

1. Consider the following statements regarding Vedic period

1. They domesticated animals like cows, horses, sheeps, goats and dogs.
2. Bali was mandatory donation.
3. Cows were the measure of wealth.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Material life and economy

The Aryans were primarily pastoral and agricultural people. **They domesticated animals like cows, horses, sheeps, goats and dogs.** They ate simple food consisting of cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, milk and various milk products. They drank a beverage called *Soma*. Games of chess, chariot racing etc. were their modes of entertainment.

In the early period there was no money transaction or taxes. **Bali or voluntary donation was prevalent. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Cows were the measure of wealth. As the time passed, extensive use of iron brought great changes in their material life. Iron axes enabled them to clear forests leading to the expansion of agriculture throughout the Gangetic plains. Iron tools resulted in varied crafts and technology. Use of iron weapons and horses enabled them to fight wars and defend themselves better against enemies. Increasing number of crafts, availability of surplus food and growth of population led to specialisation of skills and urbanisation.

Towns and cities grew and territorial states emerged. High quality earthenware called 'Painted Grey Ware' and 'Northern Black Polished Ware' have been found in many areas. Coins came into circulation. Trade was carried on, both overland and through waterways, enhancing material prosperity.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Jainism and Buddhism

1. The Jains lay great emphasis on severe penance and asceticism.
2. Basically, both these movements were against the orthodox and ritualistic Brahmanical religion.
3. Both of them founded an order of monks and established monasteries.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

○

○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

The founder of Jainism is believed to be *Rishabhadeva*, the first of the twenty-four *tirthankaras* and as the last *tirthankara* Mahavira developed and gave final shape to the Jain doctrines.

The Jains lay great emphasis on severe penance and asceticism. Lord Mahavira asked them to take five vows - not to tell lies; not to injure life; not to own property; not to steal; and to maintain chastity (celibacy). He also asked the Jains to follow the three-fold path of Right belief, Right Conduct and Right Knowledge.

The other movement was led by Gautama Buddha (563 - 483 BC), a younger contemporary of Mahavira. He taught the Four Noble Truths. His path was the middle path. He believed that there is sorrow in this world and that desire is the cause of that sorrow and it can be conquered by following the Eight-Fold Path (*ashtangika marga*).

Basically, both these movements were against the orthodox and ritualistic Brahmanical religion. Both the reformers emphasised a good moral life and the importance of ethics. **Both of them founded an order of monks, established monasteries called *sthanakas* in Jainism and *viharas* in Buddhism.**

3. Consider the following statements regarding Achaemenid dynasty

1. Darius I was the founder of the Achaemenid dynasty.
2. Indian subjects were also enrolled in the Achaemenid army.
3. The Achaemenid empire was destroyed by the Greeks under the leadership of Alexander of Macedon.

○ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only ✓
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

○

○ Correct Answer : B

○ **Answer Justification :**

Cyrus, the founder of the Achaemenid dynasty, and his successor Darius I annexed parts of Punjab and Sindh. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

It was believed to be the most fertile and populous part of the Achaemenid empire. **Indian subjects were also enrolled in the Achaemenid army.** Though the mountainous passes in the north western border were being used from very early times, it seems that Darius entered India through these passes for the first time. Later on, a section of Alexander's army traversed the same route, when he invaded Punjab.

During the fourth century BC, the Greeks and the Persians fought for supremacy over West Asia. **The Achaemenid empire was finally destroyed by the Greeks under the leadership of Alexander of Macedon.** He conquered Asia Minor, Iraq and Iran and then marched towards India. According to the Greek historian Herodotus, Alexander was greatly attracted towards India because of her fabulous wealth.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Persian influence on Mauryan empire

1. Persian title of satrapa (governor) continued to be used by the Indian provincial governors as kshtrapa.
2. The Persian influence found in Chandragupta Maurya's court was in the form of the ceremonial hair bath taken by the emperor on his birthday.
3. The Persian scribes brought into India a new style of writing called kharoshthi.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

The administrative structure of the Mauryan empire was influenced in some measure by that of the Achaemenid rulers of Persia. It may be mentioned here that the **Persian title of satrapa (governor) continued to be used by the Indian provincial governors as kshtrapa** for quite a long time.


The Persian influence found in Chandragupta Maurya's court was in the form of the ceremonial hair bath taken by the emperor on his birthday. It was in typical Persian style. It is mentioned in the *Arthashastra* that whenever the king consults the physician or the ascetic, he should sit in a room where the sacred fire was kept. This indicates the influence of Zoroastrianism, the religion of ancient Iranians.

The cultural effects of the contacts with the Persians were also significant. **The Persian scribes brought into India a new style of writing. It is called *kharoshthi*.** It was derived from the Aramaic script, which was written from right to left. Many of Asoka's inscriptions found in north western India are written in *kharoshthi*. This script continued to be used in north western India till about third century AD. The Persian influence may also be traced in the preamble of Asokan edicts. The Mauryan art and architecture were also greatly influenced by the Persian art. The monolithic pillar edicts of Asoka with their bell-shaped capitals are somewhat like the victory pillars of the Achaemenid emperors which have been found in Persepolis.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Ashoka

1. In his twelfth major Rock Edict, Asoka states that true conquest is by piety and virtue.
2. In his thirteenth major Rock Edict, he states that in honouring of other sects lies the honour of one's own sect.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Ashoka stands out as a monarch who combined successful kingship with idealism and philosophy. Like other rulers, Ashoka too began his reign with war - the conquest of Kalinga. However, the mindless destruction of life and property in this war shattered him so greatly that he vowed never to wage any war again. Instead **he adopted the policy of *Dhamma Vijaya* that is conquest through *dhamma*. In his thirteenth major Rock Edict, Asoka states that true conquest is by piety and virtue.** Such a decision taken by a king, who lived in an era where military might was the measure of power, earned him a unique place in history.

Ashoka was a true humanist. His policies were oriented towards the welfare of his people. **His *dhamma* was based on social responsibility.** Besides giving importance to respecting brahmins, and servants, obedience to elders, abstention from killing living beings, *dhamma* also asked people to live in religious harmony. It combined in itself the good points of all sects. Ashoka proved to be a tolerant monarch who, although himself a Buddhist, never sought to impose his personal religion on his subjects. **In his twelfth major Rock Edict, he states that in honouring of other sects lies the honour of one's own sect.**

Hence, both statement 1 and 2 are incorrect.

6. Consider the following statements regarding foreign rulers

1. In the Besnagar Pillar inscription, Heliodorus describes himself as a Shiva worshiper.
2. Some foreign rulers turned to Buddhism, as this did not create the problems of fitting into the caste system.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Many foreign rulers adopted Vaishnavism. **In the Besnagar Pillar inscription, Heliodorus (the Greek ambassador of the Indo-Greek king Antialkidas) describes himself as a Bhagavata** i.e. worshipper of Vishnu. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Similarly, some coins of Kanishka also show the figure of Siva on them. You will recall that one of the Kushan rulers was called Vasudeva, clearly indicating his *vaishnava* faith. Do you know the importance attached to the year of Kanishka's accession i.e., 78 A.D. Well, it marks the beginning of the Saka era.

The interaction among different foreign ethnic groups and the Indians played an important role in their choice of one or the other Indian religions. **Some foreign rulers also turned to Buddhism, as this did not create the problems of fitting into the caste system.**

7. Hathigumpha Inscription gives a detailed account of the reign of?

- A. Chandra Gupta 2nd
- B. Harshvardhan
- C. Kharavela ✓
- D. Ashoka

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Kharavela of Kalinga

Another kingdom which rose to a position of importance after the Mauryas was Kalinga. Kalinga included modern Orissa and parts of Northern Andhra. Its most important ruler was

Kharavela. **The Hathigumpha Inscription in a Jain cave at Udaigiri hills would give us a detailed account of his reign**, but unfortunately it is not easily decipherable. It is definitely known that he was a great administrator as well as a brave warrior. He carried out works of piety and public utility, like building roads and gardens.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

8. Which of the statements regarding Aryabhata is correct?

1. The value of pi was first calculated by him.
2. He described the method of denoting big decimal numbers by alphabets.
3. Aryabhata showed that zero was not a numeral only but also a symbol and a concept.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only ✓
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**


Baudhayan was the first one ever to arrive at several concepts in Mathematics, which were later rediscovered by the western world. **The value of π was first calculated by him.** As you know, π is useful in calculating the area and circumference of a circle. What is known as Pythagoras theorem today is already found in Baudhayan's ***Sulva Sutra***, which was written several years before the age of Pythagoras. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Aryabhata was a fifth century mathematician, astronomer, astrologer and physicist. He was a pioneer in the field of mathematics. At the age of 23, he wrote ***Aryabhatiya***, which is a summary of mathematics of his time. There are four sections in this scholarly work. **In the first section he describes the method of denoting big decimal numbers by alphabets.** In the second section, we find difficult questions from topics of modern-day Mathematics such as number theory, geometry, trigonometry and *Beejganita (algebra)*. The remaining two sections are on astronomy. **Aryabhata showed that zero was not a numeral only but also a symbol and a concept.** Discovery of zero enabled Aryabhata to find out the exact distance between the earth and the moon. The discovery of zero also opened up a new dimension of negative numerals.

9. Consider the following statements regarding ancient science and technology

1. Bhaskaracharya is famous for his book Ganit Sara Sangraha
2. Jain Guru Mahaviracharya wrote Siddhanta Shiromani., which is the first textbook on arithmetic in present day form.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 

◦

- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Bhaskaracharya was the leading light of 12th Century. He was born at Bijapur, Karnataka. He is famous for his book *Siddhanta Shiromani*. It is divided into four sections: Lilavati (Arithmetic), Beejaganit (Algebra), Goladhyaya (Sphere) and Grahaganit (mathematics of planets). Bhaskara introduced Chakrawat Method or the Cyclic Method to solve algebraic equations. This method was rediscovered six centuries later by European mathematicians, who called it inverse cycle. In the nineteenth century, an English man, James Taylor, translated Lilavati and made this great work known to the world.


There is an elaborate description of mathematics in Jain literature (500 B.C -100 B.C). Jain gurus knew how to solve quadratic equations. They have also described fractions, algebraic equations, series, set theory, logarithms and exponents in a very interesting manner. **Jain Guru Mahaviracharya wrote *Ganit Sara Sangraha* in 850A.D., which is the first textbook on arithmetic in present day form.** The current method of solving Least common Multiple (LCM) of given numbers was also described by him. Thus, long before John Napier introduced it to the world, it was already known to Indians.

Hence, both statement 1 and 2 are incorrect.

- 10.** Consider the following statements regarding Nalanda

1. This huge monastic-educational establishment was a center for learning of Mahayana Buddhism only.
2. According to Fa-Hein, Nalanda housed as many as 10,000 students. It was supported by the revenues of 200 villages.
3. Nalanda became a great center of learning during Harsha's reign.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only 
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Nalanda became a great centre of learning during Harsha's reign. Students from different parts of the world came here to imbibe learning. Although all the remains mounds of Nalanda have not yet been excavated, yet the evidence of a huge complex of buildings has been uncovered. Some of these were as many as four storey high. **According to Hiuen Tsang, Nalanda housed as many as 10,000 students. It was supported by the revenues of 200 villages. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**


Although this huge monastic-educational establishment was primarily a centre for learning of Mahayana Buddhism, yet the curriculum included secular subjects as well. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Grammar, logic, epistemology and sciences were taught here. Students were encouraged to develop a spirit of enquiry and reasoning. Active discussions and debates were taking place. Harsha is said to have invited a thousand learned monks of Nalanda to take part in the philosophical assembly at Kanauj. In his account, Hieun-Tsang has given a detailed account of Nalanda. Thus university continued to be the centre of intellectual activity till the twelfth century.

11. Consider the following statements regarding Delhi Sultans

1. A Sultan was supposed to rule over a territory on behalf of the Khalifa or Caliph.
2. Both the names of the Khalifa and the Sultan used to be read in the khutha, (Friday prayers) by the local Imams.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

The rulers of Delhi, who ruled from 1206-90, were Mamluk Turks. They were followed by the Khiljis, Tughlaqs, Sayyids and Lodis, who ruled northern India from Delhi till 1526. All these rulers were called Sultans. **A Sultan was supposed to rule over a territory on behalf of the Khalifa or Caliph, who was considered to be the spiritual and temporal head of the Muslims. Both the names of the Khalifa and the Sultan used to be read in the *khutha*, (Friday prayers) by the local Imams.**

In 1526 the Delhi Sultans were replaced by the Mughals, who initially ruled from Agra and later from Delhi till 1707. Thereafter, the Mughal rule continued only nominally till 1857 when the dynasty ended. The Mughals did not ask for any investiture but continued to send presents to the Khalifas. They also got the *khutba* read in their own names.

12. Consider the following statements regarding Kabir

1. Kabir was Ramanuja's favourite disciple.
2. Kabir strongly denounced idol worship and taking part in formal worship such as Namaz.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Ramananda

Ramananda was born at Allahabad and educated at Varanasi. He preached at both these places. He wanted to rid the Hindu religion of its evil customs and practices. He wanted people to know that all men were equal in the eyes of God and there was nobody high born or low born. His followers belonged to different walks of life. For example, Kabir was a weaver, Sadhana was a butcher, Ravidasa was a cobbler and Sena was a barber.

Kabir

Kabir was Ramananda's favourite disciple. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.


Like Nanak, he criticised the existing social order and called for Hindu-Muslim unity. **Kabir, the son of a Muslim weaver, strongly denounced idol worship, taking part in formal worship such as Namaz, pilgrimages or bathing in rivers.** He wanted to preach a religion which was acceptable to all and that would unite all religions. He emphasised the unity of God. He called Him by several names such as Rama, Gobinda, Hari and Allah. You must have read

his 'Dohas' or 'couplets' in Hindi.

13. Consider the following statements regarding paintings

1. Under Humayun, Mir Sayid Ali and Abdus Samad nurtured the tradition of painting manuscript.
2. Akbar employed Hindu painters like Daswant and Basawan Lal.
3. Jahangir's court was adorned with famous painters like Ustad and Abul Hasan.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Another area which was influenced by Islamic culture was painting. **Humayun had spent more than twelve years in Persia as a refugee. He brought painters with him to India when he became the ruler of Delhi once again in 1555. Famous among them were Mir Sayid Ali and Abdus Samad who nurtured the tradition of painting manuscript.** An example of it is *Dastan-e-Amir Hamza*, which has nearly 1200 paintings. The period also witnessed the flowering of portrait and miniature paintings. However, what is amazing is that some of these painters tried to paint the classical *ragas*, thereby giving form and colour to such abstract conceptions as music. Seasons or *baramasa paintings* were similarly given artistic forms.

Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan continued to give patronage to these artists and as a result, the Mughal school of painting continued to flourish. **Akbar as a liberal ruler extended his patronage to painting. He also employed a large number of Hindu painters like Daswant and Basawan Lal.** Consequently, there was a fusion of Persian and Indian styles (of painting) during his period. The European influence on Indian painting too was noticed.

The Mughal school of painting reached its zenith under **Jahangir who was a famous painter. His court was adorned with famous painters like Ustad and Abul Hasan.** Mansur was famous for his miniature painting. However, Aurangzeb due to his orthodox views and political preoccupations, stopped patronising music and painting.

14. Rajatarangini, which gives a detailed account of the kings of Kashmir, was written by

- A. Bhanabatta
- B. Harisena
- C. Kalidasa
- D. Kalhan ✓

○

○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

The great grammarian Panini, analysed Sanskrit and its word formation in his unrivalled descriptive grammar *Ashtadhyayi*. The Buddhist Sanskrit literature includes the rich literature of the Mahayana school and the Hinayana school also. The most important work of the Hinayana school is the Mahavastu which is a storehouse of stories. While the Lalitavistara is the most sacred Mahayana text which supplied literary material for the Buddhacarita of **Asvaghosa**. Sanskrit is perhaps the only language that transcended the barriers of regions and boundaries. From the north to the south and the east to the west there is no part of India that has not contributed to or been affected by this language. **Kalhan's *Rajatarangini* gives a detailed account of the kings of Kashmir** whereas with *Jonaraja* we share the glory of Prithviraj. The writings of Kalidasa have added beauty to the storehouse of Sanskrit writings.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

15. Consider the following statements regarding Brahmanas and Aranyakas

1. The Brahmanas gave a detailed explanation of Vedic rituals and instructions and deal with the science of sacrifice.
2. The latter portions of the Brahmanas were called the Aranyakas.
3. The final parts of the Aranyakas are philosophic books named Upanishads.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

○

○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**


All the above statements are correct.

Brahmanas and Aranyakas

After the four Vedas, a number of works called the Brahmanas were developed. These books gave a detailed explanation of Vedic rituals and instructions and deal with the science of sacrifice. The latter portions of the Brahmanas were called the Aranyakas while the final parts of the Aranyakas are philosophic books named Upanishads which belong to the later stage of the Brahmana literature. Each of the four Vedas have their own Brahmana books. Rig Veda had Kaushitaki and Aitreya. Taittiriya belongs to Krishna Yajur Veda and Shatpath belongs to Shukla Yajur Veda. Tandav, Panchvish and Jaimaniya belongs to Atharva Veda. It is through them that we get a detailed information of the social, political and religious life of the people.

The Arayankas deal with soul, birth and death and life beyond it. These were studied and taught by men in Vanprastha i.e. Munis and the inhabitants living inside the forests. All these works were in Sanskrit. Initially they were handed down orally and were put to writing much later.

16. Upangas, Prakirnas, Chhedab Sutras and Malasutras are the important works of

- A. Jainism 
- B. Mahayana Buddhism
- C. Hinayana Buddhism
- D. Charvaka school

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The Jain texts were written in Prakrit and were finally compiled in the sixth century AD in Valabhi in Gujarat. **The important works are known as Angas, Upangas, Prakirnas, Chhedab Sutras and Malasutras.** Among the important Jain scholars, reference may be made to Haribhadra Suri, (eighth century AD) and Hemchandra Suri, (twelfth century AD). Jainism helped in the growth of a rich literature comprising poetry, philosophy and grammar. These works contain many passages which help us to reconstruct the political history of eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Jain texts refer repeatedly to trade and traders.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

17. Consider the following statements regarding Nayanars

1. The Vishnu devotees' in the South were known in Tamil as Nayanars.
2. Their appealing emotional songs in Tamil were called Tevaram Stotras.
3. The Nayanars hailed from all castes.

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

A. 1 only

- B. 2 and 3 only ✓
 C. 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3

○

○ Correct Answer : B

○ **Answer Justification :**

Shaiva Movement in the South: **The Shaiva movement in the South flourished at the beginning through the activities of many of the 63 saints known in Tamil as Nayanars (Siva-bhaktis). Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Their appealing emotional songs in Tamil were called *Tevaram Stotras*, also known as *Dravida Veda* and ceremonially sung in the local Shiva temples. The Nayanars hailed from all castes. This was supplemented on the doctrinal side by a large number of Shaiva intellectuals whose names were associated with several forms of Shaiva movements like Agamanta, Shudha and Vira-shaivism.

18. Consider the following statements regarding Middle Stone Age

1. Middle Stone Age roughly dates from 10000 B.C. to 6000 B.C.
2. Mesolithic remains are found in Langhanj in Gujarat and Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh.
3. Stone tools were now polished.

○ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
 B. 2 and 3 only
 C. 1 and 3 only
 D. 1, 2 and 3

○

○ Correct Answer : A

○ **Answer Justification :**

Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age

The next stage of human life is called Mesolithic or **Middle Stone Age which falls roughly from 10000 B.C. to 6000 B.C.** It was the transitional phase between the Paleolithic Age and Neolithic Age. **Mesolithic remains are found in Langhanj in Gujarat, Adamgarh in Madhya Pradesh and also in some places of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.** The paintings and engravings found at the rock shelters give an idea about the social life and economic activities of Mesolithic people. In the sites of Mesolithic Age, a different type of stone tools is found. These are tiny stone artifacts, often not more than five centimeters in size, and therefore called microliths. The hunting-gathering pattern of life continued during this period. However, there seems to have been a shift from big animal hunting to small animal

hunting and fishing. The use of bow and arrow also began during this period. Also, there began a tendency to settle for longer periods in an area. Therefore, domestication of animals, horticulture and primitive cultivation started. Animal bones are found in these sites and these include dog, deer, boar and ostrich. Occasionally, burials of the dead along with some microliths and shells seem to have been practiced.

Neolithic Age

There was a great improvement in technology of making tools and other equipments used by man. **Stone tools were now polished. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

The polished axes were found to be more effective tools for hunting and cutting trees. Mud brick houses were built instead of grass huts.

19. Consider the following statements regarding Harappan Seals

1. The materials used to make seals are agate, chert, copper, faience and terracotta.
2. Some seals might have been used as amulets.
3. Mathematical images have been found on some seals.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Archaeologists have found numerous seals of different shapes and sizes all across the excavation sites. While *most seals are square*, it was found that triangular, rectangular and circular seals were also used. **Steatite, a soft stone found in the river beds, was although the most common material used to make seals, yet agate, chert, copper, faience and terracotta seals have also been found.** Some instances of copper, gold and ivory seals have also been found. Seals were primarily used for commercial purposes and helped in communication. Discovery of various seals in Mesopotamia and various sites such as Lothal points to the fact that seals were extensively used for trade. **Some seals with a hole on them have been found on dead bodies. This indicates they might have used as amulets, carried on the persons of their owners, probably used as some form of identification. Mathematical images have also been found on some seals,** which might have been **used for educational purposes** as well. Seals with symbol similar to 'Swastika' design have also been found.

20. Consider the following statements regarding Mathura School of art

1. The Mathura School flourished on the banks of the river Yamuna in the period between 1st and 3rd centuries B.C.
2. The Mathura School was devoid of use of symbolism in the images.
3. The images were modelled on the earlier Yaksha images found during the Mauryan period.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Mathura School

The Mathura School flourished on the banks of the river Yamuna in the period between 1st and 3rd centuries B.C. The sculptures of the Mathura School were influenced by the stories and imageries of **all three religions** of the time - *Buddhism, Hinduism* and *Jainism*. **The images were modelled on the earlier Yaksha images found during the Mauryan period. The Mathura School showed a striking use of symbolism in the images. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

The Hindu Gods were represented using their avayudhas. For example, Shiva is shown through linga and mukhalinga. Similarly, the halo around the head of Buddha is larger than in Gandhara School and decorated with geometrical patterns. Buddha is shown to be surrounded by two Bodhisattavas - Padmapani holding a lotus and Vajrapani holding a thunderbolt.

21. Consider the following statements regarding Mudras

1. Bhumisparsha Mudra was associated with Calling the Earth to Witness the Truth.
2. Vitarka Mudra indicates fearlessness.
3. Dharmachakra Mudra means 'Turning the Wheel of the Dharma or Law'.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Bhumisparsha Mudra

One of the most common Mudras found in statues of Buddha. It depicts the Buddha sitting in meditation with his left hand, palm upright, in his lap, and his right hand touching the earth. This mudra is commonly associated with the blue Buddha known as Akshobya.

Significance: 'Calling the Earth to Witness the Truth' Mudra, and it represents the moment of Buddha's attaining enlightenment.

Vitarka Mudra

It indicates teaching and discussion or intellectual debate. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

The tips of the thumb and index finger touch each other, forming a circle. The right hand is positioned at shoulder level and the left hand at the hip level, in the lap, with palm facing upwards.

Abhaya Mudra

It indicates fearlessness. The right hand is raised to shoulder height with arm bent. The palm of the right hand faces outwards and the fingers are upright and joined. The left hand hangs downwards by the side of the body. This gesture was shown by Buddha immediately after attaining enlightenment.


Dharmachakra Mudra

It means 'Turning the Wheel of the Dharma or Law', i.e., setting into motion the wheel of Dharma. This Mudra involves both hands.

22. Consider the following statements regarding Ajanta Caves

1. The caves were developed in the period between 200 B.C. to 650 A.D.
2. The figures in these caves were done using fresco painting.
3. The outlines of the paintings were done in red color and then the inside was painted.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 

-
- Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Ajanta Caves:

Ajanta is a series of rock-cut caves in the Sahyadri ranges on Waghora river near **Aurangabad** in Maharashtra. There are a total of **29 caves** of which 25 were used as Viharas or residential caves while 4 were used as Chaitya or prayer halls. **The caves were developed in the period between 200 B.C. to 650 A.D.** The Ajanta caves were inscribed by the Buddhist monks, under the patronage of the Vakataka kings – Harishena being a prominent one. **The figures in these caves were done using fresco painting and demonstrate considerable naturalism.** The colours were obtained from local vegetation and minerals. **The outlines of the paintings were done in red colour and then the inside was painted.** One of the striking features is the **absence of blue colour** in the paintings. Cave No. 16 is one of the most elegant specimens of cave architecture. The paintings are generally *themed* around **Buddhism** – the life of Buddha and Jataka stories. Of the 29 caves, 5 were developed during the Hinayana phase while the remaining 24 were developed during the Mahayana phase of Buddhism. Reference of the Ajanta caves can be found in the travel accounts of Chinese Buddhist travellers Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang.

23. Which of the following statement regarding Maru-Gurjara style of architecture is incorrect?

- A. It was developed under the patronage of the Solanki rulers.
- B. The temple walls were full of intricate carvings. ✓
- C. There are wooden carvings present in these temples.
- D. The porticos have decorative arched gateways known as torans.

-
- Correct Answer : B

○ **Answer Justification :**

Solanki School: (also known as Maru-Gurjara style)

In the north-western parts of India including Gujarat and Rajasthan, **this school developed under the patronage of the Solanki rulers.** The features of this school are:

- **The temple walls were devoid of any carvings. Hence, option (b) is correct.**
- The *garbhagriha* is connected with the *mandapa* both internally as well as externally.

- **The porticos have decorative arched gateways known as *torans*.**
- A unique feature of this school is the **presence of step-tank**, known as *surya-kund* in the proximity of the temple.
- The steps of the tank are full of small temples.
- **There are wooden carvings present in these temples.**

The Solankis used a variety of material to make temples including sandstone, black basalt and softmarble. Most of the temples are **east-facing** and designed such that every year, during the equinoxes, the sunrays fall directly into the central shrine.

Example: Modhera Sun temple, Gujarat (built in 1026-27 by Bhima-I).

24. Consider the following statements regarding Pallava architecture

1. Under Nandivarman, development of real structural temples was started in the place of rock-cut temples.
 2. Under Narasimhavarman, the mandapas were now divided into separate rathas.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only ✓
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Narasimha group:

This represented the second stage of the development of temple architecture in South India. The rock-cut temples were decorated by intricate sculptures. **Under Narasimhavarman, the mandapas were now divided into separate rathas.** The biggest one was called the *Dharmaraja ratha* while the smallest one was called the *Draupadi ratha*. The design of a temple in the Dravidian style of architecture is a successor of the Dharmaraja ratha.

Rajsimha group:

Rajsimhavarman led the third stage of temple development. **Under him, development of real structural temples was started in the place of rock-cut temples. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Example: Shore temple at Mahabalipuram, Kailashnath temple at Kanchipuram, etc.

Nandivarman group: This was the fourth stage of temple development

during the Pallava dynasty. The temples built under him were smaller in size. The features were almost similar to the Dravidian style of temple architecture.

25. Arrange the following temples based on chronology from the earliest to latest

1. Vishwanath Temple
2. Meenakshi Temple
3. Shore Temple
4. Konark Sun Temple

- A. 2 3 4 1
- B. 2 3 1 4
- C. 3 4 1 2 ✓
- D. 3 4 2 1

○

○ Correct Answer : C

○ **Answer Justification :**

Shore Temple is located in Mahabalipuram Tamil Nadu and built by Lord Shiva 8th Century AD by the Pallavas.

Konark Sun Temple is located in Konark, Odisha and built By Eastern Ganga dynasty in 13th century.

Meenakshi Temple is located in Madurai, Tamil nadu built during 16th Century.

Vishwanath Temple is located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh built during 1780 AD.

Hence, option (c) is correct.

26. Consider the following statements regarding Kalamkari Paintings

1. The pen used is made of sharp pointed feather.
2. The main centers for this art are Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

3. The images are drawn free hand and the inspiration comes from Hindu mythology.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only ✓
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Kalamkari Paintings

The name comes from *kalam*, i.e. a pen, which is used to paint these exquisite paintings. **The pen used is made of sharp pointed bamboo, used to regulate the flow of colours. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

The base is **cotton fabric** while the colours used are vegetable dyes. The pen is soaked in a mixture of fermented jaggery and water; one by one these are applied and then the vegetable dyes. **The main centers for this art are Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam in the state of Andhra Pradesh.** The artists in the former create beautiful wall hangings. **The images are drawn free hand and the inspiration comes from hindu mythology.** Textiles with handwork are also produced here. The artists in the latter area use different designs including the cartwheel, lotus flower, animals and interlacing patterns of flowers and leaves among other things.

27. Consider the following statements regarding music

1. The type of ritualistic music which was displayed in the later Vedic period called Sangama.
2. Brihaddeshi written in the 9th century by Matanga focused on the definition of the word 'raga'.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

A lot of development in music stemmed from being played at devotional sites. This **type of ritualistic music was displayed in the later Vedic period through a type of music called *Sangama***, which involved chanting of verses that were usually set to musical patterns.

Even the epics were set to narrative type of music called the ***Jatigan***. The first work that clarified and elaborated on the subject of musicology was Bharata's ***Natyashastra***. **Brihaddeshi written in the 9th century by Matanga focused on the definition of the word 'raga'.**

Similarly, the 11th century text, ***Sangeeta Makaranda*** was composed by Nanda who enumerated 93 ragas and classified them into feminine and masculine forms. Other important texts of this period were ***Swaramela Kalanidhi*** written by **Ramamatya** in the 16th century which again deals primarily with ragas.

28. Baul is a folk music of

- A. Bengal ✓
- B. Kashmir
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

○

○ Correct Answer : A

○ **Answer Justification :**

Baul

It is not only a type of music, but a **Bengali** religious sect. The music of the Bauls, Baul Sangeet, is a particular type of folk song. Its lyrics carry influences of the Hindu Bhakti movements and the Suphi, a form of Sufi song exemplified by the songs of Kabir and is called 'Baul Gaan' or Baul song. **Hence, option (a) is correct.**

It is the folk music from the State of **Kashmir**. It is specially sung during **wedding** ceremonies and is considered very auspicious.

Alha

This form is from **Madhya Pradesh** and is a **heroic ballad song** with intricate words. It is usually sung in different languages like Braj, Awadhi and Bhojpuri.

Panihari

This form is from the State of **Rajasthan** and is thematically **related to water**. The songs are generally about **women fetching water** from the nearby well and carrying the water back to their households in *matkas* over their head.

Wanawan

29. Consider the following statements regarding Bharatnatyam

1. In this dance form, equal emphasis is given on both the Tandava and Lasya aspects of dance.
2. It is characterized by the 'Ekcharya lasyam' style in which one dancer plays many different roles.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Bharatnatyam

Oldest among all classical dance forms, Bharatnatyam derives its name from Bharata Muni and 'natyam' which means dance in Tamil. However, other scholars have ascribed the name 'Bharata' to 'Bhava', 'Raga' and 'Taal'. The origins of this dance form can be traced back to 'Sadir' – the solo dance performance of the temple dancers or '**devadasis**' in **Tamil Nadu**, hence it was also referred to as 'Dashiattam'.

Bharatnatyam is often referred to as the '**fire dance**', as it is the manifestation of fire in the human body. Most of the movements in Bharatnatyam resemble to that of a *dancing flame*. **In this dance form, equal emphasis is given on both the Tandava and Lasya aspects of dance**, with major emphasis on 'mudras'.

One of the principal *mudras* is '**Kataka Mukha Hasta**' in which the three fingers are joined to symbolise 'Om'. In a Bharatnatyam recital, the **knees are mostly bent** and the weight is equally distributed across both the feet. **It is also characterized by the 'Ekcharya lasyam' style in which one dancer plays many different roles.**

30. Consider the following statements regarding Danabandi system

1. It was a revenue system in which not the actual crop but the estimated crop was divided between the cultivator and the government or its agents.
2. It was introduced by Akbar in his 24th regnal year.

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

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Dahsala A revenue system in which the average produce of different crops as well as the average prices of the past 10 years were calculated and one-third of the average produce in terms of cash was collected by the state as the land revenue. **It was introduced by Akbar in his 24th regnal year. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Danabandi

It was a revenue system in which not the actual crop (as in the *balai* system) but the estimated crop was divided between the cultivator and the government or its agents. During the British period the zamindars under the permanent settlement increasingly demanded payment of their share of estimated crop not in kind, but in cash at market rates of certain periods of year which proved disastrous to the cultivators.

31. Consider the following statements:

1. The gravitation force is greater near the equator and less at the poles.
2. Gravity anomalies give us information about the distribution of mass of the material in the crust of the earth.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The gravitation force (g) is not the same at different latitudes on the surface. It is greater near the poles and less at the equator. This is because of the distance from the centre at the equator being greater than that at the poles. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

The gravity values also differ according to the mass of material. The uneven distribution of mass of material within the earth influences this value. The reading of the gravity at different places is influenced by many other factors.

These readings differ from the expected values. Such a difference is called *gravity anomaly*. Gravity anomalies give us information about the distribution of mass of the material in the crust of the earth. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

32. Consider the following statements regarding the Asthenosphere:

1. It is the upper portion of the Core of the Earth.
2. It is the main source of magma that finds its way to the surface during volcanic eruptions.
3. It has a density lower than the crust's density.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

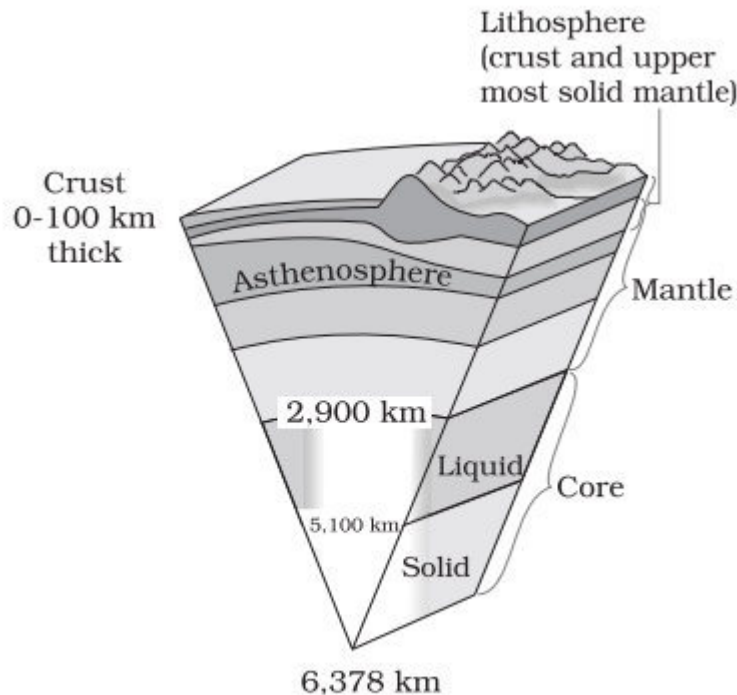


Figure 3.4 : The interior of the earth

The portion of the interior beyond the crust is called the mantle. The mantle extends from Moho's discontinuity to a depth of 2,900 km.

The upper portion of the mantle is called *asthenosphere*. The word *astheno* means weak. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.


It is considered to be extending upto 400 km.

It is the main source of magma that finds its way to the surface during volcanic eruptions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

It has a density higher than the crust's (3.4 g/cm³). Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

The crust and the uppermost part of the mantle are called lithosphere. Its thickness ranges from 10-200 km. The lower mantle extends beyond the asthenosphere. It is in solid state.

33. Which type of volcanic eruptions have led to the formation of Deccan Trap ?

- A. Caldera
- B. Shield Volcanoes
- C. Composite Volcanoes
- D. Flood Basalt Provinces 

o

- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Flood Basalt Provinces:

These volcanoes outpour highly fluid lava that flows for long distances. Some parts of the world are covered by thousands of sq. km of thick basalt lava flows. There can be a series of flows with some flows attaining thickness of more than 50 m. **Individual flows may extend for hundreds of km. The Deccan Traps from India,** presently covering **most of the Maharashtra plateau, are a much larger flood basalt province.** It is believed that initially the trap formations covered a much larger area than the present.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

34. Consider the following statements regarding the glacial Tillite deposits:

1. It is the type of igneous rock.
2. The glacial tillite provides the evidence of palaeoclimates.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

-
- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Tillite:

It is the sedimentary rock formed out of deposits of glaciers. The Gondawana system of sediments from India is known to have its counterparts in six different landmasses of the Southern Hemisphere. At the base, the system has thick tillite indicating extensive and prolonged glaciation. Counterparts of this succession are found in Africa, Falkland Island, Madagascar, Antarctica and Australia. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Overall resemblance of the Gondawana-type sediments clearly demonstrates that these landmasses had remarkably similar histories. **The glacial tillite provides unambiguous evidence of palaeoclimates and also of drifting of continents. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

35. Consider the following statements regarding composition of the Atmosphere

1. Carbon dioxide and water vapor are found only up to 10 km from the surface of the earth.
2. In the cold, dry arctic regions water vapor usually accounts for less than 1% of the atmosphere.

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

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Composition of the Atmosphere

The atmosphere is composed of gases, water vapour and dust particles. The proportion of gases changes in the higher layers of the atmosphere in such a way that oxygen will be almost in negligible quantity at the height of 120 km. **Similarly, carbon dioxide and water vapour are found only up to 90 km from the surface of the earth. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

The atmosphere is composed of a mix of several different gases in differing amounts. The permanent gases whose percentages do not change from day to day are nitrogen, oxygen and argon. Nitrogen accounts for 78% of the atmosphere, oxygen 21% and argon 0.9%. Gases like carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides, methane, and ozone are trace gases that account for about a tenth of one percent of the atmosphere. Water vapor is unique in that its concentration varies from 0-4% of the atmosphere depending on where you are and what time of the day it is. **In the cold, dry arctic regions water vapor usually accounts for less than 1% of the atmosphere**, while in humid, tropical regions water vapor can account for almost 4% of the atmosphere. Water vapor content is very important in predicting weather.

Hence, statement 2 is correct.

36. Naku La sector, sometimes seen in news, shares border with:

1. China
2. Nepal
3. Myanmar

◦ Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 only
- D. None

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**



<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/indian-chinese-troops-clash-in-naku-la-sikkim-7160770/>

37. Consider the following pairs of the Minor plates and their location:

Minor Plate:	Location:
1. Nazca plate	Between North America and Pacific plate
2. Cocos plate	Between Central America and Atlantic Ocean
3. Caroline plate	Between the Philippine and Indian plate

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

- A. 3 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

A tectonic plate (also called lithospheric plate) is a massive, irregularly-shaped slab of solid rock, generally composed of both continental and oceanic lithosphere. Plates move horizontally over the asthenosphere as rigid units. The lithosphere includes the crust and top mantle with its thickness range varying between 5 and 100 km in oceanic parts and about 200 km in the continental areas. A plate may be referred to as the continental plate or oceanic plate depending on which of the two occupy a larger portion of the plate. Pacific plate is largely an oceanic plate whereas the Eurasian plate may be called a continental plate. The theory of plate tectonics proposes that the earth's lithosphere is divided into seven major

and some minor plates. Young Fold Mountain ridges, trenches, and/or faults surround these major plates.

The major plates are as follows:

1. Antarctica and the surrounding oceanic plate
2. North American (with western Atlantic floor separated from the South American plate along the Caribbean islands) plate
3. South American (with western Atlantic floor separated from the North American plate along the Caribbean islands) plate
4. Pacific plate
5. India-Australia-New Zealand plate
6. Africa with the eastern Atlantic floor plate
7. Eurasia and the adjacent oceanic plate.

Some important minor plates are listed below:

- (i) **Cocos plate** : Between Central America and Pacific plate. Hence, pair 1 is **incorrectly matched**.
- (ii) **Nazca plate** : Between South America and Pacific plate. Hence, pair 2 is **incorrectly matched**.
- (iii) **Arabian plate** : Mostly the Saudi Arabian landmass
- (iv) **Philippine plate** : Between the Asiatic and Pacific plate
- (v) **Caroline plate** : Between the Philippine and Indian plate (North of New Guinea). Hence, pair 3 is **correctly matched**.
- (vi) **Fuji plate** : North-east of Australia

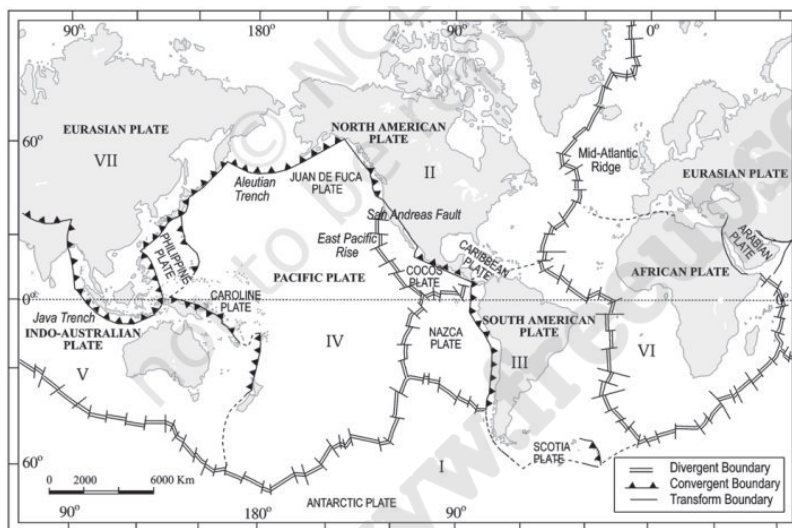



Figure 4.5 : Major and minor plates of the world

38. Which one of the following is not an igneous rock?

- A. Gabbro
- B. Pegmatite
- C. Geysirite 

D. Basalt

-
- Correct Answer : C
- **Answer Justification :**

Igneous Rocks

As igneous rocks form out of magma and lava from the interior of the earth, they are known as primary rocks. The igneous rocks (Ignis - in Latin means 'Fire') are formed when magma cools and solidifies. When magma in its upward movement cools and turns into solid form it is called igneous rock. The process of cooling and solidification can happen in the earth's crust or on the surface of the earth.

Granite, gabbro, pegmatite, basalt, volcanic breccia and tuff are some of the examples of igneous rocks.

Types of sedimentary rocks:

Depending upon the mode of formation, sedimentary rocks are classified into three major groups:

- (i) Mechanically formed — sandstone, conglomerate, limestone, shale, loess etc. are examples;
- (ii) Organically formed — geyserite, chalk, limestone, coal etc. are some examples; Hence, option (c) is correct.**
- (iii) Chemically formed — chert, limestone, halite, potash etc. are some examples**

39. Which of the following is/are erosional landforms of the karst topography?

1. Sinkholes
 2. Lapies
 3. Stalactites
 4. Stalagmites
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 3 and 4 only
 - C. 1 and 2 only ✓
 - D. 2 and 4 only

-
- Correct Answer : C
- **Answer Justification :**

Any limestone or dolomitic region showing typical landforms produced by the action

of groundwater through the processes of solution and deposition is called *Karst topography* after the typical topography developed in limestone rocks of Karst region in the Balkans adjacent to Adriatic sea.

The karst topography is also characterized by erosional and depositional landforms.

Some of the Erosional Landforms:

- Swallow Holes
- **Sinkholes**
- valley sinks or Uvalas
- **Ridges or lapies**
- Limestone pavements
- Caves

Some of the Depositional Landforms:

- **Stalactites**
- **Stalagmites**
- Pillars

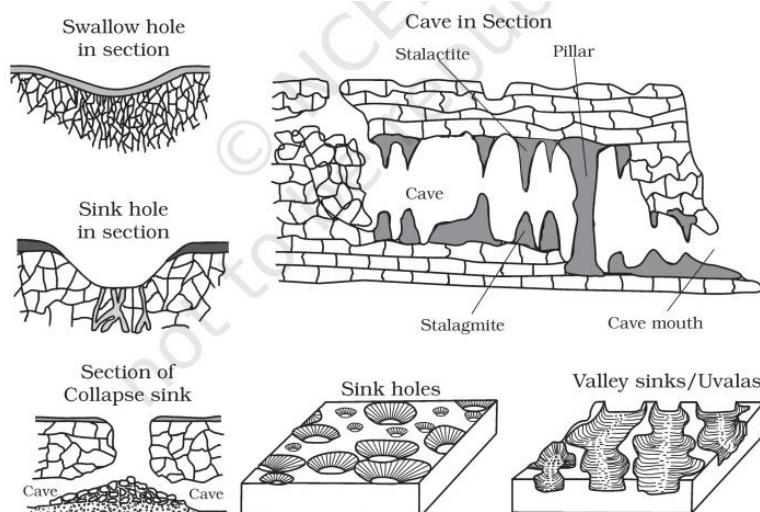


Figure 7.10 : Various karst features

Hence, option (c) is correct.

40. Which of the following Indian states does/do share border with Myanmar?

1. Tripura
2. Manipur
3. Assam
4. Mizoram

◦ Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. 2 and 4 only ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Four **Indian** states share the border with Myanmar: **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Manipur.**



Hence, option (d) is correct.

41. Consider the following statements regarding newspapers in India

1. The first attempts to publish newspapers in India were made by the disgruntled employees of the English East India Company.
2. James Augustus Hickey published the first newspaper in India entitled The Calcutta Gazette.
3. Hickey's press was seized within two years, owing to his outspoken criticism of government officials.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The first attempts to publish newspapers in India were made by the disgruntled employees of the English East India Company who sought to expose the malpractices of private trade. For instance, in 1776, William Bolts, being censured by the Court of Directors for private trading, resigned from the Company and announced his intention to publish a newspaper. The official response to Bolts' scheme was strong and his plan ended before


materializing. In 1780, **James Augustus Hickey published the first newspaper in India entitled *The Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser*. Hickey's press was seized within two years, owing to his outspoken criticism of government officials. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Afterwards, many publications appeared such as *The Calcutta Gazette* (1784), *The Madras Courier* (1788) and *The Bombay Herald* (1789). The newspapers and journals of the early period primarily aimed at catering to the intellectual entertainment of the Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

42. Consider the following statements regarding Vasco Da Gama

1. Vasco Da Gama's ship was led by a Gujarati pilot named Abdul Majid.
2. He negotiated and established a factory at Calicut.

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

- A. 1 only 
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**


Vasco Da Gama

The arrival of three ships under Vasco Da Gama, led by a Gujarati pilot named Abdul Majid, at Calicut in May 1498 profoundly affected the course of Indian history. The Hindu ruler of Calicut, the Zamorin (Samuthiri), however, had no apprehensions as to the European's intentions. As the prosperity of his kingdom was due to Calicut's position as an entrepot, he accorded a friendly reception to Vasco Da Gama. The Arab traders, who had a good business on the Malabar coast were apprehensive and were not keen on the Portuguese getting a hold there.

A voyage was undertaken by **Pedro Alvarez Cabral** to trade for spices; **he negotiated and established a factory at Calicut, where he arrived in September 1500. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

43. Black Hole Tragedy is associated with

- A. Battle of Hoogly
- B. Carnatic wars
- C. Battle of Buxar

D. Battle of Plassey 

-
- Correct Answer : D
- **Answer Justification :**

The Battle of Plassey

Prelude to the Battle


The officials of the Company made rampant misuse of its trade privileges that adversely affected the nawab's finances. The English fortified Calcutta without the nawab's permission. The Company further tried to mislead him, and compounded their sin by giving asylum to a political fugitive, Krishna Das, son of Raj Ballabh who had fled with immense treasures against the nawab's will. The Company, on its part, suspected that Siraj would drastically reduce its trade privileges in collusion with the French in Bengal. Thus, when Siraj attacked and seized the English fort at Calcutta, it brought their hostility into the open.

Mention may be made here of the much propagated '**Black Hole Tragedy**'. Siraj-ud-daula is believed to have imprisoned 146 English persons who were lodged in a very tiny room due to which 123 of them died of suffocation. However, historians either do not believe this story, or say that the number of victims must have been much smaller.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

44. Consider the following statements regarding Anglo-Mysore War

1. First Anglo-Mysore War ended with Treaty of Mangalore.
2. Second Anglo-Mysore War ended with Treaty of Madras.
3. Third Anglo-Mysore War ended with the Treaty of Seringapatam.

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 3 only 
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

-
- Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

First Anglo-Mysore War

1. Following complete chaos and panic at Madras, English was forced to conclude a very

humiliating treaty with Haidar on **April 4, 1769—Treaty of Madras** which brought an end to the war. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

2. The conquered territories were restored to each other
3. It was also agreed that they would help each other in case of a foreign attack

Second Anglo-Mysore War

As per the Treaty of Mangalore (11 March 1784), both parties agreed to return the captured territories and prisoners to each other. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Third Anglo-Mysore War (1790 - 1792)

Result of the war:

- The war ended with the Treaty of Seringapatam in 1792.
- As per the treaty, Tipu had to cede half of his kingdom to the English including the areas of Malabar, Dindigul, Coorg and Baramahal.
- He also had to pay Rs.3 Crore as war indemnity to the British.
- Tipu also had to surrender two of his sons as surety to the British till he paid his due.

Fourth Anglo-Mysore War (1799)

Result of the war:

- Tipu's territories were divided between the British and the Nizam of Hyderabad.
- The core area around Seringapatam and Mysore was restored to the Wodeyar dynasty who had been ruling Mysore before Hyder Ali became the de-facto ruler.

- Mysore entered into a Subsidiary Alliance with the British and a British resident was placed at the Mysore Court.

45. Treaty of Bhairowal was part of

- A. Anglo-Sikh War ✓
- B. Anglo-Bhutan War
- C. Anglo-Burma War
- D. Anglo-Nepal War

○

○ Correct Answer : A

○ **Answer Justification :**

Treaty of Bhairowal The Sikhs were not satisfied with the Treaty of Lahore over the issue of Kashmir, so they rebelled. In December, 1846, the Treaty of Bhairowal was signed. According to the provisions of this treaty, Rani Jindan was removed as regent and a council of regency for Punjab was set up. The council consisted of 8 Sikh *sardars* presided over by the English Resident, Henry Lawrence.

Hence, option (a) is correct.

46. Which of the following are factors for People's Uprisings?

1. Colonial land revenue settlements.
2. Heavy duties on Indian industries.
3. Expansion of revenue administration over tribal lands.

○ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

○

○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Causative Factors for People's Uprisings

The major factors responsible for the people's resentment and uprisings against the Company

rule are as follows.

- **Colonial land revenue settlements**, heavy burden of new taxes, eviction of peasants from their lands, and encroachments on tribal lands.
- Exploitation in rural society coupled with the growth of intermediary revenue collectors, tenants and moneylenders.
- **Expansion of revenue administration over tribal lands** leading to the loss of tribal people's hold over agricultural and forest land.
- Promotion of British manufactured goods, **heavy duties on Indian industries**, especially export duties, leading to devastation of Indian handloom and handicraft industries.
- Destruction of indigenous industry leading to migration of workers from industry to agriculture, increasing the pressure on land/agriculture.

47. Consider the following statements regarding Revolt of Moamarias

1. The revolt of the Moamarias in 1769 was a potent challenge to the authority of British.
2. The Moamarias were low-caste peasants who followed the teachings of Aniruddhadeva.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Revolt of Moamarias (1769-99)

The revolt of the Moamarias in 1769 was a potent challenge to the authority of Ahom kings of Assam. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

The Moamarias were low-caste peasants who followed the teachings of Aniruddhadeva (1553-1624), and their rise was similar to that of other low-caste groups in north India. Their revolts weakened the Ahoms and opened the doors for others to attack the region, for instance, in 1792, the King of Darrang (Krishnanarayan), assisted by his band of *burkandazes* (the demobilised soldiers of the Muslim armies and zamindars) revolted. To crush these revolts, the Ahom ruler had to request for British help. The Moamarias made Bhatiapar their headquarters. Rangpur (now in Bangladesh) and Jorhat were the most affected region.

Although, the Ahom kingdom survived the rebellion, the weakened kingdom fell to a Burmese invasion and finally came under British rule.

48. Consider the following statements regarding Poligars' Revolt

1. The main centres of this revolt were Thirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, and North Arcot.
 2. Veerapandiya Kattabomman was the leader of the revolt.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Poligars' Revolt (1795-1805)

The poligars (or palayakkarargal) of South India gave a stiff resistance to the British between 1795 and 1805. **The main centres of these strong uprisings were Tinneveli (or Thirunelveli), Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Sivagiri, Madurai, and North Arcot.** The problem started in 1781, when the Nawab of Arcot gave the management and control of Tinneveli and the Carnatic Provinces to the East India Company. This arrangement caused resentment among the poligars who had, for long considered themselves as independent sovereign authorities within their respective territories. The first revolt of the poligars against the Company was basically over taxation, but had a larger political dimension in that the English considered and treated the poligars as enemies.

Kattabomman Nayakan, the poligar of Panjalankurichi, led the insurrection between 1795 and 1799. **After a fierce battle in which the Company forces were defeated by Veerapandiya Kattabomman, a price was put on the latter's head. This led to greater rebellion by the poligars.** With reinforcements the Company forces were finally able to defeat Kattabomman. Kattabomman fled into the Pudukottai forests. Once again a betrayal—this time by Ettappan, the Raja of Pudukottai, who entered into an agreement with the British—led to the capture of Kattabomman. Kattabomman was hanged in a conspicuous place. A close associate, Subramania Pillai was also hanged and Soundara Pandian, another rebel, brutally killed. The *palayam* of Panjalankurichi and the estates of five other poligars who had joined the rebellion were confiscated and the prominent poligars executed or sent to prison.

49. Which of the following statements regarding Theosophical Movement are correct?

1. The society believed that a special relationship could be established between a person's soul and God by contemplation and prayer.
2. The society sought to investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in man.
3. The Theosophical Movement came to be allied with the Hindu renaissance.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

The Theosophical Movement

A group of westerners led by Madame H.P. Blavatsky (1831- 1891) and Colonel M.S. Olcott, who were inspired by Indian thought and culture, founded the Theosophical Society in New York City, United States in 1875. In 1882, they shifted their headquarters to Adyar, on the outskirts of Madras (at that time) in India. **The society believed that a special relationship could be established between a person's soul and God by contemplation, prayer, revelation, etc. It accepted the Hindu beliefs in reincarnation and karma,** and drew inspiration from the philosophy of the *Upanishads* and *samkhya*, *yoga* and Vedanta schools of thought. It aimed to work for universal brotherhood of humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour. **The society also sought to investigate the unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in man. The Theosophical Movement came to be allied with the Hindu renaissance.** (At one time it allied with the Arya Samaj too.) It opposed child marriage and advocated the abolition of caste discrimination, uplift of outcastes, improvement in the condition of widows.

The Theosophical Society provided a common denominator for the various sects and fulfilled the urge of educated Hindus. However, to an average Indian the Theosophist philosophy seemed to be vague and lacking a positive programme; to that extent its impact was limited to a small segment of the westernised class. As religious revivalists, the Theosophists did not attain much success, but as a movement of westerners glorifying Indian religious and philosophical traditions, it gave much needed self-respect to the Indians fighting British colonial rule.

50. Consider the following statements regarding process of unification of the Country

1. The economic fate of the people of different regions got linked together.

2. Modern means of transport and communication brought people, especially the leaders, from different regions together.
3. Administrative convenience was a driving force behind the planned development of modern means of transport and communication.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Political, Administrative and Economic

Unification of the Country

The British rule in the Indian subcontinent extended from the Himalayas in the north to the Cape Comorin in the south and from Assam in the east to Khyber Pass in the west. While large areas of India had been brought under a single rule in the past—under the Mauryas or later under the Mughals—the British created a larger state than that of the Mauryas or the great Mughals. While Indian provinces were under ‘direct’ British rule, the princely states were under ‘indirect’ British rule. The British sword imposed political unity in India. A professional civil service, a unified judiciary and codified civil and criminal laws throughout the length and breadth of the country imparted a new dimension of political unity to the hitherto cultural unity that had existed in India for centuries. **The necessities of administrative convenience, considerations of military defence and the urge for economic penetration and commercial exploitation (all in British interests) were the driving forces behind the planned development of modern means of transport and communication such as railways, roads, electricity and telegraph.**

From the nationalists’ point of view, this process of unification had a two-fold effect:

- (i) **The economic fate of the people of different regions got linked together;** for instance, failure of crops in one region affected the prices and supply in another region.
- (ii) **Modern means of transport and communication brought people, especially the leaders, from different regions together.** This was important for the exchange of political ideas and for mobilisation and organisation of public opinion on political and economic issues.

51. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Association of Calcutta

1. It was founded by Surendranath Banerjea and Ananda Mohan Bose.
2. It protested against the reduction of age limit in 1877 for candidates of the Indian Civil Service examination.
3. The association sponsored an all-India conference which first took place in Calcutta 1885.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The Indian Association of Calcutta (also known as

the **Indian National Association**) superseded the Indian League and **was founded in 1876 by younger nationalists of Bengal led by Surendranath Banerjea and Ananda Mohan Bose**, who were getting discontented with the conservative and pro-landlord policies of the British Indian Association. The Indian Association was the most important of pre-Congress associations and aimed to “promote by every legitimate means the political, intellectual and material advancement of the people.” It set out to—

(i) create a strong public opinion on political questions, and

(ii) unify Indian people in a common political programme.

It protested against the reduction of age limit in 1877 for candidates of the Indian Civil Service examination. The association demanded simultaneous holding of civil service examination in England and India and Indianisation of higher administrative posts. It led a campaign against the repressive arms act and the vernacular press act.

Branches of the association were opened in other towns and cities of Bengal and even outside Bengal. The membership fee was kept low in order to attract the poorer sections to the association.

The association sponsored an all India conference which first took place in Calcutta on December 28 to 30, 1883. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

More than hundred delegates from different parts of the country attended. So, in a way the association was a forerunner of the Indian National Congress as an all-India nationalist organisation. It later merged with the Indian National Congress in 1886. The association sponsored an all India conference which first took place in Calcutta on December 28 to 30, 1883.

52. Which of the following were the objectives of the Congress?

1. Politicize and politically educate people.
2. Establish the headquarters for a movement.
3. Develop and propagate an anti-colonial nationalist ideology.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Aims and Objectives of the Congress

The main aims of the Indian National Congress in the initial stage were to—

- (i) found a democratic, nationalist movement;
- (ii) politicise and politically educate people;
- (iii) establish the headquarters for a movement;
- (iv) promote friendly relations among nationalist political workers from different parts of the country;
- (v) develop and propagate an anti-colonial nationalist ideology;
- (vi) formulate and present popular demands before the government with a view to unifying the people over a common economic and political programme;
- (vii) develop and consolidate a feeling of national unity among people irrespective of religion, caste or province.
- (viii) carefully promote and nurture Indian nationhood.

53. Which of the following were International Influences for growth of Extremist Thought?

1. Russian Revolution
2. Defeat of the Italian army by Ethiopians
3. Boer wars

- Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only ✓
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Militant Nationalism or Extremist Thought

International Influences

Remarkable progress made by Japan after 1868 and its emergence as an industrial power opened the eyes of Indians to the fact that economic progress was possible even in an Asian country without any external help. The **defeat of the Italian army by Ethiopians** (1896), the **Boer wars** (1899- 1902) where the British faced reverses and Japan's victory over Russia (1905) demolished myths of European invincibility. Also, the nationalists were inspired by the nationalist movements worldwide—in Ireland, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, Persia and China. The Indians realised that a united people willing to make sacrifices could take on the mightiest of empires.

Russian revolution occurred in 1917, after the arrival of Gandhi and after the extremist phase in national struggle. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

54. Consider the following statements regarding Anti-Partition Campaign

1. The leadership was provided by Surendranath Banerjea, K.K. Mitra and Prithwishchandra Ray.
2. The Boycott Resolution was passed at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Mumbai.

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

- A. 1 only ✓
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

- Correct Answer : A

- **Answer Justification :**

Anti-Partition Campaign Under Moderates (1903-05)

In the period 1903-1905, **the leadership was provided by men like Surendranath Banerjee, K.K. Mitra and Prithwishchandra Ray.** The methods adopted were petitions to the government, public meetings, memoranda, and propaganda through pamphlets and newspapers such as *Hitabadi*, *Sanjibani* and *Bengalee*. Their objective was to exert sufficient pressure on the government through an educated public opinion in India and England to prevent the unjust partition of Bengal from being implemented.

Ignoring a loud public opinion against the partition proposal, the government announced partition of Bengal in July 1905. Within days, protest meetings were held in small towns all over Bengal. It was in these meetings that the pledge to boycott foreign goods was first taken. **On August 7, 1905, with the passage of the Boycott Resolution in a massive meeting held in the Calcutta Townhall, the formal proclamation of Swadeshi Movement was made. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

After this, the leaders dispersed to other parts of Bengal to propagate the message of boycott of Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt.

The historic session of Indian National Congress was held from 7th August 1942 at Gowalia Tank Maidan, Mumbai, where Quit India resolution or "Do or die" call was made.

55. Consider the following statements regarding Yugantar

1. Barrah dacoity was organised by Dacca Anushilan under Yugantar.
2. The Jugantar party arranged to import German arms and ammunition through sympathisers and revolutionaries abroad.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only ✓
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**


In February 1909, the public prosecutor was shot dead in Calcutta and in February 1910, a deputy superintendent of police met the same fate while leaving the Calcutta High Court. **In 1908, Barrah dacoity was organised by Dacca Anushilan under Pulin Das to raise funds for revolutionary activities. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**

Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal staged a spectacular bomb attack on Viceroy Hardinge while he was making his official entry into the new capital of Delhi in a procession through Chandni Chowk in December 1912. (Hardinge was injured, but not killed.)

The western Anushilan Samiti found a good leader in Jatindranath Mukherjee or Bagha Jatin and emerged as the Jugantar (or Yugantar). Jatin revitalised links between the central organisation in Calcutta and other places in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

During the First World War, **the Jugantar party arranged to import German arms and ammunition through sympathisers and revolutionaries abroad.** Jatin asked Rashbehari Bose to take charge of Upper India, aiming to bring about an all-India insurrection in what has come to be called the 'German Plot' or the 'Zimmerman Plan'. The Jugantar party raised funds through a series of dacoities which came to be known as taxicab dacoities and boat dacoities, so as to work out the Indo-German conspiracy.

56. Which of the following were features of Government of India Act, 1919?

1. Women were given the right to vote.
 2. The legislators enjoyed freedom of speech.
 3. A bicameral arrangement was introduced.
 4. The legislative councils could reject the budget.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - B. 2, 3 and 4 only
 - C. 1, 2 and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms

Government of India Act, 1919

Legislature (i) Provincial legislative councils were further expanded and 70 per cent of the members were to be elected.

(ii) The system of communal and class electorates was further consolidated.

(iii) **Women were also given the right to vote.**

(iv) The legislative councils could initiate legislation but the governor's assent was required. The governor could veto bills and issue ordinances.

(v) **The legislative councils could reject the budget** but the governor could restore it, if necessary.

(vi) **The legislators enjoyed freedom of speech.**

Legislature (i) A bicameral arrangement was introduced.

(ii) The Council of State had a tenure of 5 years and had only male members, while the Central Legislative Assembly had a tenure of 3 years.

(iii) The legislators could ask questions and supplementaries, pass adjournment motions and vote a part

of the budget, but 75 per cent of the budget was still not votable.

57. Consider the following statements regarding Rowlatt Satyagraha

1. It was the first mass strike by Gandhi.
2. Gandhi organized a Satyagraha Sabha and roped in younger members of Home Rule Leagues and the Pan Islamists.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

Satyagraha Against the Rowlatt Act— First Mass Strike

Just when the Indians expected a huge advance towards self-rule as a reward for their contribution to the war, they were given the Montford Reforms with its very limited scope and the shockingly repressive Rowlatt Act. Not surprisingly the Indians felt betrayed. More so Gandhi, who had been at the forefront in offering cooperation in the British war effort, and who had even offered to encourage recruitment of Indians into the British Indian forces. He called the Rowlatt Act the “Black Act” and argued that not everyone should get punishment in response to isolated political crimes. **Gandhi called for a mass protest at all India level.** But soon, having seen the constitutional protest meet with ruthless repression, **Gandhi organised a Satyagraha Sabha and roped in younger members of Home Rule Leagues and the Pan Islamists.** The forms of protest finally chosen included observance of a nationwide *hartal* (strike) accompanied by fasting and prayer, and civil disobedience against specific laws, and courting arrest and imprisonment.

There was a radical change in the situation by now.

- (i) The masses had found a direction; now they could 'act' instead of just giving verbal expression to their grievances.
- (ii) From now onwards, peasants, artisans and the urban poor were to play an increasingly important part in the struggle.
- (iii) Orientation of the national movement turned to the masses permanently. Gandhi said that salvation would come when masses were awakened and became active in politics.

58. Which of the following were achievements of Swarajist Activity in Councils?

1. Vithalbhai Patel was elected speaker of Central Legislative Assembly in 1925.
2. They exposed the hollowness of the Montford scheme.
3. They were successful to support the peasants' cause in Bengal.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Swarajist Activity in Councils

Achievements

(i) With coalition partners, they out-voted the government several times, even on matters relating to budgetary grants, and passed adjournment motions.

(ii) They agitated through powerful speeches on self-government, civil liberties and industrialisation.

(iii) **Vithalbhai Patel was elected speaker of Central Legislative Assembly in 1925.**

(iv) A noteworthy achievement was the defeat of the Public Safety Bill in 1928 which was aimed at empowering the Government to deport undesirable and subversive foreigners (because the Government was alarmed by the spread of socialist and communist ideas and believed that a crucial role was being played by the British and other foreign activists being sent by the Comintern).

(v) By their activities, they filled the political vacuum at a time when the national movement was recouping its strength.

(vi) **They exposed the hollowness of the Montford scheme.**

(vii) They demonstrated that the councils could be used creatively.

Drawbacks

(i) The Swarajists lacked a policy to coordinate their militancy inside legislatures with the mass struggle outside. They relied totally on newspaper reporting to communicate with the public.

(ii) An obstructionist strategy had its limitations.

(iii) They could not carry on with their coalition partners very far because of conflicting ideas, which further limited their effectiveness.

(iv) They failed to resist the perks and privileges of power and office.

(v) They failed to support the peasants' cause in Bengal and lost support among Muslim members who were propeasant. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

59. Which of the following are Simon Commission Recommendations?

1. The number of members of provincial legislative council should be increased.
2. The report accepted parliamentary responsibility at the centre.
3. It accepted the idea of federalism.

◦ Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The Simon Commission Recommendations

The Simon Commission published a two-volume report in May 1930. It proposed the abolition of dyarchy and the establishment of representative government in the provinces which should be given autonomy. It said that the governor should have discretionary power in relation to internal security and administrative powers to protect the different communities. **The number of members of provincial legislative council should be increased.**

The report rejected parliamentary responsibility at the centre. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

The governor-general was to have complete power to appoint the members of the cabinet. And the Government of India would have complete control over the high court. It also

recommended that separate communal electorates be retained (and extended such electorates to other communities) but only until tensions between Hindus and Muslims had died down. There was to be no universal franchise.


It accepted the idea of federalism but not in the near future; it suggested that a Consultative Council of Greater India should be established which should include representatives of both the British provinces as well as princely states.

It suggested that the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan should get local legislatures, and both NWFP and Baluchistan should have the right to be represented at the centre.

It recommended that Sindh should be separated from Bombay, and Burma should be separated from India because it was not a natural part of the Indian subcontinent.

It also suggested that the Indian army should be Indianised though British forces must be retained. India got fully equipped.

60. Consider the following statements regarding Ramgarh session

1. It was held in 1940 with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as its president.
 2. Gandhi said that he would offer the British moral support during the war but on a non-violent basis.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2 
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above statements are correct.

The Ramgarh session of the Congress was held in March 1940 with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in the president's chair. All agreed that a battle must be waged but there was disagreement over the form. It was decided to leave the form and timing to Gandhi. **But even now, Gandhi was in favor of continued cooperation at the provincial level. He said that he would offer the British moral support during the war but on a non-violent basis.** However, Jawaharlal Nehru reiterated that complete independence for India must be a precondition for Congress support to the British war effort. Subhash Bose continued with his strong militant stand of direct action against the colonial government forcing it to agree to the grant of freedom. Once again, he pointed out that Britain's difficulty was to be seized as India's opportunity. The Congress finally declared at the session that the people of India would

accept nothing short of complete independence. Indian freedom could not be in the form of dominion or any other status within the imperial structure.

61. Consider the following pairs:

River:	Drains into:
1. Nile	Mediterranean Sea
2. Congo	Atlantic Ocean
3. Amazon	Caribbean Sea
4. Irrawaddy	South China Sea

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

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
- B. 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

○

○ Correct Answer : A

○ **Answer Justification :**

Nile River:



Congo River:



Amazon River:



Irrawaddy River:



62. Which of the following countries is/are known for the practice of commercial livestock rearing?

1. Australia
2. New Zealand
3. Uruguay

◦ Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

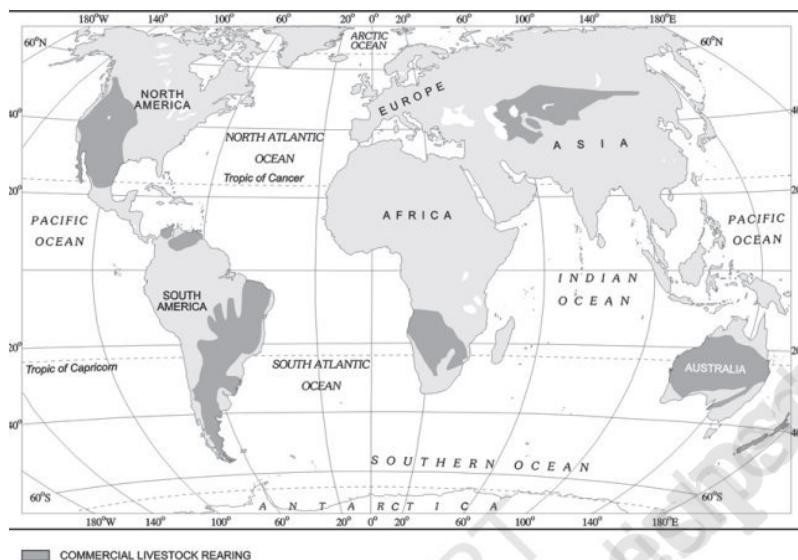
All the countries given above are known for the practice of commercial livestock rearing.

Commercial Livestock Rearing:

Unlike nomadic herding, commercial livestock rearing is more organised and capital intensive. Commercial livestock ranching is essentially associated with western cultures and is practiced on permanent ranches. These ranches cover large areas and are divided into a number of parcels, which are fenced to regulate the grazing. When the grass of one parcel is grazed, animals are moved to another parcel. The number of animals in a pasture is kept according to the carrying capacity of the pasture.

This is a specialised activity in which only one type of animal is reared. Important animals include sheep, cattle, goats and horses. Products such as meat, wool, hides and skin are processed and packed scientifically and exported to different world markets.

Rearing of animals in ranching is organised on a scientific basis. The main emphasis is on breeding, genetic improvement, disease control and health care of the animals. New Zealand, Australia, Argentina, Uruguay and United States of America are important countries where commercial livestock rearing is practiced.



63. The Sargasso Sea, a region bounded by four currents forming an ocean gyre, is located within:

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Atlantic Ocean ☒
- C. Indian Ocean
- D. Arctic Ocean

○

○ Correct Answer : B

○ **Answer Justification :**

The Sargasso Sea is a region of the Atlantic Ocean bounded by four currents forming an ocean gyre. Unlike all other regions called seas, it has no land boundaries. It is distinguished from other parts of the Atlantic Ocean by its characteristic brown Sargassum seaweed and often calm blue water.

The Sargasso Sea is a vast patch of ocean named for a genus of free-floating seaweed called Sargassum. While there are many different types of algae found floating in the ocean all around world, the Sargasso Sea is unique in that it harbors species of sargassum that are 'holopelagi' - this means that the algae not only freely floats around the ocean, but it reproduces vegetatively on the high seas. Other seaweeds reproduce and begin life on the floor of the ocean.

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/sargassosea.html>

64. Which one of the following Tiger Reserve has spread over two states?

- A. Sariska Tiger Reserve
- B. Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- C. Pench Tiger Reserve ✓
- D. Ratapani Tiger Reserve

○

○ Correct Answer : C

○ **Answer Justification :**

Sariska Tiger Reserve is a tiger reserve in Alwar district, Rajasthan, India. It stretches over an area of 881 km² comprising scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills. This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955.

Bandipur National Park established in 1974 as a **tiger reserve under Project Tiger, is a national park** located in the Indian state of Karnataka

Pench Tiger Reserve or Pench National Park is one of the premier tiger reserves of India and the first one to straddle across two states - Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Hence, option (c) is correct.

The Ratapani Tiger Reserve, located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, in Vindhya Range in central India, is one of the finest teak forests in the state and is less than 50 kilometres away from the capital Bhopal. It has been a wildlife sanctuary since 1976.

65. Consider the following pairs:

Sea:	Bordering country:
1. Arctic Ocean:	Finland
2. Caspian Sea :	Uzbekistan
3. Red Sea:	Eritrea
4. The Persian Gulf:	Oman

◦ Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Arctic Ocean:



Caspian Sea:



Red Sea:



The Persian Gulf:



Hence, option (d) is correct.

66. Consider the following statements:

1. The Barren island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian Territory.
2. It is situated in the Nicobar Islands

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Both the statements given above are correct.

There are two major island groups in India – one in the Bay of Bengal and the other in the Arabian Sea.

The Bay of Bengal island groups consist of about 572 islands/islets. These are situated roughly between 6°N-14°N and 92°E -94°E. The two principal groups of islets include the Ritchie's archipelago and the Labrynth island. The entire group of island is divided into two broad categories – the

Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south. They are separated by a water body which is called the Ten degree channel. It is believed that these islands are an elevated portion of

submarine mountains. However, some smaller islands are volcanic in origin.

Barren island, the only active volcano in India is also situated in the Nicobar islands.

67. Which of the following is/are tributary/tributaries of Kaveri?

1. Kabini
2. Amravati
3. Tungbhadra

◦ Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The Kaveri rises in Brahmagiri hills (1,341m) of Kogadu district in Karnataka. Its length is 800 km and it drains an area of 81,155 sq. km. Since the upper catchment area receives rainfall during the southwest monsoon season (summer) and the lower part during the northeast monsoon season (winter), the river carries water throughout the year with comparatively less fluctuation than the other Peninsular rivers. About 3 per cent of the Kaveri basin falls in Kerala, 41 per cent in Karnataka and 56 per cent in Tamil Nadu. **Its important tributaries are the Kabini, the Bhavani and the Amravati.**

Tungbhadra is a tributary of River Krishna. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

68. Which one of the following countries of does not open out to the Black Sea?

- A. Ukraine
- B. Moldova ✓
- C. Romania
- D. Turkey

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Six countries border with the Black Sea, including **Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** and **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south, and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west.

Hence, option (b) is correct.



69. Which of the following Indian states share(s) border with Bangladesh?

1. Mizoram
2. Tripura
3. Manipur
4. Meghalaya

◦ Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only ✓
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 3 only
- D. None

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Bangladesh and India share a 4,096-kilometre-long (2,545 mi) international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world, including 262 km (163 mi) in Assam, 856 km (532 mi) in Tripura, 318 km (198 mi) in Mizoram, 443 km (275 mi) in Meghalaya, and 2,217 km (1,378 mi) in West Bengal.

Hence, option (a) is correct.



70. Among the following cities, which one lies on a latitude closest to that of Bhopal?

- A. Ranchi ✓
- B. Nagpur
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

○

○ Correct Answer : A

○ Answer Justification :



Hence, option (a) is correct.

71. Consider the following statements regarding the Narmada River:

1. It rises from Amarkantak hills.
 2. The river flows through two states only.
 3. Ukai dam is located on Narmada River.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 3 only
 - C. 1 only ✓
 - D. None

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**


Narmada River:

- **Narmada river is the largest west flowing river of the peninsula India. It rises from Narmada Kund, located at Amarkantak, in the Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh,** at an elevation of about 1057 m in the Maikala range. It forms the traditional boundary between North and South India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- **The river flows through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat between Vindhya and Satpura hill ranges before falling into the Gulf of Cambay in the Arabian Sea about 10 km north of Bharuch, Gujarat.** The total length of the river from the head to its outfall into the Arabian Sea is 1,333 km. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- There are total 41 tributaries of Narmada river. Out of these, 8 important tributaries join the river from right bank and 11 important tributaries join from the left bank.
- The first major tributary, the Burhner, joins Narmada from left. Further downstream, it receives the Banjar from the left. As Narmada enters the upper fertile plains, it receives the Hiran on the right bank. In continuation, the river receives several tributaries - the Sher, the Shakkar, the Dudhi, the Tawa, the Ganjal from the left and the Tendon, the Barna, the Kolar from the right.
- During its journey through the middle plains, it receives tributaries - the *Chhota Tawa*, the *Kundi* from the left and the *Man* from the right. In the lower hilly regions, Narmada receives the *Goi* from the left and the *Uri*, the *Hatni* from the right. The *Karjan* from the left and the *Orsang* from the right are important tributaries joining the river in the lower

plains. Finally, the river drains into the Gulf of Khambhat (Arabian Sea).

The **Ukai Dam, constructed across the Tapi River**, is the second largest reservoir in Gujarat after the Sardar Sarovar. It is also known as Vallabh Sagar. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

72. Kolleru Lake is located between the river deltas of:

- A. Mahanadi and Godavari
- B. Mahanadi and Ganges
- C. Krishna and Kaveri
- D. Godavari and Krishna 

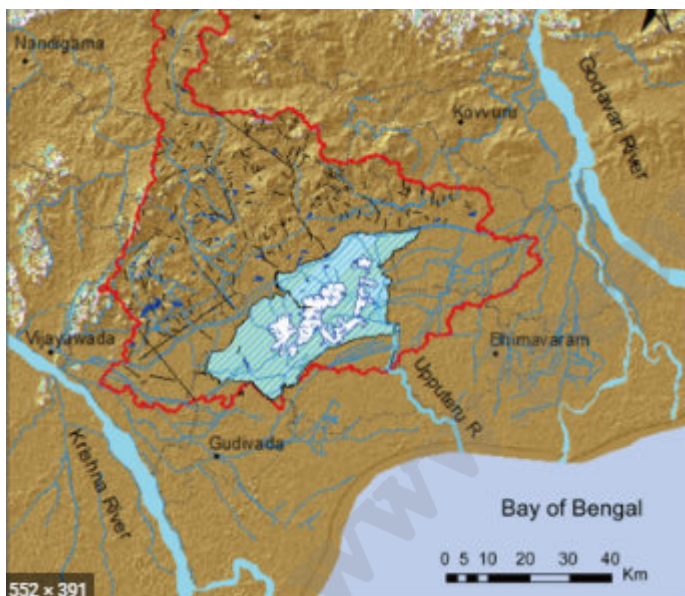
o

o Correct Answer : D

o **Answer Justification :**

Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia, it is located between Krishna and Godavari deltas.

Hence, option (d) is correct.



73. “ This climate is characterised by hot, dry summer and mild, rainy winter. It occurs along the west coast of continents in subtropical latitudes between 30° - 40° latitudes such as Central California, Central Chile, along the coast in south eastern and south western Australia”

- Which of the following Climatic type is described in the above passage?
 - A. British type
 - B. Equatorial
 - C. Monsoon
 - D. Mediterranean ✓

◦

- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

Mediterranean Climate:

As the name suggests, Mediterranean climate occurs around Mediterranean sea, along the west coast of continents in subtropical latitudes between 30° - 40° latitudes e.g. — Central California, Central Chile, along the coast in south eastern and south western Australia. These areas come under the influence of sub tropical high in summer and westerly wind in winter. **Hence, the climate is characterised by hot, dry summer and mild, rainy winter.** Monthly average temperature in summer is around 25° C and in winter below 10°C. The annual precipitation ranges between 35 - 90 cm.

Hence, option (d) is correct.

74. Which of the following sites is/are the ecological hotspots of the World?

1. Western Ghats
2. Alp Mountains
3. Eastern Madagascar
4. Alaska Mountains

- Select the correct the answer using the code given below
 - A. 2 and 3 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only ✓
 - C. 2 and 4 only
 - D. 1 and 4 only

◦

- Correct Answer : B

- **Answer Justification :**

Ecological hotspots are areas with outstanding biodiversity or a high concentration of biological values.

These values can refer to threatened or endemic species, unique ecosystems, or globally important numbers of a particular species. The concept is based on an approach in which conservation activities and funds focus on a relatively small number of key sites for biodiversity.

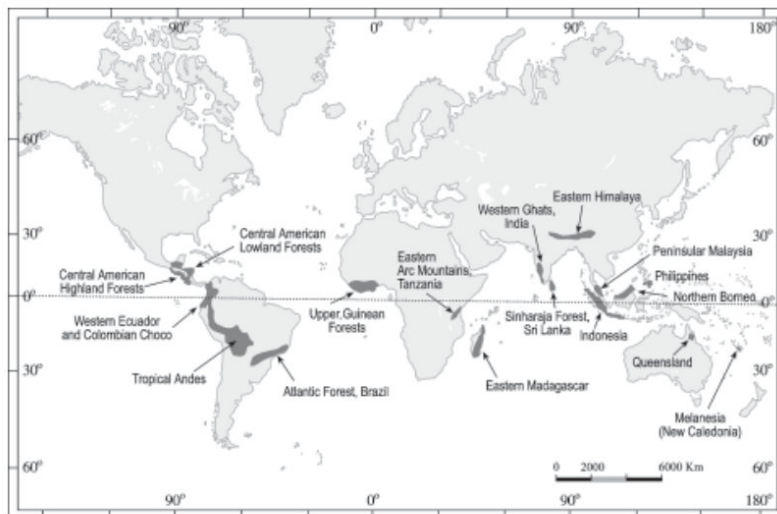


Figure 16.5 : Ecological 'hotspots' in the world

75. Which of the following is/are the applications of DNA Profiling?

1. Identification of missing persons.
2. Establishing parentage.
3. study of animal and floral populations.

◦ Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the above are the applications of DNA Profiling.

DNA Profiling:

DNA profiling (also called DNA fingerprinting, DNA testing, or DNA typing) is a forensic

technique used to identify individuals by characteristics of their DNA. A DNA profile is a small set of DNA variations that is very likely to be different in all unrelated individuals.

Benefits:

- Help to convict serious criminals and possibly even preventing crime.
- Useful in the aftermath of a natural disaster for disaster victim identification.
- **Identification of missing persons and human remains**
- Medical research purposes
- **Establishing parentage** or blood relations between individuals.
- DNA fingerprinting is used in the **study of animal and floral populations**
- To address the issue of thousands of unclaimed dead bodies that are reported annually
- This can also be used in the **area of wild life crimes**

76. Striped Bubble-Nest Frog, sometime seen in the news, is first discovered in which of the following habitat?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar Islands ✓
- B. Western Ghats
- C. North Eastern Himalayas
- D. None of the above

○

○ Correct Answer : A

○ **Answer Justification :**

Scientists and researchers from the University of Delhi and the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a genus of tree frog found in the Andaman islands and the northeast.

Named after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda, the frogs of the new genus Rohanixalus are characterised by a rather small and slender body (size about 2 to 3 cm long), a pair of contrastingly coloured lateral lines on either side of the body, minute brown speckles

scattered throughout the upper body surfaces, and light green coloured eggs laid in arboreal bubble-nests. Based on DNA studies, the new genus is also revealed to be a distinct evolutionary lineage from all previously known tree frog genera.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/new-genus-of-treefrog-discovered-in-andaman-islands/article33083907.ece>

77. Consider the following statements

1. India is home to nearly 75% of the global tiger population.
2. Highest number of tigers have found in Madhya Pradesh
3. Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw an increase in their tiger numbers in the recent past.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only ✓
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : A

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Context:

The **fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018**, results of which were declared on Global Tiger Day last year has **entered the Guinness World Record for being the world's largest camera trap wildlife survey**.

1. **Camera traps** were placed in 26,838 locations across 141 different sites and surveyed an effective area of 121,337 square kilometres.

Tigers in India:

The country now has an estimated **2967 tigers as per the latest census**.

With this number, **India is home to nearly 75% of the global tiger population**.

It has already fulfilled its **resolve of doubling tiger numbers, made at St. Petersburg in 2010**, much before the target year of 2022.

4th cycle of all India Tiger Estimation- highlights:

1. Highest number of tigers have found in Madhya Pradesh (526), after that Karnataka has 524 and Uttarakhand is accommodating 442 tigers.
2. In five years, the number of protected areas increased from 692 to over 860, community reserves from 43 to over 100.
3. While the 2014 census pegged the total number of striped big cats in the country at 2,226, the 2010 census put the figure at 1,706 and the 2006 version at 1,411, indicating that tiger numbers have been on the up.
4. While Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the “maximum improvement” since 2014.
5. **Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in their tiger numbers while tiger numbers in Odisha remained constant. All other states witnessed a positive trend. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.**

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/07/13/indias-tiger-census-sets-a-new-guinness-record/>

78. Consider the following statements regarding Solar Energy Production in India

1. Most of the Indian companies are involved in silicon production rather than module assembly or wafer manufacturing.
 2. The government is a near monopolistic buyer in India.
 3. The unit costs of solar power have fallen continuously in the recent past.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only ✓
 - C. 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Introduction:

India has made significant progress in creating capacity for solar energy generation in the last few years. The **unit costs of solar power** have fallen, and solar energy has become **increasingly competitive** with alternative sources of energy.

Test-21 (Subject)
(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2021)

Total Marks : 200

India expanded its **solar generation capacity eight times** from 2,650 MW on May 26, 2014 to over 20 GW on January 31, 2018, and **28.18 GW on March 31, 2019**.

The government had an **initial target** of 20 GW of solar capacity by 2022, which was achieved four years ahead of schedule. In 2015, the target was **raised to 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022**.

This rapid progress should have been made earlier, however. India is energy deficient yet blessed with **plenty of sunlight for most of the year**.

However, India is not a leader in Solar panel Manufacturer:

Just as India has had **no overall industrial policy** since economic reforms began, there is **no real plan** in place to **ensure solar panel manufacture**.

India should have taken a **lead in solar panel manufacture** to generate solar energy long ago. The share of all manufacturing in GDP was 16% in 1991; it remained the same in 2017.

Despite the new policy focus on solar plant installation, India is **still not a solar panel manufacturer**.

The solar power potential offers a **manufacturing opportunity**. The government is a near **monopsonistic buyer**.

Low-Cost Chinese Imports taking the Indian Market:

India is regarded by the global solar industry as one of the most promising markets, but **low-cost Chinese imports** have undercut its ambitions to develop its own solar technology suppliers. Imports, mostly from China, accounted for **90% of 2017 sales**, up from **86% in 2014**.

Substituting for imports requires **human capabilities, technological capabilities and capital** in the form of finance.

On the first two capabilities, the supply chain of solar photovoltaic panel manufacturing is as follows: silicon production from silicates (sand); production of solar grade silicon ingots; solar wafer manufacturing; and PV module assembly.

The **capital expenditure and technical** know-how needed for these processes decreases from the first item to the last, i.e. **silicon production is more capital-intensive** than module assembly.

Most Indian companies are engaged in **only module assembly or wafer manufacturing and module assembly**. No Indian company is involved in **silicon production**, although a few are making strides towards it. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**.

According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (2018)**, India has an **annual solar cell manufacturing capacity** of about 3 GW while the average annual demand is 20 GW. The shortfall is met by **imports of solar panels**.

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/06/11/insights-into-editorial-india-needs-a-solar-manufacturing-strategy/>

79. Which of the following country is not a part/member of Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC)?

- A. Vietnam
- B. Papua New Guinea
- C. Singapore
- D. Cambodia ✓

○

○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. APEC's 21 members aim to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation was established in 1989, it has 21 members, such as Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam and the United States.

<https://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC>

80. Asian Premium, sometime seen in the news, is related to

- A. Counter Terrorism Measure
- B. Insurance sector in Asia
- C. Crude oil ✓
- D. Shipping Industries.

○

○ Correct Answer : C

○ **Answer Justification :**

Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries.

The discriminatory Asian Premium is mainly used by OPEC countries to subsidised western buyers at cost of Asian buyers.

Asian Premium is the extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil. The premium is determined in large part by the official selling prices (OSPs) set by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Kuwait, which supply about 15 percent of the world's crude among them. They set differential prices against benchmarks on a monthly basis, adjusting them to account for regional variations.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/india-to-ally-with-china-on-asian-premium/article23549767.ece>

81. Consider the following statements

1. Service sector received the maximum Foreign Direct Investment in 2019-20.
2. Singapore has emerged as the largest equity FDI source in India in 2019-20.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Both the statements are correct.

According to data by DPIIT, total FDI inflows in India has increased in 2019- 20 financial year.

The sectors that attracted most foreign inflows in during 2019-20 included services, computer software and hardware, telecommunication, trading and automobiles. Singapore has emerged as the largest equity FDI source in India.

<https://dipp.gov.in/sia-newsletter/foreign-direct-investment-india-annual-issue-2019>

82. Golan Heights region, often seen in the news, shares land borders with which of the following countries?

1. Lebanon
2. Egypt
3. Syria

◦ Select the correct the answer using the code given below

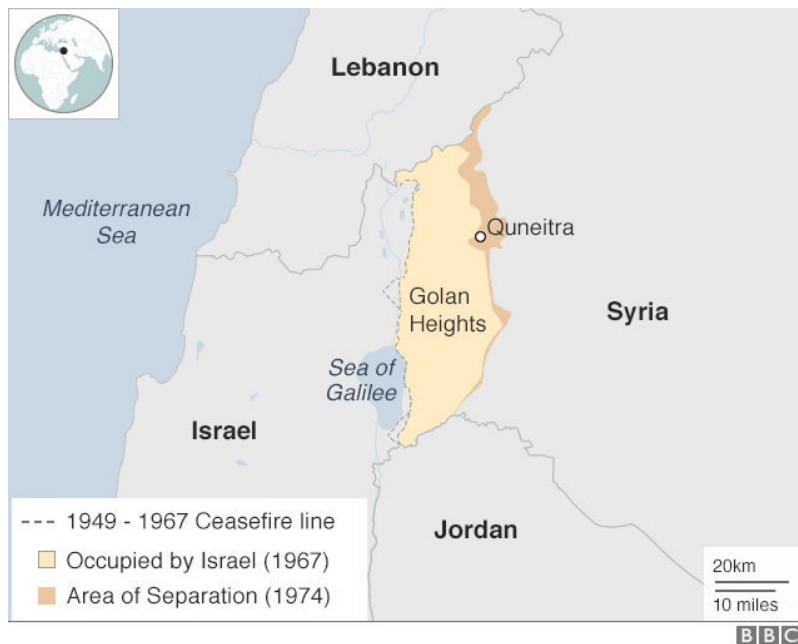
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only ✓
- D. 1, 2 and 3

-
- Correct Answer : C

○ **Answer Justification :**

The Golan Heights is the area captured from Syria and occupied by Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War, territory which has been administered as part of Israel since 1981.

It is a basaltic plateau bordered by the Yarmouk River in the south, the Sea of Galilee and Hula Valley in the west, the Anti-Lebanon with Mount Hermon in the north and Wadi Raqqad in the east.



83. Which of the following category has the lowest weightage in Index of Eight Core Industries?

- A. Coal
- B. Steel
- C. Fertilizers ✓
- D. Cement


-
- Correct Answer : C

○ **Answer Justification :**

The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is releasing Index of Eight Core Industries.

Sector	Coal	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Refinery Products	Fertilizers	Steel	Cement	Electricity
Weight	10.3335	8.9833	6.8768	28.0376	2.6276	17.9166	5.3720	19.8530

84. Which of the following National Park is largely known for Great Indian Bustard?

- A. Bandipur National Park, Karnataka
- B. Muriel National Park, Mizoram
- C. Valmiki National Park
- D. Desert National Park, Rajasthan 

○


○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

Desert National Park, near Jaisalmer and coastal grasslands of the Abdasa and Mandvi talukas of Kutch District of Gujarat support some populations.

Great Indian bustard, (Ardeotis nigriceps), large bird of the bustard family (Otididae), one of the heaviest flying birds in the world. The great Indian bustard inhabits dry grasslands and scrublands on the Indian subcontinent; its largest populations are found in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

85. Which of the following Indian state has longest coastline?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Kerala
- D. Gujarat 

○

○ Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

Gujarat shares longest (mainland) coastline in India. The entire length of India's coastline is 7516.6 kilometres. The length of Gujarat coastline is 1214.7 kilometres.

86. Arrange the following states in the increasing order of the number of leopards present in India?

1. Maharashtra
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Karnataka

- Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. $1 > 2 > 3$
- B. $2 > 1 > 3$
- C. $3 > 1 > 2$
- D. $2 > 3 > 1$ ✓

◦

- Correct Answer : D

- **Answer Justification :**

A 60 percent rise in India's leopard population has been recorded in 2018, compared to 2014, but there is one area in the country, the northeastern landscape, where its population is facing "major threat" due to land-use changes triggered by agriculture, tea gardens and linear infrastructure projects.

According to the Indian government's 'Status of Leopard in India, 2018' report published on December 21, the northeastern landscape has 141 leopards out of 12,852 estimated across the country while the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains range has recorded 1,253 leopards, Central India and the Eastern Ghats range has 8,071 leopards and Western Ghats range has 3,386.

Now, according to the latest report, the national estimation of 12,852 leopards is 60 percent higher than the 2014 estimation of 7,910. Of the 12,852 leopards, Madhya Pradesh tops the list with 3,421 leopards and is followed by Karnataka with 1,783 leopards and Maharashtra with 1,690.

<https://india.mongabay.com/2020/12/india-records-increase-in-leopard-population-but-real-number-could-be-much-more/>

- 87.** Consider the following statements

1. India is the world's second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of around 1.16 billion.
2. FDI cap in the telecom sector has been increased to 100% from 74%

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

- Correct Answer : C

- **Answer Justification :**

Test-21 (Subject)
(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2021)

Total Marks : 200

Both the statements are correct.

Currently, India is the world's second-largest telecommunications market with a subscriber base of 1.16 billion and has registered strong growth in the last decade.

The Indian mobile economy is growing rapidly and will contribute substantially to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to a report prepared by GSM Association (GSMA) in collaboration with Boston Consulting Group (BCG). In 2019, India surpassed the US to become the second largest market in terms of number of app downloads.

The liberal and reformist policies of the Government of India have been instrumental along with strong consumer demand in the rapid growth in the Indian telecom sector.

The Government has enabled easy market access to telecom equipment and a fair and proactive regulatory framework, that has ensured availability of telecom services to consumer at affordable prices. The deregulation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms have made the sector one of the fastest growing and the top five employment opportunity generator in the country.

Market Size

India ranks as the world's second largest market in terms of total internet users. The number of internet subscribers in the country increased at a CAGR of 21.36% from FY16 to FY20 to reach 743.19 million in FY20. Total wireless data usage in India grew 11.01% quarterly to reach 25,369,679 TB in Q1FY21.

.

India is also the world's second-largest telecommunications market. The total subscriber base in the country stood at 1,168.66 million with a tele-density of 86.22%, as of September 30, 2020.

Gross revenue of the telecom sector stood at Rs. 66,858 crore (US\$ 9.09 billion) in the first quarter of FY21.

Over the next five years, rise in mobile-phone penetration and decline in data costs will add 500 million new internet users in India, creating opportunities for new businesses.

Test-21 (Subject)
(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2021)

Total Marks : 200

Investment/Major Development

With daily increasing subscriber base, there have been a lot of investment and development in the sector. FDI inflow into the telecom sector during April 2000 - September 2020 totalled US\$ 37.27 billion according to the data released by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Some of the developments in the recent past are:

In December 2020, BSNL, in partnership with Skylotech India, announced a breakthrough in satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrowband-Internet of Things) for fishermen, farmers, construction, mining and logistics enterprises.

In the first quarter of FY21, customer spending on telecom services increased 16.6% y-o-y, with over three-fourths spent on data services. This spike in consumer spending came despite of the COVID-19 disruption and lack of access of offline recharges for a few weeks.

On November 24, 2020, Google paid Rs. 33,737 (US\$ 4.5 billion) for a 7.73% stake in Reliance Industries Ltd.'s (RIL) digital subsidiary—Jio Platforms Ltd.

In September 2020, Reliance Jio partnered with 22 foreign airlines for inflight internet connectivity with plans starting at Rs. 499 (US\$ 6.76) per day.

In September 2020, Airtel and Radware partnered to offer cloud security services to businesses in India.

Airtel launched a new ad campaign, 'Sab Kuch Try Karo, Fir Sahi Chuno', and rolled out a new campaign 'Open to Questions', highlighting its aim to resolve every single customer query, learn quickly from failures and ensure these are not repeated.

India had over 500 million active internet users (accessed Internet in the last one month) as of May 2020.

In June 2020, Jio Platforms Ltd. sold 22.38% stake worth Rs 1.04 trillion (US\$ 14.75 billion) to ten global investors in a span of eight weeks under separate deals, involving

Test-21 (Subject)
(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2021)

Total Marks : 200

Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista, General Atlantic, Mubadala, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), TPG Capital and L. Catterton. This is the largest continuous fundraise by any company in the world.

In April 2020, Vodafone Group Plc infused Rs 1,530 crore (US\$ 217.05 million) in Vodafone Idea as accelerated payment to help the company manage its operations.

As of January 2020, more than 542 banks were permitted to provide mobile banking services in India.

Government Initiatives

The Government has fast-tracked reforms in the telecom sector and continues to be proactive in providing room for growth for telecom companies. Some of the key initiatives taken by the Government are as follows:

In December 2020, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, approved a proposal by Department of Telecommunications for setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public Wi-Fi services through Public Data Offices (PDOs).

In December 2020, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, approved the provision of submarine optical fibre cable connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (KLI Project).

On November 4, 2020, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, approved to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) of United Kingdom Government on cooperation in the field of telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs).

On September 21, 2020, Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi launched a project to connect all 45,945 villages in Bihar with optical fibre internet service. This project will be completed by March 31, 2021 at a cost of Rs. ~1,000 crore (US\$ 135.97 million); Rs. 640 crore (US\$ 87.01 million) of capital expenditure will be funded by Department of Telecommunications.


In March 2020, the government approved the Production Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large- scale Electronics Manufacturing. The scheme proposes production-linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile

phone manufacturing and specified electronic components including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units.

- In January 2020, Government of India allowed 100% FDI in Bharti Airtel.
- The Government of India planned to roll out a new National Telecom Policy 2018 in lieu of rapid technological advancement in the sector over the past few years. The policy intended to attract investments worth US\$ 100 billion in the sector by 2022.
- The Department of Information Technology intends to set up over 1 million internet-enabled common service centres across India as per the National e-Governance Plan.
- **FDI cap in the telecom sector has been increased to 100% from 74%; out of 100%, 49% will be done through the automatic route and the rest will be done through the FIPB approval route.**
- FDI of up to 100% is permitted for infrastructure providers offering dark fibre, electronic mail and voice mail.
- The Government of India has introduced Digital India programme under which all the sectors such as healthcare, retail, etc will be connected through internet.

<https://www.ibef.org/industry/telecommunications.aspx>

88. Miyawaki afforestation, sometime seen in the news, is related to

- A. Afforestation of degraded lands near mining areas
- B. Urban afforestation by turning backyards into mini forests. 
- C. Method of afforesting highly degraded lands in tropics
- D. Traditional method of raising forest in North Eastern India

○

○ Correct Answer : B

○ **Answer Justification :**

The Miyawaki method of afforestation revolutionized the concept of urban afforestation by turning backyards into miniforests.

Kerala is to take this method of afforestation to add green cover on government office premises, residential complexes, school premises etc in Kerala.

89. Which of the following is/are the purposes of Public interest litigation (PIL)?

1. Vindication of the rule of law
2. Facilitating effective access to justice to the socially and economically weaker sections
3. Meaningful realization of the fundamental rights

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the statements given above are correct.

PIL is absolutely necessary for maintaining the rule of law, furthering the cause of justice and accelerating the pace of realisation of the constitutional objectives. In other words, the real purposes of PIL are:

(i) vindication of the rule of law,

(ii) facilitating effective access to justice to the socially and economically weaker sections of the society, and

(iii) meaningful realisation of the fundamental rights.

90. Consider the following statements regarding Port Development in India

1. Non-Major Ports are under the state list of the Constitution of India.
2. Non-major ports are governed by the respective maritime State Governments.
3. 50 years tax holiday is provided to enterprises that develop, maintain and operate ports, inland waterways and inland ports.

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only ✓
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Seaports in India are responsible for a varied range of economic activity. They account for about 95% by volume and 70 percent by value of the country's international trade. The ports play a vital role in the overall economic development of the country.

Indian Ports are broadly classified as Major Ports and Non-Major Ports. The Major Ports are under the Union List while the Non Major Ports are under the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect**

Hence, Major Ports are under the administrative control of Government of India while the Non-major ports are governed by the respective Maritime State Governments. Hence Statement 2 is correct.


Major Ports are defined in Section 3(8) of the Indian Ports Act 1908 to mean any port which the Central Government may by notification in the Official Gazette declare, or may under any law for the time being in force have declared, to be a major port.

India has 12 major and 205 notified minor and intermediate ports. Under the National Perspective Plan for Sagarmala, six new mega ports will be developed in the country.

The Indian ports and shipping industry play a vital role in sustaining growth in the country's trade and commerce. India is the sixteenth largest maritime country in the world with a coastline of about 7,517 kms.

The Indian Government plays an important role in supporting the ports sector. It has allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) of up to 100% under the automatic route for port and harbour construction and maintenance projects. **It has also facilitated a 10-year tax holiday to enterprises that develop, maintain and operate ports, inland waterways and inland ports. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect**

91. Consider the following statements regarding UN Security Council

1. It has 5 permanent members and 15 non-permanent members
 2. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.
 3. When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only 
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members(Veto power). Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. **Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.**

92. Consider the following statements regarding Biomass

1. The energy from biomass is released on burning or breaking the chemical bonds of organic molecules formed during photosynthesis.
 2. Biomass fuels can be used directly.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2 ✓
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Biomass

Biomass is a renewable energy resource derived from plant and animal waste. The energy from biomass (biomass conversion) is released on burning or breaking the chemical bonds of organic molecules formed during photosynthesis.

Biomass fuels can be used directly or they can be transformed into more convenient form and then used.


Sources of biomass

- By-products from the timber industry, agricultural crops and their byproducts, raw material from the forest, major parts of household waste and wood.
- Solid Biomass fuels: Wood logs and wood pellets, charcoal, agricultural waste (stalks and other plant debris), animal waste (dung), aquatic plants (kelp and water hyacinths) urban waste (paper, cardboard and other combustible materials).

93. Consider the following statements regarding Agreement on Agriculture

1. It was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
2. The 'green box' comprises involves direct payments to producers, which are fully decoupled from production.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2 

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Both the statements are correct.

The Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) is an international treaty of the World Trade Organization. It was negotiated during the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and entered into force with the establishment of the WTO on January 1, 1995.

The 'green box' comprises two support groups. The first involves public services programmes (for example research, training, marketing, promotion, infrastructure, domestic food aid or public food security stocks).

The second involves direct payments to producers, which are fully decoupled from production. These mainly involve income guarantee and security programmes (natural disasters, state financial contributions to crop insurance, etc.), programmes to adjust structures and environmental protection programmes. All green box aid which is deemed to be compatible with the WTO framework is totally exempt from reduction commitments.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/111/wto-agreement-on-agriculture>

94. Which of the following is/are the advantages of the coal washing?

1. Reduction of ash content.
2. Improvement of heat value.
3. Improved health benefit.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

The coal washing process, which is usually used for removal of contaminants, also comes with tremendous environmental and health benefits. It not only reduces the ash content of coal, but also improves its heating value and removes small amounts of other substances, such as sulfur and hazardous air pollutants.

It also has health benefits due mainly to the lower quantity of coal burned per energy generated as well as to small reductions in the sulfur content of coal burned.

Cropper's study in fact estimates that washing coal could reduce the number of deaths by 20% per power plant. Currently only 4% of coal in India is washed, and this offers an immediate opportunity to reduce environmental and health damage from coal-fired power plants pending more stringent standards and their enforcement.

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/washing-coal-could-save-lives-india>

95. Consider the following statements regarding International Thermonuclear Experimental Project (ITER) Project.

1. ITER will be the first fusion device to produce net energy.
2. The ITER Members include China, the European Union, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and Brazil.

3. ITER will bridge the gap between today's smaller-scale experimental fusion devices and the demonstration fusion power plants of the future.

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

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3 ✓

◦

◦ Correct Answer : D

◦ **Answer Justification :**

All the statements given above are correct.

ITER will be the first fusion device to produce net energy. ITER will be the first fusion device to maintain fusion for long periods of time. And ITER will be the first fusion device to test the integrated technologies, materials, and physics regimes necessary for the commercial production of fusion-based electricity.

Thousands of engineers and scientists have contributed to the design of ITER since the idea for an international joint experiment in fusion was first launched in 1985.

The ITER Members—China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States—are now engaged in a 35-year collaboration to build and operate the ITER experimental device, and together bring fusion to the point where a demonstration fusion reactor can be designed.

With ten times the plasma volume of the largest machine operating today, the ITER Tokamak will be a unique experimental tool, capable of longer plasmas and better confinement. The machine has been designed specifically to:

1) Produce 500 MW of fusion power

The world record for fusion power is held by the European tokamak JET. In 1997, JET produced 16 MW of fusion power from a total input heating power of 24 MW ($Q=0.67$). ITER is designed to produce a ten-fold return on energy ($Q=10$), or 500 MW of fusion power from 50 MW of input heating power. ITER will not capture the energy it produces as electricity, but—as first of all fusion experiments in history to produce net energy gain—it will prepare the way for the machine that can.

2) Demonstrate the integrated operation of technologies for a fusion power plant

ITER will bridge the gap between today's smaller-scale experimental fusion devices and the demonstration fusion power plants of the future. Scientists will be able to study plasmas under conditions similar to those expected in a future power plant and test technologies such as heating, control, diagnostics, cryogenics and remote maintenance.

96. Consider the following statements regarding Ammonium Nitrate

1. The material itself does not readily burn but will readily do so if contaminated by combustible material.
2. It is widely used in agriculture and explosion sectors.
3. It produces minimum toxic substances during combustion process.

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

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only ✓
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Ammonium nitrate is commercially available both as a colorless crystalline solid and processed into prills for specific applications.

Soluble in water. Does not readily burn but will do so if contaminated with combustible material. Accelerates the burning of combustible material. Produces toxic oxides of nitrogen during combustion. Used to make fertilizers and explosives, and as a nutrient in producing antibiotics and yeast.

Ammonium Nitrate Emulsion, Suspension, or Gel is ammonium nitrate suspended in a liquid. The material itself does not readily burn but will readily do so if contaminated by combustible material. It will accelerate the burning of combustible material.

Toxic oxides of nitrogen are produced during combustion during combustion of this material. Hence Statement 3 is incorrect.

It is used as a fertilizer, as a freezing mixture, in safety explosives, matches, and pyrotechnics.

97. Consider the following statements regarding Ceres

1. Ceres is located in Kuiper Belt.
2. Ceres became the first dwarf planet to receive a visit from a spacecraft.
3. There's no evidence of an atmosphere on Ceres

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

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only ✓

-
- Correct Answer : D

○ **Answer Justification :**

Dwarf planet Ceres is the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and the only dwarf planet located in the inner solar system. Hence Statement 1 is incorrect.

It was the first member of the asteroid belt to be discovered when Giuseppe Piazzi spotted it in 1801. And when Dawn arrived in 2015, **Ceres became the first dwarf planet to receive a visit from a spacecraft.**

Called an asteroid for many years, Ceres is so much bigger and so different from its rocky neighbors that scientists classified it as a dwarf planet in 2006. Even though Ceres comprises 25 percent of the asteroid belt's total mass, tiny Pluto is still 14 times more massive.



https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/dwarf-planets/ceres/overview/#otp_ten_things_to_know_about_ceres

98. BeiDou, navigation system recently commissioned by which of the following country?

- A. Japan
- B. China ✓
- C. Russia
- D. South Korea

-
- Correct Answer : B

○ **Answer Justification :**


The BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is a Chinese satellite navigation system. It consists of two separate satellite constellations. The first BeiDou system, officially called the BeiDou Satellite Navigation Experimental System and also known as BeiDou-1, consisted of three satellites which, beginning in 2000, offered limited coverage and navigation services, mainly for users in China and neighboring regions. BeiDou-1 was decommissioned at the end of 2012.

On 23 June 2020, the final BeiDou satellite was successfully launched, the launch of the 55th satellite in the Beidou family. The third iteration of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System promises to provide global coverage for timing and navigation, offering an alternative to Russia's GLONASS, the European Galileo positioning system, and America's GPS.

99. Consider the following statements regarding National Recruitment Agency (NRA)

1. It will conduct a common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government.
2. It will be headed by a Chairman of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India.

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

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2 
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

◦

◦ Correct Answer : C

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Both the statements are correct.

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of **National Recruitment Agency**, an independent body to conduct examination for government jobs.

1. Initially, it will organise a **CET to screen/shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non -technical) posts**, which are now being conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railways Recruitment Board (RRBs) and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS). Later on, more exams may be brought under it.

When was it first announced?

The setting up of such an agency to conduct a common eligibility test (CET) was announced in the Union Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February.

Composition:

It will be **headed by a Chairman of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India**. It will have **representatives of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS**.

Functions of the proposed NRA:

It will conduct a **common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the**

central government.

Based on **the common eligibility test (CET) score** a candidate can apply for a vacancy with the respective agency.

How the test will be conducted?

The Common Eligibility Test will be held twice a year.

1. **The test will be conducted for three levels:** graduate, higher secondary (12th pass) and the matriculate (10th pass) candidates.
2. However, **the present recruitment agencies- IBPS, RRB and SCC — will remain in place.**
3. Based on the screening done at the CET score level, **final selection for recruitment shall be made through separate specialised Tiers** (II, III, etc.) of examination which shall be conducted by the respective recruitment agencies.

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/20/national-recruitment-agency-nra-2/>

100. Consider the following statements regarding Census of Asiatic Lion

1. The census is conducted once every five years.
 2. The first Lion Census was conducted by Gujarat Government.
 3. In recent census, the count was estimated from a population “observation” exercise called Poonam Avlokan.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only ✓
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

◦

◦ Correct Answer : B

◦ **Answer Justification :**

Census of Asiatic Lion

Context: **Census of Asiatic lion** was recently conducted by the Gujarat government and the details have been released.

Test-21 (Subject)
(INSTA Prelims Test Series 2021)

Total Marks : 200

About the lion census:

The census is **conducted once every five years**. This year it was delayed due to lockdowns.

The **first Lion Census was conducted by the Nawab of Junagadh in 1936**; since 1965, the Forest Department has been regularly conducting the Lion Census every five years.

The **6th, 8th and 11th Censuses were each delayed by a year**, for various reasons.

Key figures this year:

28% rise in population of Lions: Total estimated Lions in Gir region is 674. It was 523 in 2015.

36% Expanse in distribution: Today, Asiatic lions are present in Protected Areas and agro-pastoral landscapes of Saurashtra covering nine districts, over an expanse of about 30,000 sq. km. It was 22,000 sq. km in 2015.

How was the census carried out this year? How is it different from previous census?

Reduced participation: Every year, the state Forest Department invites **NGOs, experts and wildlife enthusiasts to join the Census** for transparency and augmenting manpower. But this time, it was not advisable to send so many people inside the forest as **the Bronx Zoo in New York had reported a case of transmission of novel coronavirus from a human to a tigress**.