing the base year necessary? An old base year shows the structure of an economy a decade old. In 2011-12 there was no UPI, no OTT, nor such an expansion of digital payments. In the new series, administrative data like GST, e-vehicles and PFMS have also been used. This is a practical extension of Economy questions 7 and 10.

122. Answer: d

With this reform, petrol and diesel were also brought under the ambit of GST.

Option (d) is incorrect. Crude oil, petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel and natural gas are still outside GST, and only the Centre's excise duty and the States' VAT are levied on them. In Economy question 12 it was explained that the Constitution keeps them within the scope of GST in principle, but the GST Council has not yet notified the date for them.

Concept: Fewer rates reduce classification disputes. Earlier there used to be disputes about whether many goods fell in the 12% category or the 18% category. Reducing rates also boosts consumption. But the other side is that in the short term there can be pressure on the tax revenue of the Centre and the States, which then connects with the fiscal deficit (Economy question 11).

Examiner's view: When a major reform is discussed, students assume that all pending issues must have been resolved in it. Bringing petroleum under GST is an extremely sensitive issue linked to the revenue of the States, so it was not part of this reform.

123. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. G1 is an uncrewed test flight. Its purpose is to test all systems in real space conditions before the crewed flight. The crewed mission has been named H1.

Statement 2 is correct. According to ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, 'Vyommitra' is a female robot, capable of monitoring the parameters of the module, issuing warnings and performing life-support functions. This mission is to be launched from Sriharikota on the human-rated LVM3 (HLVM3) rocket, and ISRO has scheduled it for the fourth quarter of 2026.

Concept: What is a 'human-rated' rocket? In a normal satellite launch, failure means only economic loss, but in a crewed mission it is a question of life. Therefore the rocket is made to meet additional safety standards and is fitted with a crew escape system, which in an emergency immediately separates the crew module from the rocket and takes it to a safe distance. Uncrewed flights like G1 are the real test of these very systems.

Caution: The launch date of this mission has been pushed back several times. Do check its latest status before the exam.

124. Answer: d

3 2 4 1

Physics (John Clarke, Michel Devoret, John Martinis): Quantum tunnelling is the phenomenon in which a particle crosses an energy barrier that, according to classical physics, it does not have the energy to cross. Normally this happens at an extremely small scale like the atom. These scientists showed that in a superconducting electric circuit, which can be held in the hand, this effect can be seen even at the macroscopic level. This discovery is the foundation of the 'qubit' of today's quantum computers, which is connected with the National Quantum Mission of Science question 15.

Chemistry (Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson, Omar Yaghi): Metal-organic frameworks are materials in which metal ions and organic molecules together form highly porous, well-ordered structures. Their internal surface area is so large that they can absorb huge

amounts of gases. They are being used to capture carbon dioxide from the air, extract water from desert air and filter toxic gases. This connects them with solutions to climate change.

Medicine (Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, Shimon Sakaguchi): The immune system has to "know" what to attack and what to spare as its own. These scientists discovered regulatory T cells and clarified their role, which prevent the immune system from attacking the body's own cells. When this system fails, autoimmune diseases like type-1 diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis occur. This is a further extension of Science question 3 (immunity).

Economics (Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, Peter Howitt): They explained how sustained economic growth comes from innovation. The theory of Aghion and Howitt is based on Joseph Schumpeter's concept of 'creative destruction', i.e., new technology drives the economy forward by replacing old technology and companies.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 2 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 1 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

125. Answer: a

With this mission, Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to go to the International Space Station (ISS), whereas in 1984 Rakesh Sharma had travelled to a Soviet space station.

(a) is correct. Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla went to the ISS in June 2025 as the pilot of the Axiom-4 mission and returned in July 2025. He became the first Indian to go to the ISS. Rakesh Sharma had travelled to the Soviet Union's Salyut-7 space station in April 1984 and was the first Indian to go to space.

(b) is incorrect. Axiom-4 was a commercial mission of the American private company Axiom Space, in which ISRO was the partner from India's side. Along with India, it also had astronauts from Poland and Hungary, and the commander of the mission was the experienced American astronaut Peggy Whitson.

(c) is incorrect. Construction of the ISS began in 1998, i.e., 14 years after Rakesh Sharma's journey. Therefore the ISS did not even exist in 1984. This option is based not on a fact but on the understanding of chronology.

(d) is incorrect. This journey was made on SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket and Crew Dragon spacecraft. Rakesh Sharma's journey was made on a Soyuz spacecraft, so this option is a trap for students who mix up the two journeys.

Connection with Gaganyaan: Shubhanshu Shukla is one of the four astronauts selected for Gaganyaan. The experience of Axiom-4, especially the practical knowledge of experiments in microgravity, docking and life in space, is extremely useful for Gaganyaan (question 12).

126. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. On World Environment Day, 5 June 2026, with the inclusion of the Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) of Uttar Pradesh in the Ramsar list, the number of India's Ramsar sites reached 100.

Statement 2 is correct. In January 2026, the Patna Bird Sanctuary of Etah and Chhari-Dhand of Kutch (Gujarat) were added to the Ramsar list, and in April 2026 the Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary of Aligarh became India's 99th Ramsar site. Of the four sites added in 2026, three are from Uttar Pradesh.

Statement 3 is incorrect. India ranks third in the world in the number of Ramsar sites, with the UK (176) and Mexico (144) ahead of it. However, India has the largest Ramsar network in Asia, even larger than China's. This difference between "first in Asia" and "first in the world" is what makes this statement incorrect.

State-wise position: Tamil Nadu ranks first in the number of Ramsar sites with 20 sites, and Uttar Pradesh second.

Concept: After 2020, the number of India's Ramsar sites has increased very rapidly. But being declared a Ramsar site is not in itself a guarantee of conservation. The Ramsar Convention emphasises the "wise use" of wetlands, and threatened sites are placed in the 'Montreux Record' (Environment question 13). For the conservation of wetlands in India there are also the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and the Amrit Dharohar scheme (2023).

127. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect, and this is hidden in the name itself. BBNJ stands for Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction. According to UNCLOS, a country's Exclusive Economic Zone extends up to 200 nautical miles from its coastline. The sea beyond it is called the 'high seas', which does not belong to any one country. It is about two-thirds of the Earth's total ocean area, and until now there was no comprehensive legal framework for its conservation.

Statement 2 is correct. This agreement was adopted in 2023. After the ratification of 60 countries was completed in September 2025, it came into force in January 2026, 120 days later as per the rule. India had signed it in September 2024.

The four main pillars of the agreement:

Pillar	Meaning
Marine genetic resources	Fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources obtained from deep-sea organisms
Area-based management tools	Creating marine protected areas in the high seas
Environmental impact assessment	Assessment of impact before major activities in the high seas
Capacity building and technology transfer	Assistance to developing countries

Connection with the concept: Its first pillar extends the "access and benefit-sharing" principle of the Nagoya Protocol (Environment question 13) to the high seas. The second pillar is necessary to achieve the '30x30' target of the Kunming-Montreal framework (conservation of 30% of the marine area by 2030), because this target is impossible without the high seas.

128. Answer: c

A is true, but R is false

A is true. This advisory opinion was given at the request of the UN General Assembly in 2023, an initiative taken by Vanuatu, a small island country of the Pacific Ocean. The court unanimously said that countries have an obligation to protect the climate not only under climate treaties but also under general international law and human rights law, and failure to fulfil this obligation can be treated as an internationally wrongful act.

R is false. The ICJ has two types of jurisdiction, and the difference between them is the basic concept of this question:

Type	Who can bring it	Binding?
Contentious jurisdiction	Only countries, against each other	Yes, on the parties
Advisory jurisdiction	UN organs and specialised agencies	No

An advisory opinion is not legally binding, but its moral and legal influence is very great. In future it will be cited in national courts and international negotiations as an authoritative interpretation of international law.

Comparison with polity: This is exactly like the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court under Article 143 in India not being binding on the President (Polity question 13). The principle in both is the same: giving advice and giving an order are two different things.

129. Answer: d

Only 1, 2 and 4

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. This Act provides 125 days of wage employment to rural workers, and gives the States the right to notify a pause period of up to a total of sixty days in a financial year to maintain the availability of farm labourers during the peak farming season. Under MGNREGA this guarantee was of 100 days.

Statement 3 is incorrect. This is the most important concept of this question. Under MGNREGA the Centre bore the entire burden of wages, whereas under the new system most States will have to bear 40% of the cost; in the North-Eastern and Himalayan States and Union Territories with legislature the Centre will bear 90%, and in Union Territories without legislature the entire expenditure. This is the same ratio as in Ayushman Bharat (Economy question 14).

Statement 4 is correct. From 1 July, the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 replaced MGNREGA, 2005, and the Centre allocated ₹95,692.31 crore for it for 2026-27. Note that the Act was passed in December 2025, but came into force from July 2026. This difference between "passing" and "coming into force" is just like question 5.

Examiner's view: MGNREGA was a "demand-based" scheme, i.e., it was mandatory to provide work and

funds to as many people as demanded work. Critics argue that the new framework leans towards budget-based allocation. Before it came into force, many States politically opposed the changes in funding, allocation of work and implementation for months. This is a living example of fiscal federalism, which is also important for the UPPCS Mains exam.

130. Answer: c

This scheme focuses on 100 districts with low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity and low credit availability, and is based on the model of the Aspirational Districts Programme.

(c) is correct. In it, 100 districts were selected on the basis of three criteria: low productivity, low cropping intensity (i.e., growing crops fewer times on the same field in a year) and low availability of agricultural credit. This scheme involves no huge new expenditure; rather, dozens of already running schemes of several ministries have been converged, so that they are implemented together and in a coordinated way in the same district.

Connection with the Aspirational Districts model: In the Aspirational Districts Programme launched in 2018, backward districts are selected, their progress is measured on indicators and competition is encouraged among districts. The Dhan-Dhaanya scheme applies this same thinking to the agriculture sector.

Why the other options are wrong:

(a) This scheme deliberately focuses only on the most backward districts, not all districts. This is its basic strategy.

(b) It is connected with all types of agricultural activities, such as crop diversification, irrigation, storage and credit.

(d) The agricultural scheme with direct cash transfers is PM-KISAN (Economy question 13). The Dhan-Dhaanya scheme focuses on institutional and infrastructure improvement, not on cash assistance.

Special for UPPCS: Being among the States most dependent on agriculture, several districts of Uttar Pradesh are included in this scheme. It is useful to know the districts of your state in this list.

131. Answer: b

3-1-4-2

Scheme/Event	Time
Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana	17 September 2023
Ayushman Vay Vandana Card	October 2024
Approval of the Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana	July 2025
VB-G RAM G Act coming into force	1 July 2026

Therefore the correct order is 3-1-4-2.

Examiner's view: In option (a), Vishwakarma and Ayushman Vay Vandana have been reversed. This trap is for students who believe that everything related to Ayushman Bharat (2018) must be old. But the question asks about the extension of Ayushman Bharat, which happened in 2024, not the original scheme.

The second trap is in option (c), which places VB-G RAM G before Dhan-Dhaanya. The VB-G RAM G Bill was passed in December 2025, which is after the approval of Dhan-Dhaanya (July 2025); and the question asks for the date of "coming into force", which is July 2026. Either way, VB-G RAM G comes in the last position.

132. Answer: d

1, 2 and 3

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. In the 2026 index released by the World Economic Forum, India remained at 131st position, while Iceland, Finland and Norway were in the top three positions. In this index of 145 countries, only 14 countries were below India, and India's gender parity score was 64.5%, which is below the global average.

Statement 3 is correct. This is the most important concept of this question. This index measures the gap between women and men, not absolute levels; therefore a poor country with equal outcomes can rank above a rich country with unequal outcomes. For example, if in a country the literacy of both men and women is low but equal, its score in the education sub-index will be perfect. This is why countries like Namibia come in the top ten.

Its four sub-indices and India's performance:

Sub-index	India's position
Economic participation and opportunity	Weakest aspect

Educational attainment	High parity
Health and survival	Challenge due to sex ratio at birth
Political empowerment	India's best sub-index

In 2026, political empowerment was India's highest-ranked sub-index, in which 24.5% of the gap was closed and the global rank was 67th.

Examiner's view: Other major publications of the WEF are: the Global Risks Report, the Future of Jobs Report, and the Travel and Tourism Development Index. Remember them separately from the reports of other institutions given in question 23.

133. Answer: a

It was awarded to Banu Mushtaq's Kannada short-story collection 'Heart Lamp', translated into English by Deepa Bhasthi.

(a) is correct. The short-story collection 'Heart Lamp' by Banu Mushtaq, a writer, lawyer and social activist from Karnataka, won the 2025 International Booker Prize. It is the first short-story collection to win this award, as earlier it had been awarded only to novels. Its stories focus on the lives of Muslim women of South India, patriarchy and social struggles.

(b) is incorrect. It was the second International Booker awarded to a work in an Indian language. The first was awarded in 2022 to Geetanjali Shree's Hindi novel 'Ret Samadhi', translated into English as 'Tomb of Sand' by Daisy Rockwell. Because of Geetanjali Shree, who was born in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, this fact is important for UPPCS too.

(c) is incorrect. The special feature of the International Booker Prize is that its prize money is shared equally between the author and the translator. It honours translation as an independent creative work.

(d) is incorrect. This is contrary to the basic definition of this award. The International Booker Prize is given to works translated into English from another language and published in the UK or Ireland. There is a separate Booker Prize for works originally written in English.

Caution: Do also check the latest information on the 2026 International Booker and other literary awards before the exam.

134. Answer: c

3 2 1 4

Global Gender Gap Report (WEF): It has been explained in detail in question 21.

Human Development Report (UNDP): It contains the Human Development Index (HDI), which is based on three dimensions: a long and healthy life (life expectancy at birth), knowledge (years of schooling) and standard of living (per capita Gross National Income). Its concept was given in 1990 by the Pakistani economist Mahbub-ul-Haq on the basis of the Indian economist Amartya Sen's 'capability approach'.

World Economic Outlook (IMF): It contains global and country-wise projections of economic growth, inflation and more, and it is published twice a year (April and October). Because its name contains the word "Economic", students link it with the World Economic Forum. This is the main trap of this question, and option (a) is based on it.

World Happiness Report (SDSN and partners): It is prepared jointly by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Gallup and partners like the Wellbeing Research Centre of Oxford University. Its basis is people's own evaluation of their lives. Finland has been at the top of it for many consecutive years.

Traps linked with names:

Similar names	Actual publisher
World Economic Outlook	IMF
Reports of the World Economic Forum	WEF
World Development Report	World Bank
Human Development Report	UNDP

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 2 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 1 leaves (b) and (c). Knowing D = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (c).

135. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. This expressway goes from Bijauli in Meerut to Judapur Dandu in Prayagraj. The expressways starting from Agra are the Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the Yamuna Expressway, so students get confused here.

It passes through 12 districts: Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.

Statement 2 is correct. The Prime Minister inaugurated this 594 km long expressway in Hardoi district on 29 April 2026; it has been developed by UPEIDA and is the longest expressway of Uttar Pradesh.

Connection with geography: This expressway has large bridges over the Ganga and Ramganga rivers. In Geography question 15 it was explained that the Ramganga is a left-bank tributary of the Ganga, which joins the Ganga near Kannauj. This expressway runs parallel to the Ganga, connecting western Uttar Pradesh with eastern Uttar Pradesh, which is why it is named the Ganga Expressway.

Economic importance: 12 industrial nodes are to be developed along this expressway. This is the concept of an "expressway-based industrial corridor", in which the road is not just a means of transport but the basis of industrial development and regional balance.

136. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. Commercial flights formally began at this airport on 15 June 2026, and the first scheduled IndiGo flight arrived here from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Lucknow.

Statement 2 is correct. The development of its first phase has been done on the public-private partnership model with an investment of about ₹11,200 crore. It is being developed by Yamuna International Airport Private Limited, a special purpose company of Zurich Airport International AG.

Statement 3 is incorrect. It has been developed as the second international airport serving Delhi-NCR, complementing Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Technical features: It has a 3,900-metre long runway capable of handling wide-body aircraft, and modern systems like the Instrument Landing System, which make round-the-clock operations possible in all weather. The capacity of the first phase is about 1.2 crore passengers per year.

Concept (PPP): In the PPP model, the government provides land and regulatory support, while the private company brings capital, technology and operational expertise. The private company recovers its cost and profit by operating for a fixed period (concession period). In this model the budgetary burden on the government is less, but the challenge of regulating charges levied on passengers remains. This also connects with the fiscal deficit of the Economy section (question 11), because PPP helps the government build large infrastructure without borrowing directly.

137. Answer: d

3 1 4 2

Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah): It was added to the Ramsar list at the beginning of 2026, and became India's 97th Ramsar site. Caution: its name is like Patna, the capital of Bihar, but it is located in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh. This is the first trap of this question.

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary (Aligarh): It became India's 99th Ramsar site in April 2026. It is located near the Upper Ganga Canal and is a major haunt of migratory birds in winter.

Sur Sarovar (Agra): It became a Ramsar site in 2020. In Environment question 12 it was explained that linking it with Etawah is a common mistake.

Surha Tal (Ballia): With its inclusion on 5 June 2026, the number of India's Ramsar sites became 100. It is an oxbow lake, formed from an old course of the Ganga. It is named after Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan, who was born at Sitab Diara in Ballia itself.

Connection with geography: Many wetlands of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are oxbow lakes. When a river flows in a winding course (meander) in the plains, it sometimes abandons its bend and takes a straight path, and the old bend is cut off as a crescent-shaped lake. This process is linked with the fluvial depositional landforms of physical geography.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 4 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 2 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

138. Answer: c

3-4-1-2

Event	Time
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Prayagraj Maha Kumbh	13 January to 26 February 2025
Patna Bird Sanctuary becoming a Ramsar site	January 2026
Inauguration of the Ganga Expressway	29 April 2026
Commercial flights from Jewar airport	15 June 2026

Therefore the correct order is 3-4-1-2.

Examiner's view: There is no difficulty in fixing the first and last positions. The real test is between the Patna Bird Sanctuary and the Ganga Expressway. In option (a) the expressway has been placed first, because this project had been in the news for many years and students assume it must have been inaugurated earlier. In option (d) the expressway and the airport have been reversed, because the Jewar airport too had been discussed for a long time and its date was pushed back several times.

Additional facts on the Maha Kumbh: The Maha Kumbh is held every 12 years, and with special significance after 12 cycles of the Purna Kumbh (144 years). For the 2025 event, the Uttar Pradesh government had also created a temporary 'Maha Kumbh Mela' district in December 2024. The Kumbh Mela has been on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list since 2017, which also connects it with the Art and Culture section.

139. Answer: b

Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect. Its first part is correct: Bundelkhand, and the Vindhyan region of Sonbhadra-Mirzapur, are the northern edge of the ancient Peninsular Plateau. But the second part is incorrect. The soil here is not the alluvial soil of the Ganga plain, but in-situ soil formed by the weathering of ancient rocks (Geography question 7). The local names of Bundelkhand's soils are asked repeatedly in exams:

Soil	Feature
Mar (black soil)	Black, clayey; high moisture-retention capacity
Kabar	Lighter form of black soil; becomes hard and cracks on drying
Parwa	Light brownish-yellow, sandy loam

Rakar	Reddish-brown, stony, less fertile
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Statement 2 is correct. At the foothills of the Shiwaliks, as soon as rivers descend the steep slope they deposit their heavy load, i.e., large pebbles and boulders. This belt is called Bhabar. This deposit is so porous that small rivers sink into it and begin to flow underground. South of the Bhabar, where the slope is gentle and fine soil is deposited, these rivers come out on the surface again. This marshy, moist, densely forested belt is called the Terai.

Connection with physical geography: Dudhwa, Pilibhit and Katarniaghat, which came up in Environment questions 11 and 12, are all in the Terai region. The moist and fertile conditions of the Terai are the basis of the tall grasslands and the habitat of wildlife like the tiger, rhinoceros and barasingha. In this way a physical process, i.e., rivers going underground and re-emerging on the surface, gives birth to an entire ecosystem.

140. Answer: d

3 4 2 1

Betwa (Vindhya range, Raisen): It rises from the Vindhya range near Kumra village in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh and, flowing north-east, joins the Yamuna near Hamirpur. Orchha and Jhansi are in its region.

Ken (Kaimur range): It rises from the Kaimur range in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh, flows through the Panna Tiger Reserve, and joins the Yamuna near Chilla in Banda district.

Gomti (Fulhar Jheel): It rises from Fulhar Jheel (Gomat Tal) in Pilibhit district. It is a river flowing entirely within Uttar Pradesh, and Lucknow and Jaunpur are on its banks. It rises not from the Himalayas but from a lake in the plains, so it depends mainly on rainfall and groundwater.

Ramganga (Doodhatoli hills): It rises from the Doodhatoli hills of Uttarakhand, flows through Jim Corbett National Park, and joins the Ganga near Kannauj (Geography question 15).

Examiner's view: The Gomti and Ramganga are both left-bank tributaries of the Ganga, but one rises in the plains and the other in the mountains. Option (c) has been made by reversing these two.

Connection with current affairs: The Ken-Betwa Link Project. It is the first river-interlinking project under the National Perspective Plan, whose foundation stone was laid at Khajuraho in December 2024. In it, the Daudhan dam will be built on the Ken river and its surplus water will be sent by canal to the Betwa basin, providing irrigation and drinking water to the drought-prone districts of Bundelkhand (both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh). Its biggest environmental concern is that the submergence area of the dam will affect a part of the Panna Tiger Reserve. This is an example of the conflict between development and conservation, just like that of the Great Indian Bustard and energy projects in Environment question 5.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 3 leaves (a), (c) and (d). Knowing B = 4 leaves (c) and (d). Knowing C = 2 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing D = 1 leaves (a), (b) and (d).

141. Answer: a

3-2-4-1

Event	Date	Place
Beginning of the Revolt of 1857	10 May 1857	Meerut
Lucknow Pact	December 1916	Lucknow
Chauri Chaura	4 February 1922	Gorakhpur
Kakori Train Action	9 August 1925	Near Lucknow

Therefore the correct order is 3-2-4-1.

Cause-effect relationship between the events: At Chauri Chaura, an agitated mob set fire to a police station, in which 22 policemen were killed. Hurt by this violence, Gandhiji withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement. The sudden withdrawal of the movement disillusioned many young revolutionaries with the path of non-violence and they chose the path of armed revolution. Against this background the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) was formed, whose members stopped a train carrying government treasury at Kakori to raise funds for the organisation.

That is, the background of Kakori (1925) cannot be understood without Chauri Chaura (1922). Remembering

this cause and effect automatically cuts the trap of option (d), in which Kakori has been placed before Chauri Chaura.

Additional facts on Kakori: For this incident, Ramprasad 'Bismil', Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh were hanged in 1927. In 2021, the Uttar Pradesh government changed its name from 'Kakori Train Dacoity' to 'Kakori Train Action', and in 2025 it completed 100 years.

142. Answer: c

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. Kajri is a folk song sung in Sawan-Bhado, which describes rain, separation and nature. Its name is believed to be linked with 'Kajra' (dark clouds). Mirzapur is called the stronghold of Kajri. Classical singers of the Banaras gharana, especially Girija Devi, gave it a respected place in semi-classical music.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The Lucknow gharana of Kathak flourished under the patronage of the Nawabs of Awadh, especially Nawab Wajid Ali Shah (19th century). Wajid Ali Shah was himself a Kathak artist. Thakur Prasad, Bindadin Maharaj and Kalka Prasad were prominent in this gharana, and in the modern era Pandit Birju Maharaj was its most famous artist. The speciality of the Lucknow gharana is bhava, abhinaya and nazakat (delicacy).

Major gharanas of Kathak:

Gharana	Patronage	Feature
Lucknow	Nawabs of Awadh	Bhava, abhinaya, delicacy
Jaipur	Rajput courts	Fast footwork (tatkar), complex rhythmic patterns
Banaras	—	Emphasis on natwari bols, devotional feeling

Statement 3 is correct. Ramlila, i.e., the traditional dramatic performance of the Ramayana, was included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2008. In Uttar Pradesh, the Ramlila of Ramnagar in Varanasi is the most famous, which runs for about a month and in which the entire town becomes the stage. The Kumbh Mela, which came up in Current Affairs question 27, has also been on this list since 2017.

143. Answer: d

A is false, but R is true

A is false. Uttar Pradesh ranks first in the country in milk production. Its share in the country's total milk production is about 15–16%. It is followed by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. India itself is the world's largest milk producer, the credit for which goes to Operation Flood (White Revolution) started in 1970 and Dr. Verghese Kurien.

R is true. According to the 20th Livestock Census (2019), Uttar Pradesh has the largest livestock population in the country. It is followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Concept: In Assertion-Reason questions, if A is false, R cannot be its explanation at all, so options (a) and (b) are automatically eliminated. Then one only has to see whether R is true or not.

A subtle point is that here R is actually a major reason for Uttar Pradesh being first in milk production. That is, even though R is true, A's claim of "second position" is false. The student who, knowing R to be true, also trusts A, gets trapped.

Other major positions of Uttar Pradesh's economy: Uttar Pradesh has long been first in the country in sugarcane production, and it is also among the leading states in wheat and potato production. Due to the abundance of sugarcane, Uttar Pradesh has also become a leading state in ethanol production, which connects with the ethanol blending in petrol programme.

144. Answer: a

Only 1 and 2

Statement 1 is correct. The ODOP scheme was launched on 24 January 2018, i.e., on the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Day. Its idea was that every district has some traditional, distinctive product, whose identity, skills and market already exist. That product should be taken to the global level through finance, marketing, training and branding. After the success of this model, the Central Government adopted it at the national level and linked it with the 'Districts as Export Hubs' initiative.

Statement 2 is correct. At the ODOP pavilion of the 2025 Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show, distinctive products of districts such as the carpets of Bhadohi, the

glasswork of Firozabad, the metalware of Moradabad and the wood carving of Saharanpur were displayed.

Statement 3 is incorrect. ODOP includes handicrafts, handloom, metal craft, leather products, sports goods, food processing and agricultural products, all of them.

Major ODOP products:

District	Product
Varanasi	Banarasi saree (silk)
Lucknow	Chikankari
Kannauj	Perfume (litr)
Agra	Leather products
Meerut	Sports goods
Bhadohi	Carpets

Connection with the concept: ODOP is an example of cluster-based development. When there are many units of the same industry in one area, skilled workers, raw materials, special machines and buyers are all easily available, which lowers everyone's costs. In economics this is called 'agglomeration economies'. Many of these products have also received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which gives legal protection to their distinctiveness.

145. Answer: c

In it, the amount is given in instalments at different stages of life, from the girl's birth to her admission to higher education.

(c) is correct. The basic feature of this scheme is that the amount is given not at once, but at six stages of the girl's life: birth, complete vaccination, and then at different stages of education (admission to Class 1, Class 6, Class 9, and admission to graduation or diploma after Class 12). The total assistance amount has been increased from time to time, so do check the latest amount before the exam.

Why this instalment structure? This scheme is a 'conditional cash transfer'. Every instalment is linked with a desired behaviour: completing vaccination, and keeping the girl in school. Its aim is not just to give financial help, but to motivate the family to pay continuous attention to the girl's health and education. If the whole amount were given at the time of marriage (option b), it would promote the very mindset that sees

a girl as a "burden of marriage", whereas the aim of the scheme is to make her educated and self-reliant.

Why the other options are wrong: The scheme is income-based, not caste-based, so (a) is wrong. For eligibility there is a limit on the family's annual income, and a maximum of two girls per family are eligible. It is a State Government scheme, so (d) is also wrong.

Connection with current affairs: In Current Affairs question 21 it was explained that a major challenge for India in the Global Gender Gap Index is the sex ratio at birth and economic participation. Schemes like Kanya Sumangala are a state-level effort on both these indicators: incentive at birth and future economic participation through education.

146. Answer: b

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Mission Shakti: It was launched in October 2020 on the occasion of Sharadiya Navratri. It has three pillars: Nari Suraksha (safety), Nari Samman (dignity) and Nari Swavalamban (self-reliance). Under it, women help desks in police stations, awareness campaigns and livelihood programmes for women are run.

Operation Kayakalp: It is a campaign of the Basic Education Department, whose aim is to provide basic facilities like toilets, drinking water, furniture, electricity and smart classes in council schools. Resources of Gram Panchayats have also been linked with it.

Nivesh Mitra: It is Uttar Pradesh's single-window approval portal, where investors can apply online at one place for all the departmental permissions required to set up an industry. According to the Uttar Pradesh government, this system has been created to promote investment, and along with it there is also a policy under which the required No Objection Certificates are given within 72 hours.

Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan (CM-YUVA): It was launched in January 2025 on Uttar Pradesh Day. Under it, youth are given interest-free and collateral-free loans to start micro enterprises, along with training. It differs from the Centre's Mudra Yojana (Economy question 13) in the sense that the State Government bears the burden of interest in it.

Examiner's view: Hearing the word 'Kayakalp', students assume it is a scheme related to health or women, whereas it is related to schools. Option (c) is based on this confusion, in which the objectives of Mission Shakti and Operation Kayakalp have been swapped.

Option analysis: Knowing A = 4 leaves (a), (b) and (d). Knowing B = 1 leaves (b) and (d). Knowing C = 2 leaves (b) and (c). Knowing D = 3 leaves (a), (b) and (c).

147. Answer: a

Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A

Background: The Uttar Pradesh government presented a budget of about ₹9.13 lakh crore for 2026-27, the largest budget in the history of the State, in which a capital outlay of more than ₹1.77 lakh crore has been proposed.

A is true. According to PRS's budget analysis, in 2026-27 the revenue surplus is estimated at 1.6% of GSDP (₹64,458 crore), while the fiscal deficit target has been kept at 3% of GSDP (₹1.18 lakh crore).

R is true and is the correct explanation of A. This question is a practical application of the formulas of Economy question 11:

Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts

Fiscal deficit = Total expenditure – (Revenue receipts + Non-debt capital receipts)

Revenue expenditure includes current expenses like salaries, pensions, interest and subsidies. A revenue surplus means that the State's own income is more than these current expenses, i.e., the State is not running its daily expenses by borrowing. But the fiscal deficit also includes capital expenditure: assets like expressways, airports, bridges and hospitals. The amount from the revenue surplus is not enough for these, so borrowing is needed for the rest.

Concept: From the point of view of economics, this is "good borrowing". Borrowing to pay salaries (revenue deficit) is a burden on the future, whereas borrowing to build an expressway (capital expenditure) creates an asset that generates income and economic growth in the future. In a State like Uttar Pradesh, where projects like the Ganga Expressway and Jewar airport are under way (Current Affairs questions 24–25), this structure reflects this very thinking.

Constitutional context: The fiscal deficit limit of States is determined by their own Fiscal Responsibility Acts and the recommendations of the Finance Commission, which is normally 3% of GSDP. According to Article 293, if a State owes a loan to the Centre, it needs the Centre's consent for fresh borrowing.

148. Answer: d

1, 2 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The fourth edition of UPITS is being held from 25 to 29 September 2026 at the India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. Three editions have already been held before this, in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Statement 2 is correct. The first edition of 2023 was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu, the second edition by the then Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and the third edition of 2025 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the 2025 edition, Russia became the partner country for the first time.

Statement 3 is correct. The fourth edition is being organised by the Uttar Pradesh government in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO). FIEO was established in 1965 with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce and the private sector, and it is the apex body for export promotion in India.

Concept of UPITS: The 'hosted buyer' model. The fourth edition has a 'Hosted Buyer Programme' for eligible foreign buyers, in which they are given partial reimbursement of airfare. The logic is that for small manufacturers and artisans of Uttar Pradesh, going abroad to find buyers is expensive. So the government brings the buyers themselves to Uttar Pradesh. This is a practical strategy to make ODOP (question 6) "local to global".

Examiner's view: All three statements of this question are correct. The facts of the three have been taken from different editions (first, third and fourth), so that a student who reads only recent news may doubt statement 2.

149. Answer: c

Only 1 and 3

Statement 1 is correct. The National Emblem was adopted on 26 January 1950. In the original Lion Capital, four lions stand back to back, but only three are visible in the emblem, and the fourth remains hidden behind. The Dharma Chakra, a bull and a horse are carved on the base. The original Lion Capital is preserved in the Sarnath Museum (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh). 'Satyameva Jayate' has been taken from the Mundaka Upanishad and is inscribed in the Devanagari script.

Statement 2 is incorrect. India's National Calendar is based on the Saka Samvat, not the Vikram Samvat. It was officially adopted from 22 March 1957 along with the Gregorian calendar. Its first month is Chaitra, which begins on 22 March in a normal year and on 21 March in a leap year.

Samvat (Era)	Launch	Association
Vikram Samvat	57 BCE	Associated with King Vikramaditya of Ujjain; traditionally prevalent in North India
Saka Samvat	78 CE	Believed to be associated with the Kushana ruler Kanishka; India's National Calendar

Connection with history: The Saka era is associated with Kanishka, who organised the Fourth Buddhist Council (History question 2). That is why this question, though in the miscellaneous section, connects with ancient history.

Statement 3 is correct. The full version of 'Jana Gana Mana', composed by Rabindranath Tagore, takes about 52 seconds, while its short version with the first and last lines takes about 20 seconds. The Constituent Assembly adopted it as the National Anthem on 24 January 1950.

150. Answer: b

4 2 3 1

Yudh Abhyas (USA): It is one of the oldest and largest joint exercises between the armies of India and the USA. India's other major exercises with the USA are Vajra Prahar (special forces), Cope India (air force) and Malabar (navy, which also includes Japan and Australia).

Dharma Guardian (Japan): It is held between the armies of India and Japan. With Japan, the naval exercise is JIMEX and the air force exercise is Veer Guardian.

Nomadic Elephant (Mongolia): 'Nomadic' means wandering, which is a symbol of Mongolia's nomadic culture. This name makes it easy to identify.

Shakti (France): It is an exercise of the armies of India and France. With France, the naval exercise is Varuna and the air force exercise is Garuda.

Examiner's view: The word 'Guardian' appears in two exercises with Japan (Dharma Guardian and Veer Guardian), while 'Garuda' is an air force exercise with France and 'Garuda Shakti' a special forces exercise with Indonesia. Students get confused because these names are similar. In option (c), Yudh Abhyas and Dharma Guardian have been reversed.

Way to remember: The name of an exercise often reflects the culture or history of the partner country. 'Nomadic Elephant' is linked with Mongolia's nomadic culture, 'Mitra Shakti' with friendship with Sri Lanka, and 'Sampriti' with harmony with Bangladesh.



The poster is for Kredoz IAS, featuring the tagline 'Target Plan Select Success' and 'Sarkari Naukri Tumse Door Nahi!'. The main headline is 'RO/ARO हो जाओ तैयार!' (RO/ARO become ready!). Below this, it says 'भर्ती आने की प्रबल संभावना के साथ शुरू करें अपनी तैयारी!' (Start your preparation with strong probability of recruitment!). The poster is divided into two main sections: 'RO/ARO Notification' and 'BEO Notification'. The RO/ARO section mentions recruitment in September/October and November, with 550 seats. The BEO section mentions recruitment in September/October and November, with 238 seats. Both sections include icons for 'Live Classes', 'Complete Notes', 'Test Series & Practice', 'Mentorship & Guidance', and 'Updated Strategy'. At the bottom, it says 'Notification का इंतज़ार मत करो... तैयारी पहले शुरू करो!' (Don't wait for notification... start preparation first!) and 'Kredoz IAS आपकी सफलता की तैयारी का साथी' (Kredoz IAS is your partner in preparing for success).

Notification	Recruitment Period	Seats
RO/ARO	सितंबर के अंत / अक्टूबर में आने की संभावना	550 (लगभग)
BEO	अक्टूबर के अंत / नवंबर में आने की संभावना	238 ±