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## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

### GENERAL STUDIES (P) TEST – 4139 (2024)

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#### Q 1.A

- The All India Muslim League was formed in 1906 in Dhaka when Lord Minto was the Viceroy. It was founded by a group of big zamindars ex-bureaucrats and other upper-class Muslims like the Aga Khan, the Nawab of Dacca, and Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk. Founded as a loyalist, communal, and conservative political organization, the League supported the partition of Bengal, raised the slogan of separate Muslim interests, demanded separate electorates and safeguards for Muslims in government services, and reiterated all the major themes of communal politics and ideology enunciated earlier by Syed Ahmed and his followers. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct and statement 2 is correct.**
- While Jinnah had been regularly invited to Muslim League meetings as early as 1910, he did not join the Muslim League till October 1913. Much of this had to do with his deep and abiding mistrust of the pro-British Muslim elites who dominated the organization and were often at odds with him in the Council. It was only when the Muslim League, earlier avowedly pro-British in its inclination, altered its constitution and changed its goal to self-government that Jinnah could finally be persuaded to join it. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 2.D

- The Communal Award was announced by the British Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, on August 16, 1932. **The Communal Award was based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee (also called the Lothian Committee). Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Main Provisions of the Communal Award were:
  - **Muslims, Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, depressed classes, women, and even the Marathas were to get separate electorates.** Such an arrangement for the depressed classes was to be made for a period of 20 years. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - In the provincial legislatures, the seats were to be distributed on a communal basis.
  - The existing seats of the provincial legislatures were to be doubled.
  - The Muslims, wherever they were in the minority, were to be granted a weightage.
  - Except in the North West Frontier Province, 3 percent of seats were to be reserved for women in all provinces.
  - **The depressed classes to be declared/accorded the status of minority. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - The depressed classes were to get a 'double vote', one to be used through separate electorates and the other to be used in the general electorates.
  - Allocation of seats was to be made for labourers, landlords, traders and industrialists.
  - In the province of Bombay, 7 seats were to be allocated for the Marathas.

#### Q 3.B

- Gandhiji, who went to South Africa for a legal case, stayed in the country for 20 years, leading a struggle for Indians who were racially discriminated against by the government of South Africa under British colonialism.
- Leaving the moderate struggle tactics he was implementing till 1906, he began experimenting with passive resistance or civil disobedience, which he named Satyagraha. It was first used when the Government enacted legislation making it compulsory for Indians to take out certificates of registration that held their fingerprints. It was essential to carry these in person at all times. **At a huge public meeting held on 11 September 1906, in the Empire Theatre in Johannesburg, Indians resolved that they would refuse to submit to this law and would face the consequences. The Government remained adamant, and so did the Indians. Gandhiji formed the Passive Resistance Association to conduct the campaign. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**

- Post-1908, the movement reached an impasse. The more committed Satyagrahis continued to go in and out of jail, but the majority were showing signs of fatigue. Gandhiji's visit to London in 1909 to meet the authorities there yielded little result. The funds for supporting the families of the Satyagrahis and for running Indian Opinion were fast running out. Gandhiji's legal practice had virtually ceased since 1906 when he had started devoting all his attention to the struggle. At this point, Gandhiji set up Tolstoy Farm, made possible through the generosity of his German architect friend, Kallenbach, to house the families of the Satyagrahis and give them a way to sustain themselves. **Funds also came from India- J.R.D Tata sent Rs. 25,000 and the Congress and the Muslim League, as well as the Nizam of Hyderabad, made their contributions. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The government's actions of repression and treatment met the Satyagrahis against the Poll tax campaign and denial of registration of marriages not conducted according to Christian rites enraged many sections. Workers on the plantations and the mines went on a lightning strike. Gokhale toured the whole of India to arouse Indian public opinion and even the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, condemned the repression as 'one that would not be tolerated by any country that calls itself civilized' and called for an impartial inquiry into the charges of atrocities. **Eventually, through a series of negotiations involving Gandhiji, the Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, C.F. Andrews, and General Smuts, an agreement was reached by which the Government of South Africa conceded the major Indian demands relating to the poll tax, the registration certificates, and marriages solemnized according to Indian rites and promised to treat the question of Indian immigration in a sympathetic manner. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 4.B

- **Recent context:** Power regulator Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued a staff paper on power market coupling.
- India has three power exchanges – IEX, Power Exchange India Limited (PXIL) and Hindustan Power Exchange Limited (HPX). These are voluntary markets and each of them collect buy bids and sell bids on their own, and thus, come up with their own market clearing prices (MCP).
  - In simple terms, currently, each power exchange has a different cost of electricity, even though it is usually higher or lower to each other only by a few paise.
- **Market coupling is a model where buy bids and sell bids from all power exchanges in the country will be aggregated and matched to discover a uniform MCP.**
  - It means there will be only one price for the electricity that is to be traded at any point of time through these exchanges.
  - If implemented, power exchanges will be rendered as a platform where only buy and sell bids will be received and power dispatched to the buyer.
- To shift to a market-based electricity trading system, the government needs to implement the Market-Based Economic Dispatch (MBED) mechanism in India, which is not possible without market coupling.
  - MBED envisages a centralised scheduling for dispatching electricity across the country at the inter-state as well as intra-state level.
  - At present, electricity dispatch happens at multiple levels – state as well as Central – for which modes of trade are also multiple (PPAs, exchanges and power banking).
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 5.D

- A new line of political activity to keep up the spirit of resistance to colonial rule was advocated by C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru. They suggested that the nationalists should end the boycott of the legislative councils, enter them, expose them as 'sham parliaments and as a mask which the bureaucracy has put on,' and obstruct 'every work of the council.' This, they argued, would not be giving up non-cooperation but continuing it in a more effective form by extending it to the councils themselves. It would be opening a new front in the battle.
- **C.R. Das as the President of the Congress and Motilal as its Secretary put forward this programme of either mending or ending' the councils at the Gaya session of the Congress in December 1922.** Another section of the Congress, headed by Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad and C. Rajagopalachari, opposed the new proposal which was consequently defeated by 1748 to 890 votes.
- **Das and Motilal resigned from their respective offices in the Congress and on 1 January 1923 announced the formation of the Congress-Khilafat Swaraj Party better known later as the Swaraj Party.** Das was the President and Motilal one of the Secretaries of the new party.
  - The adherents of the council-entry programme came to be popularly known as 'pro-changers' and those still advocating a boycott of the councils as 'no-changers.'

- **The new party did not break away from the Congress but continued to function as a group within the framework of the National Congress.** It accepted the Congress programme except in one respect it decided to participate in the council election. The supporters of the Swaraj party came to be known as the Swarajists. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The Swaraj party did well in the elections of 1923 despite the fact that it had little time for campaigning. They won forty-two out of 101 elected seats in the Central Legislative Assembly: **they got a clear majority in the Central Provinces; they were the largest party in Bengal;** and they fared quite well in Bombay and U.P., though not in Madras and Punjab because of strong casteist and communal currents. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- As the leader of the single largest party in the council, C.R. Das was invited to form the ministry in Bengal. But he refused to do so. For the next few years the Swarajists thus, obstructed the smooth functioning of the assembly and the councils. There were a few positive gains too. **In 1925 C.R. Das, who had refused to form a ministry in Bengal, was elected the Mayor of Calcutta.** To create an atmosphere of communal harmony he made the Bengal Pact. **The Swarajist leader Vithalbhai Patel was elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly. Hence statements 2 and 3 are correct.**
- **On 6 November 1924, Gandhiji brought the strife between the Swarajists and no-changers to an end,** by signing a joint statement with Das and Motilal that the Swarajist Party would carry on work in the legislatures on behalf of the Congress and as an integral part of the Congress. This decision was endorsed in December **at the Belgaum session of the Congress** over which Gandhiji presided. He also gave the Swarajists a majority of seats on his Working Committee.

#### Q 6.A

- Gandhiji's political activities from 1894 to 1906 may be classified as the 'Moderate' phase of the struggle of the South African Indians. During this phase, he concentrated on petitioning and sending memorials to the South African legislatures, the Colonial Secretary in London and the British Parliament. He believed that if all the facts of the case were presented to the Imperial Government, the British sense of justice and fair play would be aroused and the Imperial Government would intervene on behalf of Indians who were, after all, British subjects.
- His attempt was to unite the different sections of Indians and to give their demands wide publicity. This he tried to do through the setting up of the Natal Indian Congress and by starting a paper called Indian Opinion.
- **The NIC (Natal Indian Congress) was the first of the Indian Congresses to be formed in South Africa. It was established in 1894 by Mahatma Gandhi** to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal. From the 1920s the organization functioned under the umbrella organization, the SAIC (South African Indian Congress).
- **On 4th June 1903, Mahatma Gandhi released his newspaper 'Indian Opinion' in South Africa** to fight against racial discrimination and demand civil rights for Indians in that country. The newspaper was published in Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil and English. Mansukhlal Nazar, the secretary of the Natal Congress served as its editor and a key organiser.
- Phoenix is a South African town about 25 kilometers northwest of Durban Central, in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. It was established as a town by the apartheid government in 1976, but it has a long history of Indian occupation. It is associated with the Phoenix Settlement, built by Mahatma Gandhi. **The Phoenix Settlement comprised of 100 acres of land and was purchased by Gandhiji in 1904.** It was on this Settlement that Gandhi started his journey of transforming from a successful Lawyer to a simple Peasant with a passion for liberation, nonviolence, and spirituality.
- **In response to the Rowlatt Act of 1919, passed by the Imperial Legislative Council, Gandhiji established the Satyagraha Sabha in the Bombay district of Maharashtra on 24 February 1919.** The Rowlatt Act was discriminatory, as it permitted the British government to detain people suspected of terrorist activities for up to two years without charge or trial, and allowed the police to conduct warrantless searches.
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 7.B

- **To fight for the rights of the passengers of Komagata Maru, a 'Shore Committee' was set up under the leadership of Husain Rahim, Sohan Lal Pathak, and Balwant Singh, funds were raised, and protest meetings were organized. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- Komagata Maru was the name of a ship that was carrying 370 passengers, mainly Sikh and Punjabi Muslim would-be immigrants, from Singapore to Vancouver. They were turned back by Canadian authorities after two months of privation and uncertainty. It was generally believed that the Canadian

authorities were influenced by the British government. The ship finally anchored at Calcutta in September 1914. The inmates refused to board the Punjabbound train. In the ensuing conflict with the police at Budge Budge near Calcutta, 22 persons died.

#### Q 8.A

- **A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country.**
- The first one was proclaimed in Ballia, in East U P, in August 1942 under the leadership of Chittu Pande, who called himself a Gandhian. Though it succeeded in getting the Collector to hand over power and release all the arrested Congress leaders, it could not survive for long and when the soldiers marched in, a week after the parallel government was formed, they found that the leaders had fled.'
- **In Tamluk in the Midnapur district of Bengal, the Jatiya Sarkar came into existence on 17th December 1942 and lasted till September 1944.** Tamluk was an area where Gandhian constructive work had made considerable headway and it was also the scene of earlier mass struggles. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **The Jatiya Sarkar undertook cyclone relief work, gave grants to schools, and organized an armed Vidyut Vahini.** It also set up arbitration courts and distributed the surplus paddy of the well-to-do to the poor. Being located in a relatively remote area, it could continue its activities with comparative ease. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Satara, in Maharashtra, emerged as the base of the longest-lasting and effective parallel government, named "Prati Sarkar".** It was organized under leaders like Y.B. Chavan, Nana Patil, etc. Village libraries and Nyayadan Mandals were organized, prohibition campaigns were carried on, and 'Gandhi marriages' were organised. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 9.A

- The Home Rule Movement was the Indian response to the First World War in a less charged but more effective way than the response of Indians living abroad which took the form of the romantic Ghadr adventure.
- Although Besant failed to get Congress to approve her scheme of Home Rule Leagues, Congress did commit itself to a program of educative propaganda and to a revival of local-level Congress committees. Not willing to wait for too long, Besant laid the condition that if the Congress did not implement its commitments, she would be free to set up her own league-which she finally had to, as there was no response from the Congress. Tilak and Besant set up their separate leagues to avoid any friction.
- **Tilak set up his Indian Home Rule League in April 1916. Tilak held his first Home Rule meeting at Belgaum. Poona was the headquarters of his league. His league was restricted to Maharashtra (excluding Bombay city), Karnataka, Central Provinces and Berar. It had six branches and the demands included swarajya, formation of linguistic states, and education in the vernacular. Hence, statement 1 is not correct but statement 2 is correct.**
- Annie Besant set up her All-India Home Rule League in September 1916 in Madras (now Chennai) and covered the rest of India (including Bombay City). It had 200 branches, was loosely organized as compared to Tilak's league, and had George Arundale as the organizing secretary. **Besides Arundale, the main work was done by B.W. Wadia and C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **The Home Rule agitation was later joined by Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhulabhai Desai, Chittaranjan Das, K.M. Munshi, B. Chakravarti, Saifuddin Kitchlew, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Tej Bahadur Sapru and Lala Lajpat Rai. Some of these leaders became heads of local branches of Annie Besant's League. Mohammad Ali Jinnah led the Bombay division.**

#### Q 10.C

- **Kukis' Revolt took place in Manipur during 1917-19. It was against British policies of recruiting labor during the First World War. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- In January 1917, the British Indian government ordered the Maharaja of Manipur to supply non-combatants to serve in the "Great War". While several hundred were recruited from the Valley, the Kukis refused to comply and the various tribal chiefs held a series of conclaves.
- In March 1917, according to Kuki accounts, four chiefs from the tribe performed a ritual sacrifice that declared war. They were led by a fifth chief, Tintong, who became commander of the Kuki warriors.
- In the end, Kuki militias were outnumbered and worn down by the constant flow of British troops into the region. Kuki chiefs and leaders were jailed or exiled and the British launched a policy of "disarming" the martial tribe.



- Many of them were made to enter the begar system of forced labor and the British government began to take a closer interest in the previously “unadministered areas”.
- **Tribal revolts in Tripura aimed against a hike in house tax rates and against the settlement of outsiders in the region.**
- The leaders were:
  - led by Parikshit Jamatia (1863)
  - the Reangs’ revolt led by Ratnamani (1942-43)
  - led by Bharti Singh (1920s).
- **Zeliangrong Movement (the 1920s; Manipur) was led by the Zemi, Liangmei, and Rongmei tribes. It was started due to the failure of the British to protect them during the Kuki violence in 1917-19. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 11.A

- It rejected the demand for a separate "Pakistan".It provided for direct elections with a limited franchise.
- The **Labour government** under the **Atlee** administration dispatched a powerful delegation to India in **February 1946** called the **Cabinet Mission**. Its members included **Pethick Lawrence** (Secretary of State for India), **Stafford Cripps**, and **A.V. Alexander**. These were three **British cabinet members, and the missions did not have any Indian members. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The **objective** of the Mission was to **discuss the transfer of power** from the British government to the Indian political leadership with the aim of preserving India's unity and granting its independence. In this regard, it also tried to **facilitate the drafting of an Indian constitution.**
- It conducted extensive **discussions on interim governance** as well as the rules and processes for drafting a new constitution and presented its own constitutional solution due to a lack of unanimity in the discussions.
- The plan proposed by the Mission **rejected the demand for a separate "Pakistan".Hence, statement 2 is correct.** Instead, it proposed three divisions or groups within the provinces:
  - Group A: Madras, the Central Provinces, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, and Orissa
  - Group B: Punjab, Sindh, the NWFP, and Baluchistan
  - Group C: Assam and Bengal
- According to the plan, a constituent assembly was to be chosen by proportional representation by provincial legislatures (voting in three groups: general, Muslims, and Sikhs). Provincial legislatures would send 292, Chief Commissioner’s provinces would send 4, and Princely States would send 93 to make up the 389-member constituent assembly. **Herein, the elections were indirect and not direct. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 12.B

- The Indian Council’s Act, of 1909, popularly known as the Morley-Minto reforms introduced the following changes:
  - **The elective principle was recognized for the nonofficial membership of the councils in India. Indians were allowed to participate in the election of various legislative councils, though on the basis of class and community. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
  - The strength of the Imperial Legislative Council was increased.
  - Of the sixty-eight members of the Imperial Legislative Council, thirty-six were officials and five were nominated non-officials. Out of twenty-seven elected members, six were elected by big landlords and two by British capitalists.
  - **With regard to the central government, an Indian member was taken for the first time in the Executive Council of the Governor-General (Satyendra Prasad Sinha was the first Indian to join the Governor-General’s or Viceroy’s Executive Council, as a law member.) Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - It retained an official majority in the Central Legislative Council but allowed the provincial legislative councils to have a nonofficial majority.
  - It Introduced communal representation through a separate electorate to the Muslim community.
- **Bicameralism was introduced in the Indian legislative structure under the 1919 reforms popularly known as the Montague-Chelmsford reforms. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Even before the reforms were introduced, in 1907, two Indians- K. G. Gupta and Syed Hussain Bilgrami- were made members of the Secretary of State’s India Council. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

#### Q 13.D

- **Bengal famine of 1943, a famine that affected Bengal in British India in 1943. It resulted in the deaths of some three million people due to malnutrition or disease.** While many famines are the result of inadequate food supply, the Bengal famine did not coincide with any significant shortfall in food production.
- **There were a few natural factors of course, like a devastating cyclone in Midnapur;** but that alone did not cause the famine. The cyclone in 1942 damaged the autumn rice crop and put pressure on the following year's crop because, to survive, many subsistence farmers had to consume grain meant for planting. Still, the 1942 halt in rice imports to India did not cause the famine, and the 1943 crop yield was actually sufficient to feed the people of Bengal. **Hence, option 1 is correct.**
- **Fearing a Japanese invasion, British authorities stockpiled food to feed defending troops, and they exported considerable quantities to British forces in the Middle East.** They also confiscated boats, carts, and elephants in Chittagong, where the invasion was expected. This deprived fishermen and their customers of the ability to operate and generally inhibited the sort of low-level commerce upon which many Bengalis relied for survival.
- In the wake of these actions by the British, **anxiety about shortages caused hoarding, speculation, and consequent price inflation** that put even a basic subsistence diet beyond the means of many of Bengal's workers. The government's failure to halt rice exports or seek relief supplies from elsewhere resulted in a disaster that killed millions of people. This government procurement policy that prioritised official and military requirements over local needs of subsistence and the wartime stresses, like the 'denial policy', **the refugee influx from Burma into Chittagong and the disappearance of imported rice from Burma** became major reasons behind the famine. **Hence, options 2 and 3 are correct.**

#### Q 14.C

- **Frightened by the spread of socialist and communist ideas and influence and believing that the crucial role in this respect was being played by British and other foreign agitators sent to India by the Communist International, the Government proposed to acquire the power to deport 'undesirable' and 'subversive' foreigners Under the Public Safety Bill of 1928.**
- Nationalists of all colors, from the moderates to the militants, united in opposing the Bill. Lala Lajpat Rai said, 'Capitalism is only another name for Imperialism . . . We are in no danger from Bolshevism or Communism. The greatest danger we are in, is from the capitalists and exploiters.'
- **Motilal Nehru narrated his experiences in the Soviet Union and condemned anti-Soviet propaganda. He described the Public Safety Bill as 'a direct attack on Indian nationalism, on the Indian National Congress' and as 'the Slavery of India, Bill No. 1.'**
- Diwan Chaman Lal, then a firebrand protege of Motilal, declared: 'If you are trying to preach against socialism if you are demanding powers to suppress socialism, you will have to walk over our dead bodies before you can get that power.' **Even the two spokesmen of the capitalist class, Purshottamdas Thakurdas and G.D. Birla, firmly opposed the Bill.**
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 15.D

- **Dark Patterns**
  - **Context:** The Centre has asked e-commerce companies to not use "dark patterns" on their platforms that may deceive customers or manipulate their choices.
  - Dark Patterns are unethical UI/UX (user interface/user experience) interactions, designed to mislead or trick users to make them do something they don't want to do. In turn, they benefit the company or platform employing the designs.
  - By using dark patterns, digital platforms take away a user's right to full information about the services they are using and their control over their browsing experience.
  - **Types of dark patterns identified by the Consumer Affairs Ministry:**
    - ✓ **False urgency:** Creates a sense of urgency or scarcity to pressure consumers into making a purchase or taking an action;
    - ✓ **Basket sneaking:** Dark patterns are used to add additional products or services to the shopping cart without the user's consent;
    - ✓ **Confirm shaming:** Uses guilt to make consumers adhere; criticizes or attacks consumers for not conforming to a particular belief or viewpoint;
    - ✓ **Forced action:** Pushes consumers into taking an action they may not want to take, such as signing up for a service in order to access content;
    - ✓ **Nagging:** Persistent criticism, complaints, and requests for action;

- ✓ **Subscription traps:** Easy to sign up for a service but difficult to quit or cancel; option is hidden or requires multiple steps;
- ✓ **Bait & switch:** Advertising a certain product/ service but delivering another, often of lower quality;
- ✓ **Hidden costs:** Hiding additional costs until consumers are already committed to making a purchase;
- ✓ **Disguised ads:** Designed to look like content, such as news articles or user-generated content.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 16.A

- **Recent context:** Scientists have recorded a new species of salamander — the *Tylototriton zaimeng* — in the Zaimeng Lake within the Koubru Forest Division in Kangpokpi district in Manipur which has often confused zoologists in the past.
- **Salamanders are a type of amphibian;** they have moist skin and are usually found in damp habitats near or in water. Salamanders are closer related to frogs despite how different frogs and salamanders look. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - They are nocturnal in nature. These amphibians are found completely aquatic as well as terrestrial, depending on their species.
- **Salamanders have been hailed as champions of regeneration, exhibiting a remarkable ability to regrow tissues, organs and even whole body parts, e.g. their limbs.** As such, salamanders have provided key insights into the mechanisms by which cells, tissues and organs sense and regenerate missing or damaged parts. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **India is home to salamander species like *Tylototriton himalayanus* and *Tylototriton verrucosus*.** **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 17.A

- **Athachamayam is a cultural festival which provides one the rare opportunity to witness almost all the folk art forms of Kerala.** It is a grand celebration which marks the beginning of the ten-day Onam Festival.
  - Every year on the Atham asterism of the Malayalam month of Chingam (roughly August/September), Thripunithura, near Kochi, bears witness to this legendary ceremony which commemorates the victory of the Raja (King) of Kochi.
  - There is a magnificent procession representing that of the King and his entourage.
- **Aadi Perukku is celebrated by Tamils everywhere,** especially by women and young children, the festival falls on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi.
  - On this day, women carry pots of germinated navadhanya on their head and move in a procession towards water bodies, where they offer prayers and seek divine blessings for their crops by way of abundant monsoon.
- **Bonderam festival takes place in the sleepy island of Divar close to Panjim, Goa every year on the fourth Saturday of August.**
  - The festival of Bonderam is celebrated to mark the protests of the villagers and the subsequent face-off with the Portuguese over property disputes on the island.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 18.A

- Post-Russian revolution, there was a distinct rise of socialist ideas in India. Socialist ideas now began to spread rapidly especially because many young persons who had participated actively in the NonCooperation Movement were unhappy with its outcome and were dissatisfied with Gandhian policies and ideas as well as the alternative Swarajist program. Several socialist and communist groups came into existence all over the country.
  - **In Bombay, S.A. Dange published a pamphlet *Gandhi vs. Lenin* and started the first socialist weekly, *The Socialist*;**
  - **In Bengal, Muzaffar Ahmed brought out *Navayug* and later founded the *Langal* in cooperation with the poet Nazrul Islam;**
  - **In Punjab, Ghulam Hussain and others published *Inquilab*; and**
  - **In Madras, M. Singaravelu founded the *Labour-Kisan Gazette*.**
- **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

### Q 19.B

- **Recent context :** Gabon announced a \$500 million debt-for-nature swap. In Africa, it is the largest such deal signed by any country to refinance its debt and conserve marine resources.
  - Usually banks in developed countries buy the debts of such countries and replace them with new loans which mature later. These have lower interest rates.
  - Gabon's debt has been restructured under a Blue Bond in the world's second-largest debt-for-nature swap.
  - Under the debt-for-nature swap, Gabon has agreed to a deal with the Bank of America, the US International Development Finance Corporation (USDFC) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), to refinance \$500 million in national debt toward marine conservation efforts in the country.
  - This is the fourth project under TNC's "Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation" strategy. Gabon is the fourth country to partner with TNC on a Blue Bonds project after Seychelles, Belize and Barbados.
- **Debt-for-nature swaps allow heavily indebted developing countries to seek help from financial institutions in the developed world with paying off their debt if they agree to spend on conservation of natural resources.**
- **In May 2023, the world's first and largest debt swap to conserve oceans was signed by Ecuador.** The country had exchanged \$1.6 billion denominated bonds for a new \$656 million loan.
- **India is not involved in any such debt for nature swaps till date.**
- Other countries which have been involved in such swaps are Brazil, Madagascar, Philippines etc.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

### Q 20.C

- When the Labour Party came to power in London, the Prime Minister of Britain, **Clement Attlee**, declared on **February 20, 1947**, in the House of Commons that the **British would quit India** after transferring power to the responsible hand not later than **June 30th, 1948**. To give effect to this, he also announced the **appointment of Lord Mountbatten as Viceroy** in place of Lord Wavell. **Hence, Statement II is not correct.**
- He also stated that if the Indian leaders failed to arrive at a consensus, the British would appoint the government at its discretion and delegate powers to the central and provincial governments.
- The decision now fell upon **Lord Mountbatten**, India's then-British governor-general. He famously declared in his **Mountbatten Plan (3rd June Plan)** that India would gain independence on **August 15, 1947**. One of the reasons behind this might have been the "avoidance of further bloodshed and riots". **Hence, Statement I is correct.**

### Q 21.C

- **Recent context:** The Union government is not in favour of declaring lightning a natural disaster as deaths caused by it can be avoided through education and awareness, according to a senior government official who spoke on the condition of anonymity.
  - India is among the only five countries in the world with an early warning system for lightning and the forecast is available from five days to up to 3 hours.
- There have been demands by States such as Bihar and West Bengal that deaths due to lightning be covered as a natural disaster. The victims will be entitled to compensation from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) once this is notified. As much as 75% of funds to SDRF are contributed by the Centre.
  - **The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted in each State under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The fund is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.**
- **According to present norms, cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves are considered disasters that are covered under the SDRF.**
  - **Lightning is not covered as a natural disaster under SDRF.**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

### Q 22.D

- **The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with Generation India Foundation (GIF) and Amazon Web Services India Private Limited (AWS India) is providing 'cloud' skills training to 1,500 learners and connecting them to employment opportunities, under project AMBER. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**



- The initiative has been undertaken under the SANKALP programme of MSDE with a focus on women to improve gender diversification in the tech industry and underprivileged groups.
- **Projects like AMBER, which is a joint initiative of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) – under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) - and GIF create the necessary avenues. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Co-funded by MSDE (under the SANKALP program) and private philanthropy, project AMBER aims to train 30,000 youth, 50% of whom will be women.
- As part of this collaboration, the learners take part in AWS (re/Start), a workforce development program for unemployed and underemployed individuals, that covers fundamental AWS cloud skills as well as practical career tips, including resume writing and interview preparation.
  - Through real-world scenario-based exercises, labs, and coursework, learners are trained in multiple technologies, including Linux, Python, networking, security, and relational databases.
  - The program also covers the cost for learners to take the AWS Cloud Practitioner Certification exam, an industry-recognized credential that validates their cloud skills and knowledge and connects the participants with job interview opportunities in cloud or IT with local employers.

#### Q 23.B

- During the Civil Disobedience movement, Eastern India became the scene of a new kind of no-tax campaign- the refusal to pay the chowkidara tax. **The movement against this tax and calling for the resignation of Chowkidars and of the influential members of Chowkidari panchayats who appointed the Chowkidars, first started in Bihar in May itself, as salt agitation had not much scope due to the land-locked nature of the province. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **In Bengal, the onset of the monsoon, which made it difficult to make salt, brought about a shift to anti-chowkidara and anti-Union Board agitation. Here too, villagers withstood severe repression, losing thousands of rupees worth of property through confiscation and destruction and having to hide for days in forests to escape the wrath of the police.**
- **Chowkidars, paid out of the tax levied especially on the villages, were guards who supplemented the small police force in the rural areas in this region. They were particularly hated because they acted as spies for the Government and often also as retainers for the local landlords.**
- In the Monghyr, Saran and Bhagalpur districts, the tax was refused, Chowkidars were induced to resign, and social boycott was used against those who resisted.
- The Government retaliated by confiscation of property worth hundreds and thousands in lieu of a few rupees of tax and by beatings and torture. Matters came to a head in Bihpur in Bhagalpur when the police, desperate to assert its fast-eroding authority, occupied the Congress ashram which was the headquarters of nationalist activity in the area.
- **The occupation triggered off daily demonstrations outside the ashram, and a visit by Rajendra Prasad and Abdul Ban from Patna became the occasion for, a huge mass rally, which was broken up by a lathi charge in which Rajendra Prasad was injured. Elsewhere, repression further increased the nationalists' strength, and the police just could not enter the rural areas.**

#### Q 24.C

- Surya Sen was revolutionary and active in the Bengal region. He decided to organize an armed rebellion along with his associates—Anant Singh, Ganesh Ghosh, and Lokenath Baul—to show that it was possible to challenge the armed might of the mighty British Empire.
- They had planned to occupy two main armories in Chittagong to seize and supply arms to the revolutionaries to destroy telephone and telegraph lines and to dislocate the railway link of Chittagong with the rest of Bengal.
- The raid was conducted in April 1930 and involved 65 activists under the banner of the Indian Republican Army—Chittagong Branch. The raid was quite successful; Sen hoisted the national flag, took a salute, and proclaimed a provisional revolutionary government.
- **There was large-scale participation of young women especially under Surya Sen. These women provided shelter, carried messages, and fought with guns in hand. Prominent women revolutionaries in Bengal during this phase included Pritilata Waddedar, who died conducting a raid (the famous Chittagong Armoury Raid). Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**
- While in college, Pritilata Waddedar joined the Deepali Sangha, a revolutionary group that provided combat training to women and made them politically conscious. Later on, when she moved to Calcutta for her higher education, she came in close contact with Surya Sen. She was keen on joining his group: the Indian Revolutionary Army (IRA), Chittagong Branch.

- After the Chittagong Armoury Raid of April 1930, the police clamped down heavily on them. At times like this, when male leaders became prime suspects, the women leaders had to take charge, and Pritilata, who was inspired by the heroic exploits of the IRA, rose to the challenge and bravely carried out her duties.
- She was tasked with organizing women, gathering information from the imprisoned revolutionaries in disguise, distributing revolutionary pamphlets, and collecting bomb cases secretly.
- Another woman revolutionary Kalpana Dutt was arrested and tried along with Surya Sen and given a life sentence.
- **Santi Ghosh and Suniti Chaudhuri, school girls of Comilla, shot dead the district magistrate in December 1931.**
- **Bina Das fired point-blank at the governor while receiving her degree at the convocation in February 1932.**

#### Q 25.B

- In March 1942, a mission headed by **Stafford Cripps** was sent to India with constitutional proposals to seek Indian support for the war.
- The main proposals of the mission were as follows.
  - **An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up;** it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nation and other international bodies.
  - After the end of the war, **a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution.**
  - The British government would accept the new constitution subject to two conditions: (i) any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, and (ii) the new constitution-making body and the British government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
  - In the meantime, **defence of India would remain in British hands and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.**
- The Cripps Mission proposals failed to satisfy Indian nationalists and turned out to be merely a propaganda device for the consumption of the US and the Chinese. **The Muslim League:**
  - **criticised the idea of a single Indian Union; Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - did not like the machinery for the creation of a constituent assembly and **the procedure to decide on the accession of provinces to the Union; Hence option 2 is correct.**
  - thought that the proposals denied the Muslims the right to self-determination and the creation of Pakistan.
- There was **no provision of extension of separate electorate to other communities under Cripps proposals.** It was done under the GOI Acts of 1919 and 1935. **Hence option 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 26.A

- Towards the end of 1921, peasant discontent resurfaced in some northern districts of the United Provinces—Hardoi, Bahraich, and Sitapur.
- **The grassroots leadership of the Eka Movement came from Madari Pasi, other low-caste leaders, and many small zamindars. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- **The meetings of the Eka or the Unity Movement involved a symbolic religious ritual. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- The issues involved were:
  - high rents—50 percent higher than the recorded rates;
  - oppression of thikadars in charge of revenue collection; and
  - practice of share-rents.
- The assembled peasants vowed that they would
  - **pay only the recorded rent but would pay it on time. Hence, the peasants did not refuse to pay the rent but refused to pay higher than the recorded rates. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - not leave when evicted;
  - refuse to do forced labor;
  - give no help to criminals;
  - abide by panchayat decisions.
- By March 1922, severe repression by authorities ended the movement.

#### Q 27.A

- **Bhil uprising:** Bhills revolted against **Company rule in 1817-1819**, as they had to **face famine, economic distress, and misgovernment**. The Bhil uprising was one of the **earliest instances** of a group or tribe in India taking up a resistance movement against the British. The tribal uprising by the Bhil community in **the Dhula district of Maharashtra** was an answer against the exploitation by the East India Company. It was also symbolic of the integration of tribal communities into the freedom movement. From 1818 onwards, as the East India Company came to power, its political maneuvers were directed at their own economic benefits from the erstwhile rich region of Khandesh, which was full of natural resources.
- **Khasi uprising:** In 1833, the Khasi uprising occurred in the region that lay between the **Khasi and Jaintia Hills**. The uprising was a reaction to the **proposed construction of a road linking the Brahmaputra valley with Sylhet**. It was led by **Tirath Singh**. Despite their efforts, the Khasis were defeated, and the British subsequently gained control over the highlands.
- **Revolt of Gadkaris:** The Gadkari revolt occurred in the **Kolhapur district in Maharashtra**. When the **British occupied Satara**, they extensively took over the lands of the region, particularly of the agrarian Maratha-militia, the Gadkaris. Opposing the British actions, the Gadkaris **rose in revolt in 1844**.
- **Kittur uprising:** In 1824, When the British took over the administration of **Kittur, a town in Karnataka**, they **prevented the adopted son of the chief from taking charge**. This action sparked a revolt led by Chennamma, the widow of the chief. The rebels declared Kittur an independent state, but their efforts were quashed by the British, resulting in the Kittur uprisings being crushed.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 28.A

- The initial emphasis of the Non-Cooperation movement was on middle class participation, such as students leaving schools and colleges and lawyers giving up their legal practice. Simultaneously, there were efforts at developing national schools and arbitration courts, raising a Tilak Swaraj Fund of Rs. 10 million and recruiting an equal number of volunteers.
- Gradually, the movement became more militant, with the beginning of boycott and organisation of public bonfires of foreign cloth. A nationwide strike was observed on 17th November, the day the Prince of Wales arrived in India on an official visit. On that day Bombay witnessed the outbreak of the first violent riot of the movement, targeting the Europeans, Anglo-Indians and the Parsis in the city. Gandhi was incensed; full-scale civil disobedience or a no tax campaign was postponed; it was decided that an experimental no revenue campaign would be launched at Bardoli in Gujarat in February 1922. The venue was carefully chosen, as it was a ryotwari area, with no zamindars and therefore no danger of a no-revenue campaign snowballing into a no-rent campaign tearing apart the fragile coalition of classes. But this never happened, as before that the Non-cooperation movement was withdrawn.
- **The masses often crossed the limits of Gandhian creed of non-violence. Gandhi himself condemned the unruly mob, but failed to restrain them. And this was the main reason why he hesitated to begin a full-fledged civil disobedience or a no-revenue campaign.** The final threshold was reached in the Chauri Chaura incident in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh on 4 February 1922, when villagers burned alive twenty-two policemen in the local police station. **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

#### Q 29.B

- The move towards the formation of a socialist party was made in the jails during 1930-31 and 1932-34 by a group of young Congressmen who were disenchanted with Gandhian strategy and leadership and attracted by socialist ideology. In the jails, they studied and discussed Marxian and other socialist ideas. Attracted by Marxism, communism and the Soviet Union, they did not find themselves in agreement with the prevalent political line of the CPI. Many of them were groping towards an alternative.
- Ultimately they came together and formed the Congress Socialist Party (CSP) at Bombay in October 1934 under the leadership of Jayaprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev and Minoo Masani. **The first annual session of the All-India Congress Socialist Party was held in Bombay in October 1934 under the presidency of Sampurnananda. It was attended by delegates from thirteen provinces. In this meeting, the National Executive of the Congress Socialist Party was constituted with Jaya Prakash Narayan as the General Secretary. The first Session of the All India Kisan Sabha was held in 1936. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- One of the goals of the CSP was the transformation of the Congress which was seen as an organizational sense, that is, in terms of changes in its leadership at the top. Initially, the task was interpreted as the displacement of the existing leadership, which was declared to be incapable of developing the struggle of

the masses to a higher level. The CSP was to develop as the nucleus of the alternative socialist leadership of the Congress. As the Meerut Thesis of the CSP put it in 1935, the task was to 'wean the anti-imperialist elements in the Congress away from its present bourgeois leadership and to bring them under the leadership of revolutionary socialism.' Hence, statement 2 is correct.

- It was actively involved in the Quit India movement and the preparations before its launching. Intelligence reports warned of a series of acts planned by Congress and the CSP to disrupt the smooth functioning of the war machinery. **In fact, official sources had reported that the CSP workers had worked out modalities in a meeting in Allahabad in July 1941 for a radical course of action in Feb 1942. The plan of action came to be known as the Deoli Plan of Jai Prakash Narayan because the latter had reasoned from his Deoli Jail cell that nationalist unity could be revived if Gandhi were to plan a radical course of action rather than a Satyagraha.**

#### Q 30.D

- Set up in **1907**, the **Indian Merchants' Chamber** is an **apex chamber of trade, commerce, and industry** with headquarters in **Mumbai**. It was established as a **Swadeshi institution** to fight for the rights of the Swadeshi under the leadership of **Sir Manmohandas Ramji**. It was the **first such Chamber to protect the interests of Indian businesses** and raise their voice against the British Rulers.
- The **non-cooperation movement** was launched on **August 1, 1920**, by **Mahatma Gandhi**. To counter the same, the **Anti-Non-Cooperation Association came up in 1920**. It was started by big businessmen like **Purushottamdas Thakurdas, Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Purshottamdas Thaukrass, Cowasji Jehangir, Pheroze Sethna, and Setalvad**.
- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** is a **non-profit trade and lobbying organization**. It was launched in **1927**, by Indian businessmen **Mr. G. D. Birla and Purshottamdas Thakurdas**. Currently, **FICCI** draws its **membership** from the **corporate sector, both private and public**, including **SMEs and MNCs**, with an indirect membership of over **250,000** companies.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 31.C

- The Indian National Army trials (also known as the INA trials and the Red Fort trials) was the British Indian trial by **court-martial of a number of officers of the Indian National Army (INA) between November 1945 and May 1946, on various charges of treason, torture, murder and abetment to murder, during the Second World War.**
- The accused had, like a large number of other troops and officers of the British Indian Army, joined the Indian National Army and later fought in Burma alongside the Japanese military under the Azad Hind.
- **The high pitch and intensity at which the campaign for the release of INA prisoners was conducted was unprecedented.** The agitation got wide publicity through extensive press coverage with daily editorials, distribution of pamphlets often containing threats of revenge, graffiti conveying similar messages, holding of public meetings and celebrations of INA Day (November 12, 1945) and INA week (November 5-11).
- The campaign spread over a wide area of the country and witnessed the participation of diverse social groups and political parties. **While the nerve centres of the agitation were Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, United Provinces towns and Punjab**, the campaign spread to distant places such as Coorg, Baluchistan and Assam.
- **Those who supported the INA cause in varying degrees, apart from the Congress, included the Muslim League, Communist Party, Unionists, Akalis, Justice Party, Ahrars in Rawalpindi, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, Hindu Mahasabha and the Sikh League.**
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 32.D

- **The Quit India Movement**, also known as the **Bharat Chhodo Andolan**, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on **8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India.**
- **The three phases of the Quit India movement are:**
- It initially started as an **urban revolt**, marked by strikes, boycott, and picketing, which were quickly suppressed.
- In the middle of August, **the focus shifted to the countryside**, which witnessed a major peasant rebellion, marked by the destruction of communication systems and **finally, the formation of "national governments" in isolated pockets.**



- This brought in severe government repression **forcing the agitation to move underground.**
- The third phase was characterized by **terrorist activities**, which primarily involved **sabotaging of war efforts by dislocating communication systems** and pro paganda activities by using various means, including a clandestine radio station run by hitherto unknown Usha Mehta from "some where in India".
- **Not only the educated youth participated in such activities, but also bands of ordinary peasants organized such subversive actions by night, which came to be known as the "Karnataka method".**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 33.D

- In line with the government policy contained in Montagu's statement (August 1917), the Government announced constitutional reforms in July 1918, known as Montagu-Chelmsford or Montford Reforms. Based on these, the Government of India Act, of 1919 was enacted. The main features of the Montford Reforms at the Central Legislature were as follows:
  - A bicameral arrangement was introduced. The lower house or Central Legislative Assembly would consist of 144 members (41 nominated and 103 elected-52 General, 30 Muslims, 2 Sikhs, 20 Special) and the upper house or Council of State would have 60 members (26 nominated and 34 elected-20 General, 10 Muslims, 3 Europeans and 1 Sikh). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - Allocation of seats for the Central Legislature to provinces was based on the 'importance' of provinces—for instance, Punjab's military importance, and Bombay's commercial importance.
  - Central and provincial subjects were divided for administration, not legislation. Division of legislative powers between the centre and provinces was done through the GoI Act, 1935.
  - The legislators could ask questions and supplementary questions, pass adjournment motions and vote on a part of the budget, but 75% of the budget was still not votable. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - Some Indians found their way into important committees including finance.
  - 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.
  - It provided for the establishment of a public service commission so a Central Public Service Commission was set up in 1926 for recruiting civil servants. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

#### Q 34.A

- Fabianism was a socialist school of thought (that believed in social democracy) in Britain that originated in 19th century Britain. In his youth, **Nehru was drawn to British socialist ideas, at a time when, under the banner of the Fabian Society, Shaw Wells and the Webbs were preaching the socialization of essential services and basic industries within the framework of parliamentary government as the best means of eliminating poverty and ensuring work for all.**
- **Annie Besant was on the frontline of British politics for some 25 years before moving to India and was for George Bernard Shaw 'the greatest orator in England' at the time when she joined the Fabian Society in 1885.** Later she claimed that she only joined the Fabians because it was more palatable to her old radical friends than the other socialist groups. It is testimony to the lack of dogma and orthodoxy in the organization (characteristic of the Fabian Society as a whole) that Besant started lecturing and publishing under the Fabian banner. **Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 35.A

- **"Funga" Campaign**
  - **Context:** Recently, the **United Nations Biodiversity** has launched a Funga campaign to conserve fungi. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
    - ✓ The campaign urges the world to include the word "fungi" ('Funga') along with "flora and fauna" to emphasize the importance of fungi.
    - ✓ According to the United Nations Biodiversity, fungi are an integral part of life on Earth, supporting processes such as decomposition, forest regeneration, and nutrient cycling.
    - ✓ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has also supported "mycologically inclusive" language for the conservation of fungi.
  - **About Fungi:**
    - ✓ Fungi are a diverse group of **eukaryotic microorganisms or macro-organisms** that belong to their own biological group, distinct from plants, animals, and bacteria.
    - ✓ The structure like hair or cotton threads on a piece of bread is called fungus.

- ✓ Their nutritional system or method of nutrition is different. They secrete some digestive juices on the surface of dead and decomposing (rotting) things (organic substances) and convert them into simple and soluble forms.
- ✓ After that, they absorb this solution as food. This type of nutrition system in which organisms obtain nutrients from dead and decomposed organic matter is called saprophytic nutrition. Organisms that use the saprophyte system of nutrition are called saprophytes.
- ✓ Fungi grow on pickles, leather, clothes, trees, plants, and other substances. They also grow in places that are moist and warm.
- ✓ The rainy season provides the best conditions for the growth of fungi. For this reason, many things get destroyed or become unusable during the rainy season due to the growth of fungi.
- **Ecological Benefits of fungi:**
  - ✓ Fungi share their habitat and nutrients with each other due to symbiosis. The fungi that live in the roots of trees provide nutrition to the trees, which in turn helps them absorb water and nutrients. This relationship has special significance for the tree.
  - ✓ Some organisms called **lichens have two partners. One of these is algae and the other is fungus.** Chlorophyll is present in algae while chlorophyll is absent in fungi. The fungus provides habitat, water and nutrients to the algae, and in return, the algae provides food synthesized by photosynthesis to the fungus.
  - ✓ Fungi play important roles in various ecological processes such as decomposition, forest regeneration and nutrient cycling.

#### Q 36.C

- **From 1905 onwards the Government of India followed a policy of cordial co-operation towards the Indian states.** The growth of political unrest in British India put the Government of India on the defensive and the Government thought it expedient and prudent to utilize the support of Indian princes to counter progressive and revolutionary developments.
- The authors of **Montague-Chelmsford** reforms favoured the formation of a Council of Princes and made definite suggestions on the matter. These recommendations formed the nucleus for the formation of the Chamber of Princes, formally inaugurated in February 1921.
  - It was formed under the Policy of Subordinate Union because the Government of India no longer feared the Indian princes, individually or jointly. Thus the policy of Subordinate Isolation gave place to the policy of Subordinate Union.
- For purposes of representation in the Chamber of Princes, the Indian states were divided into three categories :
  - 109 states which enjoyed full legislative and jurisdictional powers were represented directly.
  - 127 states which enjoyed limited legislative and jurisdictional powers were represented by 12 members chosen from among themselves. The remaining 326 states could better be classed as jagirs estates or feudal holdings.
  - The Chamber of Princes was merely an advisory and consultative body. It had no concern with the internal affairs of individual states nor could it discuss matters concerning the existing rights of states or their freedom of action.
- **Hence both statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

#### Q 37.D

- Baba Ramchandra, a Brahmin from Maharashtra, was a **wanderer who had left home at the age of thirteen, done a stint as an indentured laborer in Fiji, and finally turned up in Faizabad in U.P.** in 1909. Till 1920, he had wandered around as a sadhu, carrying a copy of Tulsidas' Ramayan on his back, from which he would often recite verses to rural audiences.
- In the middle of 1920, however, **he emerged as a leader of the peasants of Avadh, and soon demonstrated considerable leadership and organizational capacities.** In June 1920, **Baba Ramchandra led a few hundred tenants from the Jaunpur and Pratapgarh districts to Allahabad.** There he met Gauri Shankar Misra and Jawaharlal Nehru and asked them to visit the villages to see for themselves the living conditions of the tenants. The result was that, between June and August, Jawaharlal Nehru made several visits to the rural areas and developed close contacts with the Kisan Sabha movement.
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q 38.A

- **Wardha Scheme of Basic Education (1937):**
  - The Congress had organized an all-India education conference in October 1937 in Wardha. In light of the resolutions passed there, the **Zakir Hussain committee** formulated a detailed national scheme for basic education. **It came to be known as Nai Talim.** The main principle behind this scheme was 'learning through activity'. **It was based on Gandhi's ideas published in a series of articles in the weekly 'Harijan'.**
- **The provisions of scheme:**
  - **Free and compulsory education for all from the years of 7 to 14. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - Inclusion of a basic handicraft in the syllabus
  - The Wardha Scheme laid down that the- **medium of instruction shall be the mother-tongue, that is, the vernacular- of the pupils.** The Committee unanimously approved it, though they are aware that in certain provinces a difficulty might arise, as more than one vernacular mllly be spoken. In making this recommendation the Committee wished to emphasise that the term "vernacular"- connotes the "literary" language and not a dialect. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - A suitable technique to be devised with a view to implementing the main idea of basic education—educating the child through the medium of **productive activity of a suitable craft such as spinning and weaving, carpentry, agriculture, pottery, leather work, home science for girls, etc.**
  - The social and scientific implications of a craft to be studied.
  - Mathematics, general science, social studies, painting, music, and physical education to be part of the curriculum.
  - **No religious and moral education included. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

Q 39.B

- **Recent context : CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous electric-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) was launched.**
- It is a 100% Pure Electric Tractor designed to help small and marginal farmers.
- CSIR CMERI is having the long history in design and development of tractors of various ranges and capacities.
  - Its journey starts with the very first indigenously developed SWARAI Tractor in 1965, followed by 35hp Sonalika tractor in 2000 and then small diesel tractor of 12hp Krishishakti in 2009 for small and marginal farmers demand.
- Traditionally tractors use diesel, thus contributing significantly to the environmental pollution. According to an estimate they consume about 7.4% of the country's annual diesel usage and account for 60% of total agricultural fuel usage.
- TREM IV refers to the set of emission norms mandated by the Government of India for tractors. These Trem IV emission norms aim to regulate and reduce the emissions of pollutants from agricultural tractors, thereby promoting cleaner and more sustainable farming practices.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

Q 40.B

- **Recent context : A total of 48 African countries have now agreed to adopt the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change (KDMECC) to address the nexus of human mobility and climate change in the continent.**
- The continental expansion of the KDMECC was discussed at a three-day Conference of States that began August 23, 2023.
  - It was co-hosted by the Governments of Kenya and Uganda with support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It also enabled the African States to develop a common position ahead of the Africa Climate Summit and the Conference of Parties (COP 28).
- KDMECC was originally signed and agreed upon by 15 African states in Kampala, Uganda in July 2022.
- The Declaration is the first comprehensive, action-oriented framework led by Member States to address climate-induced mobility in a practical and effective manner.
- There were over 7.5 million new internal disaster displacements last year alone, according to a 2023 report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. If nothing is done, as many as 105 million people could become internal migrants within the African continent.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 41.C

- The All India Women's Conference (AIWC), was founded by Margaret Cousins in 1927. It was perhaps the first women's organization with an egalitarian approach.
- Important founding members included
  - **Maharani Chimnabai Gaekwad,**
  - **Rani Sahiba of Sangli,**
  - **Sarojini Naidu,**
  - **Kamla Devi Chattopadhyaya and**
  - **Lady Dorab Tata.**
- Its objectives were to work for a society based on principles of social justice, integrity, equal rights and opportunities; and to secure for every human being, the essentials of life, not determined by accident of birth or sex but by planned social distribution.
- The first conference called the "All India Women's Conference on Educational Reform" was held at Ferguson College, Poona from 5 to 8 January 1927 under the Presidentship of Maharani Chimnabai Saheb Gaekwar of Baroda.
- The Resolutions passed at the Conference related almost to education. The sole and notable exception was the resolution supporting Sir Hari Singh Gaur's Age of Consent Bill. It was felt that early marriage was among the main impediments to the path of education of girls.
- The Second Conference was in Delhi in 1928. The Begum of Bhopal was the President. Lady Irwin, Vicereine of India, opened the proceedings.
- The Conference resolved compulsory primary education for girls. This conference marked the origin of the All India Women's Education Fund.
- The issue of differential treatment of Depressed Class children was also taken up. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay declared, "Education is the birthright of every child that comes into this world and it claims that right from society."
- The AIWC worked towards various legislative reforms before and after India's independence, some examples being the Sarda Act (1929), the Hindu Women's Right to Property Act (1937), the Factory Act (1947), the Hindu Marriage and Divorce Act (1954), Special Marriage Act (1954), Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act (1956), Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (1956), the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women Act (1958), Maternity Benefits Act (1961), Dowry Prohibition Act (1961) and Equal Remuneration Act (1958, 1976).
- **Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 42.C

- Mahatma Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement on March 12 and Gandhi broke the salt law by picking up a lump of salt at Dandi on April 6. Gandhi openly asked the people to make salt from seawater in their homes and violated the salt law.
- Gandhi's arrest came on May 4, 1930, when he announced that he would lead a raid on Dharasana Salt Works on the West Coast.
- **On May 21, 1930, Sarojini Naidu, Imam Sahib, and Manilal (Gandhi's son) took up the unfinished task of leading a raid on the Dharasana Salt Works. The unarmed and peaceful crowd was met with a brutal lathicharge which left 2 dead and 320 injured. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- This new form of salt satyagraha was eagerly adopted by people in Wadala (Bombay), Karnataka (Sanikatta Salt Works), Andhra, Midnapore, Balasore, Puri and Cuttack.
- **The Second Round Table Conference was held in London from September 7, 1931, to December 1, 1931. The Indian National Congress nominated Gandhi as its sole representative. There were a large number of Indian participants, besides the Congress. The representatives for Indian women were Sarojini Naidu, Begum Jahanara Shahnawaz, and Radhabai Subbarayan. Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress in 1917 was headed by Annie Besant. Sarojini Naidu presided over the Kanpur session of the Indian National Congress in 1925 where the Independence Resolution was adopted. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- The poems of Sarojini Naidu are available in 4 volumes
  - The Golden Threshold (1905),
  - The Bird of Time (1912),
  - The Broken Wing (1917) and
  - The Feather of Dawn (1961) (posthumously).
- Her poetry represents the best in the Indian Renaissance. The prominent elements in her poetry are spirituality, a love for nature and philosophy. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
- **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**



#### Q 43.D

- **The Quit India Movement, also known as the Bharat Chhodo Andolan**, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, **during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India.**
- **The three phases of the Quit India movement are:**
- **Urban Revolt:** It initially started as an urban revolt, marked by strikes, boycott, and picketing, which were quickly suppressed. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- **Peasant rebellion and national government:**
  - In the middle of August, the focus shifted to the countryside, which witnessed a **major peasant rebellion. Hence option 1 is correct.**
  - It was marked by **destruction of communication systems**, such as railway tracks and stations, telegraph wires and poles, attacks on government buildings or any other visible symbol of colonial authority, and
  - finally, the **formation of "national governments"** in isolated pockets. This brought in severe government repression forcing the agitation to move underground.
- **Terrorist activities:**
  - The third phase was characterized by **terrorist activities, which primarily involved sabotaging of war efforts by dislocating communication systems** and propaganda activities by using various means, including a clandestine radio station run by hitherto unknown **Usha Mehta from "some where in India"**.
  - Not only the educated youth participated in such activities, but also bands of ordinary peasants organized such subversive actions by night, which came to be known as the "Karnataka method". **Hence option 3 is correct.**

#### Q 44.B

- **The Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress presided over by a moderate, Ambika Charan Majumdar, finally readmitted the extremists led by Tilak to the Congress fold. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Various factors facilitated this reunion:
  - Old controversies had become meaningless now.
  - Both the Moderates and the Extremists realized that the split had led to political inactivity.
  - Annie Besant and Tilak had made vigorous efforts for the reunion. To allay Moderate suspicions, Tilak had declared that he supported a reform of the administration and not an overthrow of the government. He also denounced acts of violence.
  - **The death of two moderates, Gokhale and Pherozshah Mehta, who had led the Moderate opposition to the Extremists, facilitated the reunion. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Lucknow Congress was significant also for the famous Congress League Pact, popularly known as the Lucknow Pact. **Both Tilak and Annie Besant played a leading role in bringing about this agreement between the Congress and the League, much against the wishes of many important leaders, including Madan Mohan Malaviya. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- While the League agreed to present joint constitutional demands with the Congress to the government, the Congress accepted the Muslim League's position on separate electorates which would continue till any one community demanded joint electorates. The Muslims were also granted a fixed proportion of seats in the legislatures at all-India and provincial levels.

#### Q 45.C

- A Kisan Manifesto was finalized at the All-India Kisan Committee session in Bombay and formally presented to the Congress Working Committee to be incorporated into its forthcoming manifesto for the 1937 elections. **The Kisan Manifesto considerably influenced the agrarian programme adopted by the Congress at its Faizpur session**, which included demands for fifty per cent reduction in land revenue and rent, moratorium on debts, the abolition of feudal levies, security of tenure for tenants, a living wage for agricultural labourers, and the recognition of peasant unions. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 46.D

- **Recent context:** Union Minister of Tribal Affairs recently launched the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' as a part of the 'Mission for Elimination of Sickle Cell Anaemia'
- Sickle cell disease is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders that affect hemoglobin, the protein that carries oxygen through the body. Normally, red blood cells are disc-shaped and flexible enough to move easily through the blood vessels.

- In sickle cell disease, red blood cells become crescent- or “sickle”-shaped due to a genetic mutation. These sickled red blood cells do not bend or move easily and can block blood flow to the rest of the body. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- **This disease cannot be spread through mosquito bite. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Sickle cell disease is a lifelong illness. A bone marrow transplant is currently the only cure for sickle cell disease. Gene therapy is also being explored as another potential cure.
- Government declared a Mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 in the budget of 2023-24. This Mission will entail awareness creation, universal screening of 7 crore people in the age group of 0-40 years in affected tribal areas

#### Q 47.C

- **During the Swadeshi movement, the four-fold program was: Swaraj, Swadeshi, National Education, and Boycott,**
- **In pursuance of this, in 1906, the National Council of Education was established. The Council, consisting of virtually all the distinguished persons of the country at the time, defined its objectives in this way. . . ‘to organize a system of Education Literary; Scientific and Technical-on National lines and under National control from the primary to the university level. The chief medium of instruction was to be the vernacular to enable the widest possible reach. For technical education, the Bengal Technical Institute was set and funds were raised to send students to Japan for advanced learning. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- Among the several forms of struggle thrown up by the movement, it was the boycott of foreign goods that met with the greatest visible success at the practical and popular level.
- The Swadeshi period also saw the creative use of traditional popular festivals and melas as a means of reaching out to the masses. The Ganapati and Shivaji festivals, popularized by Tilak, became a medium for Swadeshi propaganda not only in Western India but also in Bengal.
- Another important aspect of the Swadeshi Movement was the great emphasis given to self-reliance or ‘Atmasakti’ as a necessary part of the struggle against the Government. Self-reliance in various fields meant the re-asserting of national dignity, honor and confidence.

#### Q 48.A

- **Nellie Sengupta**
  - Nellie Sengupta was an Englishwoman who fought for Indian Independence. She was the first woman Alderman for Calcutta and **was elected president of the Indian National Congress at its 48th annual session at Calcutta in 1933.**
  - During the turmoil of the Salt Satyagraha many senior Congress leaders were imprisoned. Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya the President elect of the Congress was arrested before the Calcutta Session of 1933. **Nellie Sengupta was elected in his place, thus becoming the third woman, and the second European-born woman to be elected.** She was elected president by the party for her contribution to the party and the country.
- **Lala Lajpat Rai**
  - He was born on 28 January, 1865, in a Punjabi Hindu family. In 1886, he moved to Hisar and started to practice law and became a founding member of the Bar council of Hisar along with Babu Churamani.
  - He founded the Hisar district branch of the Indian National Congress and reformist Arya Samaj. He also practiced journalism and was a regular contributor to several newspapers including The Tribune. In 1886, **he helped Mahatma Hansraj establish the nationalistic Dayananda Anglo-Vedic School, Lahore.** He was of the view that Hindu society needed to fight its own battle with caste system, position of women and untouchability. **Lala Lajpat Rai believed that everyone should be allowed to read and learn from the Vedas irrespective of one’s caste or gender**
  - **He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in the Calcutta Special Session of 1920.** In 1921, he founded **Servants of the People Society, a non-profit welfare organization.** When the Simon Commission visited Lahore on 30 October, 1928, Lajpat Rai led a non-violent march in protest against it. The superintendent of police, James A. Scott, ordered the police to lathi (baton) charge the protesters and personally assaulted Rai. He did not fully recover from his injuries and died on 17 November, 1928.
- **Satyendra Prasanna Sinha**
  - He was the first Governor of Bihar and Orissa, first Indian Advocate-General of Bengal, first Indian to become a member of the Viceroy's executive Council, first Indian to become a member of the British ministry and **INC president in 1915-16.**

- **Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru:**
  - He was a jurist and statesman important in the progress of British India toward self-government. For his integrity and wisdom he was trusted both by the British government and by Indian intellectual and political leaders. He was knighted in 1922. He was a member of the United Provinces Legislative Council (1913–16) and of the Imperial Legislative Council (1916–20), a law member of the Viceroy's Council (1920–23). **But he was never elected as Congress President.**
- The other prominent leaders who never worked as congress president includes **Bal Gangadhar Tilak, B.R Ambedkar, C.Rajagopala Chari.**
- Hence option (a) is correct.

#### Q 49.B

- Aurobindo Ghosh was an extremist freedom fighter. He along with Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal repeatedly urged the nationalists to rely on the character and capacities of the Indian people.
- **He was involved in the Swadeshi movement. Aurobindo Ghosh was in favor of extending the movement to the rest of India. He was appointed as the principal of Bengal National College founded in 1906 (and not Tagore's Shantiniketan) to encourage patriotic thinking and an education system related to Indian conditions and culture. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- **Gandhi's principles of Satyagraha were drawn from ideas of passive resistance developed by Aurobindo Ghose in his essay on 'Passive Resistance'.** Gandhi further developed the interpretation of the Gita as given by Aurobindo Ghose and Tilak.
- India's liberation from foreign domination was the final goal for Aurobindo. 'Swaraj', i.e., self-rule by Indians was not merely of economic and political nature. It was necessary for India to perform its spiritual mission dedicated to the upliftment of humanity.
- After being acquitted, he took on spiritualism. Initially, he had not entirely given up political activity, he was never again to return to British India or to politics. He continued living in Pondicherry, until his death in 1950. **In 1914, on 15th August, his birthday, he began the publication of Arya, a periodical in which the original versions of most of his famous works such as The Life Divine, The Synthesis of Yoga, The Secret of the Veda, and so on, appeared.**

#### Q 50.B

- **World War II began on 3 September 1939.** In September 1939 itself, the **Viceroy Linlithgow** announced that following the beginning of the Second World War (between UK, France, and the USA, i.e., the Allies and Germany which headed the Axis powers) India, which was still an integral part of the British Empire was also at war with Germany. Many argued that Linlithgow's declaration of Prelude to Quit India war on India's behalf without consulting the Indian leadership was an autocratic act.
- **In response to this, In the months of October and December 1939, the Congress withdrew the Ministries from the seven provinces where it had a majority. Jinnah announced that to celebrate the resignation by the Congress Ministries, 22 December 1939 should be declared as the 'Day of Deliverance' and thanks-giving. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**
- Bose was arrested in July when he protested and tried to launch a satyagraha against a proposed monument for Holwell in Calcutta. He was released from prison and placed under house arrest in December 1940 after a hunger strike. In January 1941, it was reported that Bose had escaped. On January 26, 1941, he reached Peshawar under the pseudo name Ziauddin, helped by Bhagat Ram.

#### Q 51.B

- Peasants of Kheda district were in extreme distress due to a failure of crops, and their appeals for the remission of land revenue were being ignored by the Government.
- **The Gujarat Sabha, of which Gandhiji was the President,** played a leading role in the agitation. Gandhiji advised the withholding of revenue, and asked the peasants to 'fight unto death against such a spirit of vindictiveness and tyranny.'
- **Vallabhbhai Patel,** a young lawyer and a native of the Kheda district, and other young men, including **Indulal Yagnik,** joined Gandhiji in **Kheda Satyagraha in 1918,** touring the villages and urging the peasants to stand firm in the face of increasing Government repression.
- **Rajendra Prasad and J.B.Kriplani** assisted Mahatma Gandhi during the **Champaran Satyagraha, 1917.**
- Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

#### Q 52.D

- During World War II and in anticipation of a movement by the Indian leaders made the British government take some autocratic legislations. Among these, the 'Revolutionary Movement Ordinance' and 'Special Criminal Courts Ordinance' are significant.
- The international political situation altered considerably from the summer of 1940. The Axis powers grew aggressive in Britain and Europe. As India's role in imperial defence grew in importance on account of her resources, manpower and economic potential in the region east of Suez, Britain equipped herself with both, a Revolutionary Movement's Ordinance to crush civil resistance and a plan to pacify the Congress with the promise of grant of political concessions.
- **The controversial Revolutionary Movements' Ordinance, which was intended to wipe out the Quit India Movement, was signed by the Viceroy on 12 August 1942. It was withheld from being issued in the Gazette of India because most of the provinces argued they could make do with powers under the Defence of India Rules (DIR).** Martial Law was not declared because civilian officials were already equipped with plenipotentiary powers to suppress the uprising. During the war, DIR permitted the Government to take any arbitrary action against persons and property in the name of war effort. Thus officials could now undertake punitive actions not covered by law. Indian Penal Code was to be used as a shield against any demand for enquiry into police excesses.
- **The government also brought into force the Special Criminal Courts Ordinance II of 1942 which was originally intended to apply to cases arising directly from an 'enemy' (Axis) attack.** The Ordinance was made applicable to cases arising from the disturbances from 26 October 1942. This empowered the government to short-circuit the process of criminal justice. Under this ordinance, special criminal courts could be set up which would have summary jurisdiction over the suspected offenders. They could be imprisoned for a maximum duration of two years and there was very limited scope for appeal to the higher courts. The judiciary however continued to be reluctant to ratify actions by the Government. **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 53.D

- Near the end of 1940, the Congress once again asked Gandhiji to take command. Gandhiji now began to take steps which would lead to a mass struggle within his broad strategic perspective. He decided to initiate a limited satyagraha on an individual basis by a few selected individuals in every locality.
- **The demand of a satyagrahi would be for the freedom of speech to preach against participation in the War. The satyagrahi would publicly declare.** 'It is wrong to help the British war effort with men or money. The only worthy effort is to resist all war with non-violent resistance.' The satyagrahi would beforehand inform the district magistrate of the time and place where he or she was going to make the anti-war speech. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The carefully chosen satyagrahis - **Vinoba Bhave** was to be the first satyagrahi on 17 October 1940 and **Jawaharlal Nehru** the second - were surrounded by huge crowds when they appeared on the platform, and the authorities could often arrest them only after they had made their speeches. If the Government did not arrest a satyagrahi, he or she would not only repeat the performance but move into the villages and start a trek towards Delhi, thus participating in a movement that came to be known as the 'Delhi Chalo' (onwards to Delhi) movement.
- Thus, the Individual Satyagraha had a dual purpose- while giving expression to the Indian people's strong political feelings, it gave the British Government further opportunity to peacefully accept the Indian demands. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- More importantly, Gandhiji was beginning to prepare the people for the coming struggle. The Congress organization was being put back in shape; opportunist elements were being discovered and pushed out of the organization; and above all the people were being politically aroused, educated and mobilized.
- By 15 May 1941, **more than 25,000 satyagrahis** had been convicted for offering individual civil disobedience. Many more - lower-level political workers - had been left free by the Government.

#### Q 54.C

- **Methylovimicrobium Buryatense 5GB1C**
  - **Context:** According to a new study Methylovimicrobium Buryatense 5GB1C could potentially remove methane from major emission sites such as landfills, paddy fields, and oil and gas wells.
  - **Key takeaways of the Study:**
    - ✓ The bacterial strain Methylovimicrobium buryatense 5GB1C consumes methane, which is over 85 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) on a 20-year timescale and responsible for nearly 30 percent of the total global warming. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**



- ✓ Harnessing this bacteria on a large scale can keep 240 million tonnes of methane from reaching the atmosphere by 2050.
- ✓ Global average temperature rise can be reduced by 0.21-0.22 degrees Celsius by removing 0.3-1 petagrams of methane by 2050.
- ✓ Petagram: A unit of mass equal to  $10^{15}$  grams.
- **Methanotrophs:**
  - ✓ Methane-eating bacteria, also known as methanotrophs, are a group of microorganisms that have the unique ability to utilize methane as their primary source of carbon and energy.
  - ✓ Methane-utilizing bacteria (methanotrophs) are a diverse group of gram-negative bacteria that are related to other members of the Proteobacteria. Methanotrophic microorganisms oxidize methane to harness energy under oxic and anoxic conditions. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - ✓ They grow best when the methane concentration is around 5,000-10,000 parts per million (ppm).
  - ✓ They play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of methane emissions by converting methane into carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), which is a less potent greenhouse gas.
  - ✓ **Habitat:** Methanotrophs are found in various environments, including wetlands, soils, oceans, and even within the digestive systems of some animals.

#### Q 55.C

- **Recent context :** In a July 26 coup, soldiers in the West African nation of Niger installed Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as head of state after ousting President Mohamed Bazoum, who said he was held “hostage.”
- Apart from the expected international players, such as Russia and the United States, the regional bloc ECOWAS or the Economic Community of West African States has been playing an active role in reinstating the president.
- **Countries bordering Niger are**



- Hence option (c) is the correct answer.

#### Q 56.A

- **Subash Chandra Bose** left India “to supplement from outside the struggle going on at home”. He was reported to have approached Russia for help in the Indian struggle for freedom from Britain. But, in June 1941, Russia joined the Allies in the war, which disappointed Bose. He then went to Germany.
- Bose met Hitler under the pseudo name, Orlando Mazzotta. **With the help of Hitler, the ‘Freedom Army’ (Mukti Sena) was formed. It consisted of all the prisoners of war of Indian origin captured by Germany and Italy. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are not correct.**

- **Dresden, Germany was made the office of the Freedom Army.** Bose came to be called 'Netaji' by the people of Germany. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **He gave the famous slogan, 'Jai Hind' from the Free India Centre, Germany.** He began regular broadcasts from Berlin radio in January 1942, which enthused Indians.

#### Q 57.B

- **The Press Act of 1908** was legislation promulgated in British India **imposing strict censorship on all kinds of publications.** The measure was brought into effect to curtail the influence of Indian vernacular and English language in promoting support for what was considered radical Indian nationalism. This act gave the British rights to imprison and execute anyone who writes radical articles in the newspapers. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
- The act was brought forward in the wake of two decades of the increasing influence of journals such as **Kesari in Western India**, publications such as **Jugantar and Bande Mataram in Bengal**, and similar journals emerging in the United Provinces.
- **The provisions of this Act include:**
  - The magistrates were empowered to confiscate printing presses and property that published objectionable material.
  - The Local Government was empowered to annul any declaration made by the printer and publisher of an offending newspaper made under the Press and Registration of Books Act of 1867.
  - **The newspaper editors and printers were given the option to appeal to the High Court within fifteen days** of the order of forfeiture of the press.
  - Under the Newspapers Act of 1908, the Government launched prosecutions against nine newspapers and confiscated seven presses.

#### Q 58.C

- In December 1927, at its Madras session, the Indian National Congress took two major decisions in response to the setting up of the Simon Commission: first, it decided to not cooperate with the Commission; second, it set up an All Parties Conference to draft a Constitution for India. The All Parties Conference included the All India Liberal Federation, All India Muslim League, Sikh Central League and others. The Conference, on 19 May 1928, constituted a committee to draft the Constitution.
- **Some of the notable members of this Committee were: Motilal Nehru (Chairman), Sir Ali Imam, Tej Bahadur Sapru and Subash Chandra Bose. M.R. Jayakar and Annie Besant joined the Committee later. Jawaharlal Nehru, Motilal Nehru' son, was appointed the secretary to the Committee. Mahatma Gandhi was not part of the committee. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- The Committee was given the brief 'to consider and determine the principles of the Constitution of India along with the problem of communalism and issue of dominion status.' The Committee submitted its report to the All Parties Conference in August 1929. In December, a supplementary report was published that reflected some changes from the original version.

#### Q 59.C

- **All India Scheduled Castes Federation (SCF) was an organization in India founded by B. R. Ambedkar in 1942** to campaign for the rights of the Dalit community. An executive body of All India SCF was elected in the convention. The AISCf played a significant role in the Indian independence movement, and its leaders were active in the struggle for social justice and equality for the Dalit community. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
- With the objective of educating the people about the causes of their slavery, **on 4 September 1927, Ambedkar established the Samaj Samta Sangh (Social Equality Association)** and in 1929 launched a newspaper titled Samta. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
- **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha or Depressed Classes Institution is a central institution formed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar** to remove difficulties of the untouchables and place their grievances before the government. In order to bring about a new socio-political awareness among the untouchables, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar established "Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha" on 20 July 1924 in Bombay. The founding principles of the Sabha were to "educate, organize and agitate". **Hence option 3 is correct.**
- **Harijan Sevak Sangh or All-India Anti-Untouchability League is a non-profit organization founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1932** to eradicate untouchability in India, working for Harijan or Dalit people and upliftment of the Depressed Class of India. It is headquartered at Kingsway Camp in Delhi, with branches in 26 states across India. **Hence option 4 is not correct.**

- **The Self-Respect Movement is a movement, started in South India,** with the aim of achieving a society in which oppressed castes have equal human rights, and encouraging backward castes to have self-respect in the context of a caste-based society that considered them to be a lower end of the hierarchy. **It was founded in 1925 by S. Ramanathan who invited E. V. Ramasamy** (also known as Periyar by his followers) to head the movement in Tamil Nadu, India against Brahminism. **Hence option 5 is not correct.**

#### Q 60.A

- **Recent context:** Pilibhit Tiger Reserve and Turtle Survival Alliance join hands for turtles and tortoise conservation.
  - Pilibhit Tiger Reserve is located in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh and was notified as a tiger reserve in 2014.
- Turtle Survival Alliance was formed in 2001 and gained nonprofit status in 2004. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Turtle Survival Alliance is a global conservation organization that works to create a planet **where tortoises and freshwater turtles can thrive in the wild. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Turtle Survival Alliance is not formed under the aegis of Wetland International. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - Wetland International is a global not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and restoration of wetlands.
- Tortoises and turtles are both reptiles from the order of Testudines, but in different classification families. The major difference between the two is that tortoises dwell on land, while turtles live in the water some or nearly all of the time.

#### Q 61.B

- **Shyamji Krishna Verma** the founder of the **India House organization** in **London** began to produce and edit **The Indian Sociologist** in January 1905. The subtitle of The Indian Sociologist was '**An Organ of Freedom, of Political, Social and Religious Reform**'. He used the monthly journal to publicize his scholarship schemes and express his views on British and Indian politics. **Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **The Bande Mataram** was an Indian nationalist publication from Paris begun in September 1909 by the **Paris Indian Society founded by Madam Bhikaji Cama**. The paper aimed at inciting nationalist unrest in India and sought to sway the loyalty of the Sepoy of the British Indian Army. It was founded in response to the British ban on Bankim Chatterjee's nationalist poem of Bande Mataram and continued **the message of the journal Bande Mataram edited by Sri Aurobindo and published from Calcutta. Hence pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **The journal 'Talvar' was started by Virendranath Chattopadhyay in Berlin.** The paper along with Madam Bhikaji Cama's Bande Mataram aimed at inciting nationalist unrest in India and sought to sway the loyalty of the Sepoy of the British Indian Army. **Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
- **The Free Hindustan was founded by Taraknath Das and published in Vancouver.** It was first published in April 1908 and criticized British Policies. **Hence pair 4 is not correctly matched.**

#### Q 62.B

- **Round Table Conferences (RTC):**
  - **In response to the inadequacy of the Simon Report, the Labour Government, which had come to power under Ramsay MacDonald in 1929, decided to hold a series of Round Table Conferences in London. The first Round Table Conference convened from 12 November 1930 to 19 January 1931.** Prior to the Conference, M. K. Gandhi had initiated the Civil Disobedience Movement on behalf of the Indian National Congress. Consequently, since many of the Congress leaders were in jail, Congress did not participate in the first conference, but representatives from all other Indian parties and a number of Princes did. The outcomes of the first Round Table Conference were minimal: India was to develop into a federation, safeguards regarding defence and finance were agreed and other departments were to be transferred. However, little was done to implement these recommendations and civil disobedience continued in India. The British Government realized that the Indian National Congress needed to be part of deciding the future of constitutional government in India.
  - **Lord Irwin, the Viceroy, met with Gandhi to reach a compromise. On 5 March 1931, they agreed on the following to pave the way for the Congress' participation in the second Round Table Conference: Congress would discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement, it would**

**participate in the second Round Table Conference**, the Government would withdraw all ordinances issued to curb the Congress, the Government would withdraw all prosecutions relating to offenses not involving violence and the Government would release all persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment for their activities in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

- **The second Round Table Conference** was held in London from 7 September 1931 to 1 December 1931 with the participation of Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. Two weeks before the Conference convened, the Labour government had been replaced by the Conservatives. At the conference, Gandhi claimed to represent all people of India. This view, however, was not shared by other delegates. In fact, the division between the many attending groups was one of the reasons why the outcomes of the second Round Table Conference were again no substantial results regarding India's constitutional future. Meanwhile, civil unrest had spread throughout India again, and upon return to India Gandhi was arrested along with other Congress leaders. A separate province of Sind was created and the interests of minorities were safeguarded by MacDonal's Communal Award.
- Indian princely states were represented by Maharajas of various princely states in all three Round Table Conferences.
- **The third Round Table Conference** (17 November 1932 - 24 December 1932) **was not attended by the Indian National Congress** and Gandhi. Many other Indian leaders were also absent. Like the two first conferences, little was achieved. The recommendations were published in a White Paper in March 1933 and debated in Parliament afterward. A Joint Select Committee was formed to analyse the recommendations and formulate a new Act for India. The Committee produced a draft Bill in February 1935 which was enforced as the Government of India Act of 1935 in July 1935.
- **Hence statement 1 is not correct and 2 is correct.**

#### Q 63.B

- **Albert Victor Nicholas Louis Francis Mountbatten** was a **British statesman, naval officer, colonial administrator, and close relative of the British royal family**. Mountbatten, who was of German descent, was born in the United Kingdom to the prominent Battenberg family.
- He was the **last Viceroy of India** from **12 February 1947 to August 15, 1947**. After the revolt of 1857, the company rule was abolished and India came under the direct control of the British crown. With this, the title of Governor General of India was replaced by the title of Viceroy of India. He also became **independent India's first Governor General** from **August 15, 1947, to June 21, 1948**. After him, **Rajagopalachari** became the **last Governor-general of India** from **1948 to 1950**. He was the **only Indian and the last Governor-General of India**. When India became a **Republic** in **1950**, the **office was abolished**. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- Jawaharlal Nehru when apprised of the plan, vehemently opposed it saying it would lead to balkanisation of the country. Hence, this plan was also called Plan Balkan because it was **Mountbatten's** great plan to **fragment and divide India** before the British left, with power being transferred to a dozen provincial governments. This did not happen because Nehru flew into a rage, and as a consequence, an alternative plan was drawn up. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Hence, the **3rd June Plan**, or the **Mountbatten Plan**. This Plan was based on three principles:
  - **Partition; hence statement 3 is correct.**
  - Autonomy, and
  - Sovereignty for both nations

#### Q 64.C

- **Subhash Chandra Bose** was an **Indian nationalist** whose defiance of British authority in India made him a hero. He founded the Independence for India League with Jawaharlal Nehru. Due to his charismatic personality and intelligence, he was elected as the **President of INC** at its **Haripura Session (1938)** and again at its **Tripuri Session (1939)**. Although the second time around, he resigned due to differences with Gandhiji. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- In **1924**, **Mahatma Gandhi** presided over the **Belgaum session** of the Indian National Congress. It was the only Congress session presided over by him. In fact, in 1934, he withdrew from active politics and even resigned his membership of the Congress. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **George Yule** was the first English president of INC in the Allahabad session of 1888. Other foreign nationals who presided over the INC sessions included **Sir William Wedderburn, Annie Besant**, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The **first Indian woman President** of the INC was **Sarojini Naidu**, who presided over the **Kanpur session in 1925**. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**



#### Q 65.B

- **General Comment No. 26**
  - First-of-its-kind **UN guidance calls for climate action by States to protect children's rights. Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**
  - The United Nations has affirmed children's rights to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in a new guidance on children's rights and the environment, with a special focus on climate change.
  - The new guidance, formally known as General Comment No. 26, was adopted in August 2023.
  - In 1989, the UN Convention on rights of the child outlined children's rights, which includes the right to life, health, clean drinking water and survival and development.
  - It has been ratified by 196 countries.
  - The recognition is legally significant as it details the obligations under the Child Rights Convention to address environmental harms and guarantee that children are able to exercise their rights.

#### Q 66.A

- **Lord Reading (1921-26)**
  - Lord Reading (1860-1935) served as Viceroy of India from **1921 to 1926.**
  - **Significant Events under Lord Reading**
    - ✓ Moplah Rebellion, 1921.
    - ✓ **Chauri-Chaura Incident, 1922. Hence pair 1 is correctly matched.**
    - ✓ Kakori Train Conspiracy, 1925.
    - ✓ Decision to hold Simultaneous exam for ICS.
- **Lord Willingdon (1931-36)**
  - He served as Governor-General and Viceroy of India from **1931 to 1936.**
  - **Significant events during his tenure**
    - ✓ **Second Round Table Conference(1931)**
    - ✓ Civil Disobedience Movement (1931-34)
    - ✓ **Poona Pact (1932). Hence pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
    - ✓ Communal Award (1932)
    - ✓ Burma separated from India (1935)
- **Lord Linlithgow (1936-1944)**
  - Linlithgow, Marquis of Linlithgow, was Governor-General of India from **1936 to 1944.**
  - **Significant events during his tenure:**
    - ✓ First General Elections(1936-37)
    - ✓ Formation of Forward Bloc (1939)
    - ✓ **Quit India Movement, 1942. Hence pair 3 is not correctly matched.**
    - ✓ Cripps Mission (1942)

#### Q 67.A

- **The Extremists wanted the 1907 session to be held in Nagpur (Central Provinces) with Tilak or Lajpat Rai as the president along with a reiteration of the Swadeshi, boycott and national education resolutions. The Moderates wanted the session at Surat in order to exclude Tilak from the presidency since a leader from the host province could not be session president (Surat being in Tilak's home province of Bombay).**
- **Instead, they wanted Rashbehari Ghosh as the president and sought to drop the resolutions on swadeshi, boycott, and national education. The intense struggle to control the Congress led to the Split of Congress in 1907. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 68.B

- **Free India Society was established by V. D. Savarkar.** It was a youth organization of Indian students in England committed to India's independence from British rule. It primarily worked towards the cause of India's liberation outside the country. It would organize meetings and discussions along with the celebration of Indian festivals. **Hence, pair 1 is not correctly matched.**
- **United India House** was set up in Seattle in the USA in 1910 by **Tarak Nath Das and G.D. Kumar.** Tarak Nath Das started the Free Hindustan and G.D. Kumar brought out a Gurmukhi paper Swadesh Sevak advocating social reform and asking Indian troops to rise in revolt. **Hence, pair 2 is correctly matched.**
- **Paris Indian Society** was established by **Madame Bhikaji Cama**, who hailed from the Navsari district of Gujarat. Known as the "Mother of the Indian Revolution", she was an ardent advocate of Indian freedom

abroad, and the Paris Indian Society served as a powerful vehicle for the cause. The Paris Indian Society, also known as the Bharat Mandal was formed in 1905 as an offshoot of the India House, founded in London by Shyamji Krishna Varma. **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

#### Q 69.A

- Two separate Home Rule Leagues were launched. one by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and the other by Annie Besant. **Tilak launched the Indian Home Rule League in April 1916 at Belgaum. Annie Besant launched the Home Rule League in September 1916 at Madras.**
- Rabindra Nath Tagore renounced his knighthood in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre which **took place in 1919.**
- Mahatma Gandhi presided over the Indian National Congress only once at the **Belgaum Session of 1924** in which the Swarajist Party were allowed to carry on work in the legislatures on behalf of the Congress and as an integral part of the Congress.
- Lala Lajpat Rai died as the result of a brutal lathi-charge when he was leading an anti-Simon Commission demonstration **at Lahore on 30 October 1928.**
- **Hence option (a) 1-3-4-2, is the correct answer.**

#### Q 70.B

- **Telangana Movement**
  - **This was the biggest peasant guerrilla war in modern Indian history affecting 3000 villages and 3 million population.**
  - The princely state of Hyderabad under Asajahi Nizams was marked by a combination of religious-linguistic domination (by a mall Urdu-speaking Muslim elite ruling over predominantly Hindu-Telugu, Marathi, Kannada-speaking groups), total lack of political and civil liberties, grossest forms of forced exploitation by deshmukhs, jagirdars, doras (landlords) in forms of forced labour (vethi) and illegal exactions.
  - During the war, the communist-led guerrillas had built a strong base in Telangana villages through Andhra Mahasabha and had been leading local struggles on issues such as wartime exactions, abuse of rationing, excessive rent and vethi.
  - **The uprising began in July 1946 when a deshmukh's thug murdered a village militant in Jangaon taluq of Nalgonda. Soon, the uprising spread to Warangal and Khammam. Bengal famine of 1943, famine that affected Bengal in British India in 1943. It resulted in the deaths of some three million people due to malnutrition or disease. While many famines are the result of inadequate food supply, the Bengal famine did not coincide with any significant shortfall in food production. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - The peasants organised themselves into village sanghams, and attacked using lathis, stone slings and chilli powder.
  - They had to face brutal repression. The movement was at its greatest intensity between August 1947 and September 1948.
  - The peasants brought about a rout of the Razaqars—the Nizam's stormtroopers. Once the Indian security forces took over Hyderabad, the movement fizzled out.
  - The Telangana movement had many positive achievements to its credit such as:
    - ✓ Agricultural wages were raised.
    - ✓ Illegally seized lands were restored.
    - ✓ Steps were taken to fix ceilings and redistribute lands.
    - ✓ Measures were taken to improve irrigation and fight cholera.
    - ✓ An improvement in the condition of women was witnessed.
  - **The autocratic-feudal regime of India's biggest princely state was shaken up, clearing the way for the formation of Andhra Pradesh on linguistic lines and realising another aim of the national movement in this region.**

#### Q 71.A

- **Recent context :** Russia, in overnight drone strikes targeted ports and grain storage facilities along the Danube river in Ukraine.
- **The Danube delta has provided Ukraine with an alternative passage for its grain after Russia withdrew from the Black Sea grain deal .** The deal, brokered by the UN and Turkey, used to provide

safe passage for cargo ships carrying grain from Ukrainian Black Sea ports of Odessa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi.

- **Of particular importance in this ‘new’ trade route is the Sulina Channel – a 63 km long distributary of the Danube, connecting major Ukrainian ports on the river to the Black Sea, lying completely within the borders of Romania, a NATO member.**
- The Danube, Europe’s second longest river, has historically been crucial for the movement of freight. Near Tulcea, Romania, some 80 km from the sea, the river begins to spread out into its delta which has three major channels – Chilia, **Sulina** and St George.
  - Of these, the Sulina Channel, which has been dredged and straightened, is the only one deep and wide enough for freight transport. This makes it a sort of a riverine ‘expressway’ – crucial for transport of goods from inland to the Black Sea.
- Ships carrying grain from Ukraine leave from Ukrainian ports such as Izmail and Reni on the mainstream (or the Chilia Channel), and head to the port of Sulina, at the mouth of the Sulina Channel.
- From there, they head around 140 km south to Constanta, Romania’s biggest seaport. Here the cargo is transferred to bigger ships that carry it out of the Black Sea into the Mediterranean through the Bosphorus straits. This route is under constant surveillance and protection of NATO.
- **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 72.D

- The **Ghadar (Ghadr) Party** was a revolutionary group organized around a weekly newspaper The Ghadr with its headquarters at San Francisco and branches along the US coast and in the Far East.
- These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities. They were based in the US and Canadian cities along the western (Pacific) coast.
- **The moving spirits behind the Ghadr Party were Lala Hardayal, Ramchandra, Bhagwan Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Barkatullah, and Bhai Parmanand. The Ghadrites intended to bring about a revolt in India.**
- **Bengal revolutionaries also took part in the Ghadar movement post the lack of leadership in 1914, Bengali revolutionaries were contacted and through the efforts of Sachindranath Sanyal and Vishnu Ganesh Pingley, Rash Behari Bose, the Bengali revolutionary who had become famous for his daring attack on Hardinge, the Viceroy, finally arrived in Punjab in mid-January 1915 to assume leadership of the revolt. Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 73.B

- **Pacific Decadal Oscillation:**
  - **Context:** As per a study published in the journal Nature Communications, the combination of global warming and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) could make such cyclones more frequent in the coming years.
  - **About:**
    - ✓ The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is a long-term ocean fluctuation of the Pacific Ocean. It is a **cyclical event that repeats every 20-30 years and just like ENSO, has a ‘cool’ and ‘warm’ phase. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ **Positive (warm) PDO = cooler west Pacific Ocean and warmer eastern side (vice versa for negative PDO). Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ The term PDO was coined in about 1996 by Steven Hare.
  - **Impact of PDO:**
    - ✓ On Global Climate: PDO phase can have significant implications for the global climate, affecting Pacific and Atlantic hurricane activity, droughts and flooding around the Pacific basin, the productivity of marine ecosystems, and global land temperature patterns.
    - ✓ On Cyclones: **A warmer (positive-phased) PDO implies fewer equatorial-origin cyclones.**
    - ✓ In 2019, the PDO entered a cooler, negative phase which if continued, could mean more such cyclones in post-monsoon months.
  - **ENSO and PDO:**
    - ✓ ENSO with a positive PDO is generally not good, however, **ENSO with a negative PDO brings more rain to India. Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
    - ✓ If both ENSO and the PDO are in the same phase, it is believed that El Niño/La Nina impacts may be magnified.

○ **PDO vs. ENSO:**

- ✓ El Nino or La Nina events repeat in the Pacific over 2-7 years, however, PDO has a signature for a longer time (on the decadal scale).
- ✓ A 'positive' or 'warmer phase' of a PDO can be known only after several years of measuring ocean temperatures and their interaction with the atmosphere (the stage of an ENSO can be determined any year).

**Q 74.A**

- All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was founded in 1920. **Lala Lajpat Rai** was elected as the first president of AITUC and V. M. Pawar was the first General Secretary. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Gaya session of the Congress (1922) welcomed the formation of the AITUC. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
- The workers under Communist and radical nationalist influence participated in a large number of strikes and demonstrations all over the country between 1927 and 1929. The AITUC in November 1927 took a **decision to boycott the Simon Commission** and many workers participated in the massive Simon boycott demonstrations. There were also numerous workers' meetings organized on May Day, Lenin Day, the anniversary of the Russian revolution, and so on.
- **There was a dip in the working class movement between 1931 and 1936. Neither did the workers take an active part in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1932-34.** The next wave of working-class activity came with provincial autonomy and the formation of popular ministries during 1937-1939.
  - The Communists had, in the meantime, abandoned their suicidal sectarian policies and since 1934 re-enacted the mainstream of nationalist politics. They also rejoined the AITUC in 1935. Left influence in nationalist politics and the trade union movement once again began to grow rapidly. The Communists, the Congress Socialists and the Left nationalists led by Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose now formed a powerful Left consolidation within the Congress and other mass organizations.
- **When the campaign for the 1937 elections began, the AITUC, barring a few centres, gave its support to the Congress candidates.** The Congress election manifesto declared that Congress would take steps for the settlement of labour disputes and take effective measures for securing the rights to form unions and go on strike. During the tenure of the Congress of Provincial Governments, the trade union movement showed a phenomenal rise. **Between 1937 and 1939 the number of trade unions increased from 271 to 562 and the total membership of these unions increased from 261,047 to 399,159.** The number of strikes also increased considerably. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**

**Q 75.A**

- The Non-Cooperation movement was launched formally on 1 August 1920, after the expiry of the notice that Gandhiji had given to the Viceroy in his letter of 22 June. in which he had asserted the right recognized 'from time immemorial of the subject to refuse to assist a ruler who misrules.
- At the Nagpur Session of Congress, C.R. Das moved the main resolution on non-cooperation. **The program of non-cooperation included within its ambit the surrender of titles and honors, boycott of government-affiliated schools and colleges, law courts, and foreign cloth, and could be extended to include resignation from government service and mass civil disobedience including the non-payment of taxes. National schools and colleges were to be set up, panchayats were to be established for settling disputes, hand-spinning and weaving were to be encouraged and people were asked to maintain Hindu-Muslim unity, give up untouchability and observe strict non-violence.**
- The people boycotted the visit of the Prince of Wales which began on 17 November 1921. The Prince of Wales was greeted with empty streets and downed shutters wherever he went. Emboldened by their successful defiance of the Government, non-cooperators became more and more aggressive. The Congress Volunteer Corps emerged as a powerful parallel police, and the sight of its members marching in formation and dressed in uniform was hardly one that warmed the Government's heart.
- In some areas, such as Midnapur district in Bengal, which had started a movement against Union Board Taxes and ChiralaPirala and Pedanandipadu taluka in Guntur district of Andhra, no-tax movements were already in the offing. **The spirit of defiance and unrest gave rise to many local struggles such as the Awadh Kisan Movement (UP), Eka Movement (UP), Mappila Revolt (Malabar) and the Sikh agitation for the removal of mahants in Punjab. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.**

**Q 76.D**

- **Alipore conspiracy case**, also known as called **Maniktala bomb conspiracy** or Muraripukur conspiracy was a trial of revolutionaries of the Anushilan group in Bengal following the attack on the life of the Presidency Magistrate Kingsford on April 30, 1908, at Muzaffarpur by **Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki.**



- After the attack, the entire group at Maniktala including Aurobindo and Barindra Kumar Ghosh were arrested by the police for encouraging terrorist activities against the British Government.
- **Chittaranjan Das defended Aurobindo in this case.** Aurobindo was acquitted of all charges with the judge condemning the flimsy nature of the evidence against him. **Hence, options 1 and 2 are correct.**
- **Barindra Ghosh**, the head of the secret society of revolutionaries, and **Ullaskar Dutt**, the maker of the bombs, were given the death penalty which was later commuted to life in prison. During the trial, Narendra Gosain (or Goswami), who had turned approver and Crown witness, was shot dead by two co-accused, Satyendranath Bose and Kanailal Dutta in jail. **Hence, options 3 and 4 are correct.**
- **Maniktala Secret Society was formed by Barindra Ghose in 1907.** His residence at Muraripukur in Maniktolla served as an 'Ashram for Revolutionary Sannyasins', where the young inmates underwent a unique program led by Barindra which included meditation, the study of Gita and the Upanishads, classes on Indian History & revolutionary movements in other countries, physical training in jiu-jitsu, wrestling and 'lathi-play' and instruction in military strategy and the use of firearms.
- **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 77.B

- The Delhi Durbars were grand events organized by the Viceroy to mark the coronations of Emperors or Empresses. Hence, these were also known as the Coronation Durbars. Durbar which means a 'court of a ruler' in Persian was adopted by the British from the Mughals.
- **The first Durbar held by the British on an India-wide scale was in 1877, at Delhi, to celebrate the new title of Kaiser-e-Hind or Empress of India**, adopted by the British monarch, Queen Victoria. In 1876, Queen Victoria in addition to her title of 'Queen of Great Britain and Ireland' assumed the title of 'Empress of India'. The Viceroy, Lord Lytton was asked to proclaim this on her behalf throughout India. He decided to hold an Imperial Assemblage at Delhi on 1st January 1877 for this purpose. **Hence, pair 1 is correctly matched.**
- **The second Durbar was held in 1903** and was not just an Assemblage but a grand affair that everybody wanted to be a part of. This Durbar marked the succession of Edward VII. On the orders of King Edward VII, it was attended by the Duke of Connaught. **Hence, pair 2 is not correctly matched.**
- **The Darbar of 1911 marked the succession of King George V.** This Durbar was historic for two reasons; one it was the only one attended by the Emperor himself and second, this was **where the shifting of the Imperial Capital from Calcutta to Delhi was announced.** **Hence, pair 3 is correctly matched.**

#### Q 78.C

- **Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P)**
  - **Context:** Senegal has become the fourth country after South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam to sign the JET-P deal.
  - It was launched in 2021 at the UNFCCC COP26 held in Glasgow, UK.
  - **Aim:** To bridge the gap between developed and developing nations in moving towards clean energy reduce emissions in the energy sector and accelerate the coal phase-out. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **Financing Mechanism:** In a Partnership, wealthier nations fund a coal-dependent developing nation to support the country's own path to phase out coal and transition towards clean energy while addressing the social consequences.
  - **Tools of Funding:** Grants, Loans, or Investments.
  - **Donor Pool:** International Partners Group (IPG) consists of Japan, the USA, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, the EU, and the UK.
  - Earlier, the G7 countries had decided to launch a Just Energy Transition Partnership (JET-P) with India, Indonesia, Vietnam and Senegal.
  - **India's Stand:** India argues that coal cannot be singled out as a polluting fuel, and energy transition talks need to take place on equal terms.
- **NOTE: Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) Working Group** comprises multilateral and national development banks and finance agencies. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**

#### Q 79.C

- **Prannoy H. S.:**
  - He won a bronze medal at the BWF World Championships 2023. He won a marathon final against Naraoka Kodai (Japan). The Badminton tournament was held at the Royal Arena in Copenhagen, Denmark. **Pair 2 is correctly matched.**
  - Women's Singles Final: An Se-young (South Korea) defeated Carolina Marin (Spain).

- Men's Singles Final: Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand) became Thailand's first men's singles world champion.
- **Rameshbabu Praggnandhaa:**
  - Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa finished second in the FIDE World Cup after an intense final against Magnus Carlsen. **Pair 3 is correctly matched.**
  - Magnus Carlsen won the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career after a closely contested final.
  - Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa in the final, with the outcome being decided in a tiebreaker.
  - Praggnanandhaa, at 18, was the youngest-ever World Cup finalist
  - Praggnanandhaa achieved the title of Grandmaster (GM) at the age of 12.
  - He became an international master at 10 and a grandmaster at 12, showcasing his prodigious talent.
  - Praggnanandhaa set a record by defeating then-world champion Magnus Carlsen in 2022 at the age of 16.
  - The Chess World Cup 2023 was a single-elimination chess tournament that took place in Baku. This edition marked the 10th iteration of the Chess World Cup.
- **Shaili Singh:**
  - Indian athlete Shaili Singh won a bronze medal in the women's long jump event at the Golden Grand Prix 2023 Athletics Meet in Yokohama, Japan. **Pair 1 is correctly matched.**
  - Shaili Singh attempted a jump of 6.65 meters, which placed her third on the podium at the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold Label event, the Yokohama meet.
  - Germany's Maris Luzzolo won the gold medal with a jump of 6.79m, while Brooke Buschkuhl of Australia won the silver with a jump of 6.77m.

#### Q 80.B

- **National Coal Index**
  - **Context:** The declining trend indicates a strong supply of coal in the market, with sufficient availability to meet the growing demands.
  - **About National Coal Index (NCI):**
    - ✓ It is a price index that reflects the change in the price level of coal in a particular month relative to the fixed base year. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ The base year for the NCI is Financial Year 2017-18.
  - **Compilation:**
    - ✓ **Prices of coal from all the sales channels of coal, including import,** as existing today are taken into account for compiling the NCI. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
    - ✓ The amount of revenue share per tonne of coal produced from auctioned blocks would be arrived at using the NCI by means of a defined formula.
  - **Sub-Indices:** NCI is composed of a set of **five sub-indices:**
    - ✓ Three for Non-Coking Coal and two for Coking Coal. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
    - ✓ The three sub-indices for Non Coking Coal are combined to arrive at the Index for Non Coking Coal and the two sub-indices for Coking Coal are combined to arrive at the Index for Coking Coal.
    - ✓ Thus, indices are separate for Non Coking and Coking Coal.
    - ✓ As per the grade of coal pertaining to a mine, the appropriate sub-index is used to arrive at the revenue share.

#### Q 81.B

- **Background:** The disaffection created by the unpopular acts of Lord Curzon resulted in the growth of an Extremist Party in the Indian National Congress and led to acts of violence. The newspapers of the time often commented adversely on the Government policies. The Government followed a repressive policy and enacted the Newspapers (Incitement to Offences) Act, 1908 and then the Indian Press Act, 1910.
- **The Indian Press Act. 1910.**
  - The Government sought to strengthen its hands by the Indian Press Act of 1910 **which revived the worst features of Lytton's Press Act of 1878. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
  - **The Act empowered the Local Government to demand at the time of Registration security of not less than Rs. 500 and not more than Rs. 2,000 from the keeper of a printing press or publisher of a newspaper and to forfeit the security and annual the declaration of Registration of an offending newspaper. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
  - **The aggrieved party could appeal to a Special Tribunal of the High Court against orders of forfeiture within two months. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

- Further, the printer of every newspaper was required to supply to the Government free of charge two copies of each issue of the newspaper published.
- Under the Act action was taken against 991 printing presses and newspapers. Out of these 286 were warned, in 705 cases heavy securities were demanded. During the first five years of the Act the Government confiscated securities amounting to about five lakh rupees.

#### Q 82.C

- The **Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutiny** started on **February 18, 1946**, when the ratings of the **RIN battleship HMIS "Talwar"**, docked at Bombay, went on strike. This strike was over **issues of bad food and adverse living conditions**. These ratings then went all-out to urge the people of Bombay to rise in support of their revolt, and hence began the **greatest uprising in naval history**, spreading to 78 ships and 22 units all along the Indian coastline. **Over 20,000 sailors were eventually involved in the uprising.**
- It saw **widespread participation** by Indians from a wide range of backgrounds, including **laborers, farmers, and others.**
- This revolt had a significant role to play in the fight for Indian independence and is also referred to as the **"Last War of Indian Independence"** by Authors like Promod Kapoor and others.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 83.B

- **What is Chandrayaan-3 mission?**
  - Chandrayaan-3 is a lunar exploration mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is the third mission in the Chandrayaan series, following Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2. Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.
  - Chandrayaan-3 **consists of Lander and Rover configuration.** The lander that made the soft landing on the moon is called Vikram and the Rover which would explore the lunar surface is called Pragyaan.
  - Chandrayaan-3 Mission was launched using the LVM3 rocket system.
  - **What were the mission objectives of Chandrayaan-3 mission?**
    - ✓ To demonstrate a Safe and Soft Landing on the Lunar Surface
    - ✓ To demonstrate Rover roving on the moon
    - ✓ To conduct in-situ scientific experiments
  - **What are the components of the Chandrayaan-3 Mission?**
    - ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 Mission consists of two modules – The propulsion module (PM) and the Lander module (LM).
    - ✓ The main function of the Propulsion Module (PM) is to carry the lander Module (LM) from launch vehicle injection to the final lunar 100 km circular polar orbit, where the LM separates from PM.
  - **Chandrayaan-3 Landing on Moon's South Pole**
    - ✓ Chandrayaan-3 has made history by becoming the **first mission to soft-land on the lunar south pole**, a region that has never been explored before. The mission aimed to demonstrate safe and soft lunar landing, rover mobility, and in-situ scientific experiments. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
    - ✓ It is the **first device to conduct in-situ measurements of lunar composition. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ India now joins the United States, Russia, and China as one of the few countries to successfully land on the Moon.
  - **Why did Chandrayaan-3 Choose Moon's Near Side for Landing?**
    - ✓ Chandrayaan-3 aimed to investigate "permanently shadowed regions" near the South Pole for potential water and resources.
    - ✓ The Vikram lander's controlled descent achieved one of the closest approaches to the Moon's South Pole.
    - ✓ While a notable achievement, Vikram's landing occurred on the Moon's near side, unlike China's Chang'e 4 on the far side.
    - ✓ The near side, visible from Earth due to synchronous rotation, covers 60% of the Moon. The near side boasts smoother surfaces and numerous 'maria' (large volcanic plains), while the far side features massive craters from asteroid impacts.
    - ✓ The lunar crust on the near side is thinner, causing volcanic lava to flow and fill craters over time, creating flat terrains. The decision to land on the near side was driven by the mission's primary

goal of a controlled soft landing. Landing on the far side would require a relay for communication due to the lack of direct line-of-sight with Earth.

- **What discoveries have been made by Chandrayaan-3 so far?**
  - ✓ **The presence of Sulphur and oxygen:** Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard 'Pragyan' rover of Chandrayaan-3 has 'unambiguously confirmed' the presence of sulfur in the lunar surface near the south pole. Other elements like Aluminum (Al), Calcium (Ca), Iron (Fe), Chromium (Cr), Titanium (Ti), Manganese (Mn), Silicon (Si), and Oxygen (O) are also detected. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
  - ✓ **Lunar temperature variation:** Chandrayaan 3 has measured the soil temperature of the moon and revealed some interesting findings. The temperature ranges from minus 10 degrees Celsius to around 70 degrees Celsius. While minus 10-degree was recorded at 80 mm under the ground 60-degree temperature was recorded at around 20 mm above the ground.

#### Q 84.A

- **Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC)**
  - **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India announced the launch of the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC) pilot project. **Hence option (a) is the correct answer.**
  - It is an end-to-end digital platform that has been developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the central bank.
  - It aims to connect borrowers and lenders, which will make credit more accessible to millions of individuals looking for small loans.
  - **Plug and Play Model:** It will have an open architecture, open Application Programming Interfaces (API), and standards, to which all financial sector players would be able to connect seamlessly in a 'plug and play' model.
  - **Significance:**
    - ✓ It allows central and state government entities, banks, credit information companies, and digital identity authorities to share information.
    - ✓ This allows the various stakeholders in the lending process to collate the data for each borrower faster leading to speedier processing of loan requests.
    - ✓ It will help in reducing costs while increasing transparency, efficiency, and scalability.
  - **"Plug and Play"**
    - ✓ It is a term commonly used in technology and design to describe a system or device that is designed to work immediately after being connected or "plugged in" without requiring any complex installation or configuration process.
  - **Frictionless Credit:**
    - ✓ Frictionless credit is a borrowing approach that seeks to streamline the lending process for consumers.
    - ✓ Unlike traditional credit systems, where individuals need to go through extensive paperwork, credit checks, and lengthy approval procedures, frictionless credit promises a smoother and faster experience.

#### Q 85.C

- **The Secretary of State for India, Edwin Samuel Montagu, made a statement on August 20, 1917, in the British House of Commons in what has come to be known as the August Declaration of 1917. The statement said: "The government policy is of increasing participation of Indians in every branch of administration and gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realization of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire. Hence, option (c) is the correct answer.**
- From now onwards, the demand by nationalists for self-government or home rule could not be termed as seditious since the attainment of self-government for Indians now became a government policy, unlike Morley's statement in 1909 that the reforms were not intended to give self-government to India.

#### Q 86.B

- **Red Sand Boa**
  - **Context:** A report by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)-India has pointed out 172 incidents of seizures of red sand boa (*Eryx johnii*) between the years 2016-2021.
  - The report, compiled by the Counter Wildlife Trafficking unit of WCS-India, and titled Illegal Trade of Red Sand Boa in India 2016-2021 collates information from media reports on the seizures.
  - The red sand boa is now acknowledged as one of the most traded reptile species in the illegal trade market, due to its demand in the pet trade, as well as for use in black magic.



- **Red Sand Boa**

- The Red Sand Boa (*Eryx johnii*), commonly called the Indian Sand Boa, **is a non-venomous species found throughout the dry parts of the Indian subcontinent. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is a primarily reddish-brown and thick-set snake that grows to an average length of 75 cm.
- Unlike most snakes, the tail is almost as thick as the body and gives the reptile the appearance of being double-headed.
- They **are the largest of the sand boas in the world.**
- The sand boa is a small burrowing snake, of the genus *Eryx*, belonging to the boa family Boidae. The nine species inhabit arid lands in Africa, southeastern Europe, the Middle East, and India.
- They **are ovoviviparous and nocturnal** and spend the majority of their time under the ground. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Ovoviviparous species are the ones that hatch eggs. Nocturnal species are the species that sleep during the day and stay active at night.
- Protection status – **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 – Schedule IV**; CITES – Appendix II; IUCN Status – Near Threatened. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

#### Q 87.B

- Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927 to challenge the regressive customs of the caste Hindus. **He led a procession of some 2,500 'untouchables' through the town of Mahad to the Chawdar tank, a public source of water tank from which the untouchables were not allowed to draw water.** Dr Ambedkar took water from the tank and drank it. Later in December 1927, Ambedkar and his colleagues burnt the 'Manusmriti' at the same place as a gesture of getting rid of inequalities. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Dr Ambedkar was appointed by the Bombay Legislative Council to work with the Simon Commission. In October 1928, Ambedkar went before the commission.** He argued for a 'universal adult franchise' for both males and females alike; for provincial autonomy in the provinces and dyarchy at the Centre. On behalf of the **Bahishkrita Hitakarini Sabha**, he submitted a memorandum on the rights and safeguards he felt were required for the depressed classes. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- **Ambedkar in 1936 founded his Independent Labour Party, in a bid to mobilise the poor and the untouchables on a broader basis than caste alone on a programme that proposed "to advance the welfare of the labouring classes". In the election of 1937, his party won a spectacular victory in Bombay, winning eleven of the fifteen reserved seats. The Ambedkarites also did well in the Central Provinces and Berar. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- The first meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Bahishkrut Parishad was held at Nagpur in May 1920 under the presidency of the Maharaj of Kolhapur. Later, the actual pan-Indian Dalit movement at an organised level started at the All India Depressed Classes Leaders' Conference held in the same city in 1926. **Here the All India Depressed Classes Association was formed, with M.C. Rajah of Madras as its first elected president Dr Ambedkar, who did not attend the conference, was elected one of its vice-presidents. Ambedkar later resigned from this association and in 1930 at a conference in Nagpur, founded his own All India Depressed Classes Congress. Hence, statement 4 is not correct.**

#### Q 88.A

- **Government Resolution on Education Policy, 1913:**
  - In 1906, the progressive state of Baroda introduced compulsory primary education throughout its territories. National leaders urged the government to do so for British India. Gokhale, as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council, raised the issue in his Resolution of 1910; he called for primary education to be made compulsory in those areas where at least 35 percent of 6-to-7-year-old boys were receiving instruction. The government assured him that the idea would be considered, upon which Gokhale withdrew the resolution.
  - Though the government established the education department under the central government and appointed a secretary for education, **the main demand for free and compulsory primary education was ignored.** Gokhale then raised the issue by bringing in a bill in March 1911 calling for the introduction of free and compulsory primary education in a phased manner. **The bill was, however, rejected by a select committee.**
- During 1910-13, **G. K. Gokhale made heroic efforts in the Legislative Council urging the Government to accept the responsibility for compulsory primary education which made the government come up with Resolution on Education policy. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- But the government **refused to take up the responsibility of compulsory education accepted the policy of removal of illiteracy and urged provincial governments to take early steps to provide free elementary education to the poorer and more backward sections. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

#### Q 89.A

- The major interests of the capitalists in 1930s were to keep the Congress within the bounds of constitutional politics and to clip its socialist ideals. For this, they were even prepared to meddle in the internal politics of the Congress.
- The 'Bombay Manifesto', signed in 1936 by twenty-one Bombay businessmen, contained an open indictment of Nehru's preaching of socialist ideals, which were deemed prejudicial to private property, and to the peace and prosperity of the country. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- It was signed by only Bombay Mill Owners Association led by Tata. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
- Although it did not evoke support from any other section of the business community, it strengthened the hands of the moderates within the Congress, like Bhulabhai Desai and G.B. Pant, who put pressure on Nehru to tone down his socialist utterances.
- The Congress decision to participate in the election of 1937 and accept office thereafter brought the capitalists closer to it.

#### Q 90.B

- The newly formed government of **Clement Attlee in Britain** dispatched the **1946 Cabinet Mission to India** to formulate proposals for the formation of a government that would lead to an independent India. This is why, the **Interim Government of India** was formed on **September 2nd, 1946**. It was tasked to assist the transition of British India to independence.
- The Interim Government was formed as a provisional government, which **lasted until August 15th, 1947**.
- The **Cabinet of the Interim Government** of India was composed of the following members:
  - **President of the Executive Council** (Viceroy and Governor-General of India):
    - ✓ **Viscount Wavell** (till February 1947);
    - ✓ **Lord Mountbatten** (from February 1947)
  - Commander-in-Chief: Sir Claude Auchinleck
  - **Vice President: Jawaharlal Nehru (INC)**
  - **Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (INC)**
  - Agriculture and Food: Rajendra Prasad (INC)
  - Commerce: Ibrahim Ismail Chundrigar (ML)
  - **Defence: Baldev Singh (INC)**
  - Finance: Liaquat Ali Khan (ML)
  - **Education and Arts: C Rajagopalachari (INC)**
  - Health: Ghazanfar Ali Khan (ML)
  - **Labor: Jagjivan Ram (INC)**
  - Law: Jogendra Nath Mandal (ML)
  - Railways and Communications, Post and Air: Abdur Rab Nishtar (ML)
  - Works, Mines and Power: C H Bhabha (INC)
- When a new government was formed, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru became the Prime Minister of independent India.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 91.C

- **Manabendra Nath Roy** (i.e., Narendranath Bhattacharya) lived from 1887 to 1954. At 14, he joined the underground revolutionary organization **Anushilan Samiti**. After its ban, he helped organize the **Jugantar Group** under the leadership of Jatin Mukherjee.
- **He was a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly. He is known as the father of "New Humanism".**
- He personally was inclined towards the **left**, and believed in the use of **violence**. Gradually, he developed the goal of overthrowing British colonial rule through acts of terrorism. These included:
  - Participation in a series of political **dacoities against British rule**.
  - In 1908, he **shot dead Nandalal Banerjee**, the police officer who had arrested the revolutionary Khudiram Bose.
  - In 1915, he became involved in a plot by Bengali revolutionaries to smuggle arms into India.
- Later, he moved to Mexico and helped lay the **foundation of the Mexican Communist Party in 1919**.

- Inspired by his experiences in Mexico, Roy founded the **Communist Party of India in 1920** along with six other leaders at **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.
- After the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, he made a favorable impression on Russian communist leader **Vladimir Lenin** and was put on the executive committee of the **Communist International (Comintern)**. Breaking with the Comintern in 1929 over the policies of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, Roy tried to return secretly to India but was arrested by the British.
- After India gained **independence in 1947**, **Roy abandoned communism** and became a **founder of radical humanism or "New Humanism"**, a mixture of socialist and liberal humanitarian ideas.
- **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 92.C

- **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**
  - **Context:** The Union government has approved a scheme called the Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt (GSCD), which aims to provide complete guarantee cover for debt raised by the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF).
  - **More on News:**
    - ✓ Guarantee Fund for Corporate Debt (GFCD) will manage the Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt (GSCD).
    - ✓ The GFCD will be a trust fund formed by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and managed by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC).
    - ✓ NCGTC is a wholly-owned company of the Department of Financial Services under the Ministry of Finance. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
  - **About CDMDF:**
    - ✓ CDMDF, an alternative investment fund, is a backstop facility for investment-grade corporate debt securities.
    - ✓ **Objective:** The fund is intended to provide liquidity support in the event of a financial crisis. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
    - ✓ **Framework Release by SEBI:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a framework for the CDMDF, outlining the guidelines and regulations for its operation.
    - ✓ **Investment Guidelines:** CDMDF will primarily deal in low-duration government securities (G-Secs), treasury bills, tri-party repos on G-Secs, and guaranteed corporate bond repos with a maturity not exceeding seven days during normal times.
    - ✓ **Purchase of Corporate Debt Securities:** CDMDF will buy only investment-grade securities from the secondary markets, which are listed and **have a residual maturity of up to five years. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
    - ✓ It will not purchase unlisted, below-investment-grade, defaulted debt securities, or those with a high risk of default or adverse credit news or views.
    - ✓ **Pricing Mechanism:** CDMDF will buy these securities at a fair price, taking into account liquidity risk, interest rate risk, and credit risk. It will not buy distressed assets.
    - ✓ **Payment to Sellers:** Sellers of debt securities to CDMDF will receive 90% of the consideration in cash and 10% in terms of units of CDMDF.
    - ✓ **Tenure and Launch of CDMDF:** CDMDF will be launched as a close-ended scheme with an initial tenure of 15 years (extendable).

#### Q 93.C

- The **Shimla Conference of 1945** was a meeting between the then Viceroy of India, **Lord Wavell**, and the major political leaders of British India at the Viceregal Lodge in Simla. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **Background:**
  - The **Second World War** had caused many socio-economic problems in the British Empire.
  - On top of that, the contemporary **Quit India Movement** and an increase in **revolutionary activities in India** made the British position vulnerable.
  - **Lord Wavell**, the then Viceroy of India, was charged with presenting a formula for the **future government of India** that would be **acceptable to both the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League**, allowing for a smooth transition of power. In this regard, in **1945**, he **formulated a definite plan of action** known as the Wavell Plan.
- For this discussion, **Lord Wavell invited 21 political leaders**, to Shimla, to discuss the **Wavell Plan for Indian self-government** on June 25th, **1945. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- The conference was a **failure** because the INC and the League were unable to reach a settlement.

#### Q 94.B

- The Indian women were treated unfit to vote until 1921, when the Government of Madras provided that right to them. When the first election was held in 1920 under the guidelines of Montague-Chelmsford Reforms Act of 1919, women raised their voice against gender inequality in ballot and demanded the right of equal franchise. They agitated to remove the gender disqualification and demanded the exact right which entitled men to vote. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- In March 1927, the Simon Commission was appointed to examine the workings of the Mont-Ford Reforms. It viewed that India couldn't reach the position until its women played their due part as educated citizens.
- The Statutory Commission came to India in 1928 and recommended two additional special qualifications for women voters. They were, 1) being the wife over twenty-five years of age whose husband had the property qualification of vote; 2) being a widow over the age whose husband at the time of his death was so qualified. It added women over twenty-one years who possessed education would also be enfranchised
- The **first woman to stand for election was Kamala Devi Chattopadhyaya**. Kamaladevi was also a key figure in the international socialist feminist movement. From the late 1920s to the 1940s and beyond, Kamaladevi became an emissary for Indian women and political independence. She also advocated transnational causes – such as racism and political and economic equity between nations. She also attended the International Alliance of Women in Berlin in 1929. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Madras was the first state which nominate a woman member, Dr. Muttu Lakshmi Reddy to the Legislative Council. She saw the enactment of the abolition of the Devadasi system and laws to close brothels and protect the minor girls. She brought amendments to the Children's act and worked for the creation of health schools.

#### Q 95.D

- As with the Rowlatt Bills in 1919, it was the British Government that provided a catalyst and a rallying ground on 8 November 1927 of an all-White commission to recommend whether India was ready for further constitutional progress and on which lines.
- Indian nationalists had for many years declared the constitutional reforms of 1919 as inadequate and had been clamouring for an early reconsideration of the constitutional question, but the Government had been adamant that the declared period of ten years must lapse before fresh proposals were considered.
- In 1927, however, the Conservative Government of Britain, faced with the prospect of electoral & feat at the hands of the Labour Party, suddenly decided that it could not leave an issue which concerned the future of the British Empire in the irresponsible hands of an inexperienced Labour Government and it was thus that **the Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission after its Chairman**, was appointed. The response in India was immediate and unanimous.
- That no Indian should be thought fit to serve on a body that claimed the right to decide the political future of India was an insult that no Indian of even the most moderate political opinion was willing to swallow.
- **The call for a boycott of the Commission was endorsed by the Liberal Federation led by Tej Bahadur Sapru, by the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress, arid by the Hindu Mahasabha the Muslim League even split on the issue, Mohammed Ali Jinnah carrying the majority with him in favour of boycott. It was the Indian National Congress, however, that turned the boycott into a popular movement.**
- **Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

#### Q 96.D

- **Statement 2 is not correct:** Though the Indian National Movement was largely non-violent, a small revolutionary movement did emerge in the early decades of the 20th century. **In 1904, V.D. Savarkar established a secret revolutionary society known as the Abhinav Bharat.** It was set up before the Swadeshi movement began. However, it was the failure of the Swadeshi movement that gave real impetus to revolutionary activities, a first of its kind. The brutal suppression of the Swadeshi movement by the British and the ineffectiveness of passive resistance advocated by the extremist leaders provoked the youth of Bengal to engage in individual heroic actions like assassinating unpopular officials.
- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The second wave of revolutionary activities commenced in the early 1920s. The withdrawal of Non-Cooperation in 1922 made the youth more radical. In North India, revolutionaries organized themselves under the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), and later, under the leadership of Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad. In Bengal too revolutionary activities were revived under the leadership of Surya Sen. **The second wave of revolutionary activities in the 1920s had a different character. The revolutionaries gradually moved away from individual heroic action and were**



attracted by the possibility of armed mass struggle. A number of them also came under the influence of Socialism.

**Q 97.B**

- **Recent context:** The government's cyber-security awareness initiative, CyberDost, issued an alert about a particular type of scam known as 'smishing'.
- **The term 'smishing' is a fusion of SMS and phishing, a tactic wherein fraudsters exploit text messages to deceive individuals into divulging sensitive information.**
  - **It impersonates and utilizes persuasive messages to trick recipients into revealing sensitive information or downloading harmful content.**
- Typically, the scammer poses as a legitimate institution, such as a bank, a service provider or a reputed company. The text message they send creates a sense of urgency or threatens consequences if the victim doesn't respond immediately.
  - It downloads malware on the phone or includes a link to a fraudulent website designed to look like a legitimate organization's site. When victims reach that site they are tricked into entering their personal information.
- Phishing is a broader term for a method of deceptive communication intending to trick recipients into revealing sensitive information, such as usernames, passwords, credit card numbers or Social Security numbers. Typically, phishing attacks occur via email.
- **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.**

**Q 98.B**

- The Government of India Act, 1935 contemplated the establishment of an all-India Federation in which British Indian Provinces (comprising Governors' Provinces and the Chief Commissioners' Provinces) and those Indian States which might accede to be united, were to be included.
- In the case of the Princely States, accession to the Federation was voluntary, and the Federation could not be established until
  - a number of States, the rulers whereof were entitled to choose not less than half of the 104 seats of the Council of State and
  - the aggregate population whereof amounted to at least one-half of the total population of all the Indian States, had acceded to the Federation.
- **A princely state joining the Federation must execute an Instrument of Accession in favor of the Crown.** The terms on which a State joined the Federation were to be laid down in the Instrument of Accession. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- **The Federation of India was not intended to be a sovereign legislature.** It could not amend the Indian Constitution, which right remained with the British Parliament. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
- The proposal for setting up the Federation of India did not materialize and the Central Government in India continued to be governed by the provisions of the Act of 1919. However, the Federal Bank (The Reserve Bank of India) and the Federal Court were established in 1935 and 1937 respectively. The other parts of the Act, particularly Provincial Autonomy, came into force on 1st April 1937.

**Q 99.D**

- **In his Young India published in 1916, the Extremist leader Lala Lajpat Rai used the safety-valve theory to attack the Moderates in the Congress.** Having discussed the theory at length and suggested that the Congress 'was a product of Lord Dufferin's brain,' he argued that 'the Congress was started more with the object of saving the British Empire from danger than with that of winning political liberty for India. The interests of the British Empire were primary and those of India only secondary.'
- **He added: 'No one can say that the Congress has not been true to that ideal.' His conclusion was: 'So this is the genesis of the Congress, and this is sufficient to condemn it in the eyes of the advanced Nationalists.'** Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Q 100.C**

- The Rampa rebellion of Alluri Sitaram or Rama Raju, which was also directed against the forest rules inspired the tribals of Orissa. It began in August 1922 and lasted until the capture and killing of Raju in May 1924.
- **The Rampa Rebellion of 1922 was also known as the Manyam Rebellion. Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- Rama Raju made Adivasi areas in the Eastern Ghats (the forest area along the Visakhapatnam and Godavari district) his home and decided to work for the Adivasis, who were living in abject poverty and being fleeced by police, forest and revenue officials, in 'Manyam' (forest area).
- He started working amongst them and helped them by educating them and providing medical help, using the vast knowledge he gained from his extensive travels. He decided to make this area the hub of his fight against the British.
- Rama Raju began to organize Adivasis against the atrocities by the police, and the forest and revenue officials and extensively toured the 'Manyam' area.
- **He told them that they were the sole owners of the forest produce and prepared them to fight against the oppressive Madras Forest Act, of 1882. A slew of initial successes gave a lot of hope and confidence among the Adivasis and people in the surrounding villages and more and more of them began to rally behind Rama Raju. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- In 1920-30, the tribals of Gunpur launched a no-rent struggle.
- They violated the forest laws. The authorities found it difficult to control them. The Khonds also stopped paying rent. They attacked the police who came to arrest them. They refused to pay 'kists' (installments) to the Maharaja of Jeypore. In the Koraput and Ganjam tracts, popular responses of the tribals to the Civil Disobedience movement grew out of Order and the oppression and exploitation of the tribals by the landlords, money-lenders and the faulty forest laws.
- **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

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