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| Question | **Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha?**1. He/she is appointed by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha.
2. He/she is the custodian of the records of the House.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * Both the houses of parliament comprises an office of Secretary-General.
* The Secretary-General is the administrative head of the Secretariat of respective houses.
* **Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha is appointed by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha**, and holds a rank

equivalent to the Cabinet Secretary, the highest civil servant of the Union Government.* Role of Secretary-General
* He assists the Presiding Officers in conducting the proceedings of the House by giving them advice
* and expert opinion.
* He does not participate in the debate except for reporting messages from the other house about Bills
* or any other matter.
* All notices under the rules are addressed to him.
* **He is the custodian of the records of the House.**
* He prepares full reports of the proceedings of the House and also issues the List of Business for the
* day.
* On behalf of the President of India, he/she summons members to attend session of Parliament
* The Secretary General remains in office till his/her retirement at the age of 60. He/she is answerable only

to the presiding officer, his action cannot be discussed or criticised in or outside the house.**Hence both the statements are correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following statements are correct regarding the Ahom Kingdom?**1. The Ahom kingdom was the only kingdom which remained undefeated by the Mughals.
2. The Ahom kings depended upon forced labour called paiks.
3. The capture of wild elephants was declared a royal monopoly by the Ahom kings.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * The Ahoms migrated to the **Brahmaputra valley (Northeast India)** from present-day Myanmar in the

thirteenth century. They created a new state by suppressing the older political system of the bhuiyans(landlords). The Ahoms built a large state, and for this, they used firearms as early as the 1530s.* However, the Ahoms faced many invasions from the south-west. **In 1662, the Mughals under Mir**

**Jumla attacked the Ahom kingdom.** Despite their brave defence, the Ahoms were defeated. But directMughal control over the region could not last long. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.*** The Ahom state depended upon forced labour. **Those forced to work for the state were called paiks.** A

census of the population was taken. Each village had to send a number of *paiks* by rotation. People fromheavily populated areas were shifted to less populated places. Ahom clans were thus broken up. **Hence****statement 2 is correct.*** By the first half of the seventeenth century, the administration became quite centralised. Almost all adult

males served in the army during the war. At other times, they were engaged in building dams, irrigationsystems and other public works. The Ahoms also introduced new methods of rice cultivation. **The****capture of wild elephants was declared a royal monopoly by the Ahom kings. Hence statement 3 is****correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following is/are correct with reference to the C. Rajgopalachari Formula?**1. It recommended the Muslim majority areas to exercise the right to selfdetermination.
2. It wanted the Muslim League's to endorse the Congress demand for independence.
3. The formula received Gandhiji's support.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * During the 1940s, several efforts were on to solve the ongoing constitutional crisis, basically due to Jinnah

wanting the Congress to accept his idea of Two-nation theory. In the course of time, some individuals alsotried to come up with constitutional proposals. C. Rajagopalachari, the veteran Congress leader, prepareda formula for Congress-League cooperation. **It was a tacit acceptance of the League's demand for****Pakistan. Gandhi supported the formula.** The main points in CR Plan were:* + **Muslim League to endorse Congress demand for independence.**
	+ League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at the centre.
	+ **After the end of the war, the entire population of Muslim majority areas in the North-West and North-East India to decide by a plebiscite, whether or not to form a separate sovereign state.**
	+ In case of acceptance of partition, agreement to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications, etc.
* **Hence all the statements are correct.**
 |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | In the context of the medieval history of South India, the terms Manigramam and Nanadesi referred to: |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Village headmen |
| Option | Sects of Bhakti saints |
| Option | Trade guilds |
| Option | Villages given in the form of gift |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * There were many kinds of traders in Medieval India. These included the Banjaras. Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations, with headmen who negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses.
* Since traders had to pass through many kingdoms and forests, they usually travelled in caravans and formed guilds to protect their interests. There were several such guilds in south India from the eighth century onwards – the most famous being the Manigramam and Nanadesi. These guilds traded extensively both within the peninsula and with Southeast Asia and China. **Hence option (c) is the correct answer.**

There were also communities like the Chettiars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country. Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Southeast Asia and China. They sold textiles and spices in these ports and, in exchange, brought gold and ivory from Africa; and spices, tin, Chinese blue pottery and silver from Southeast Asia and China. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **The first Global Stocktake synthesis report, 2023 has been released by** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) |
| Option | The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) |
| Option | The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). |
| Option | The Global Environment Facility (GEF). |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * **The Global stocktake (GST):**
* The global stocktake (GST) aims to serve as a report card on the progress of countries under the 2015 Paris Agreement in achieving their climate action goals. While assessment reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) put forth observations made by scientific experts GST summarises 252 hours of conversations between governments, civil society organisations, experts and the UN bodies. The GST, therefore, combines scientific observations with on-ground experiences.
* The **Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)** under **UNFCCC has the overall responsibility to conduct the global stocktake**.
* **Global stocktake synthesis report -UNFCCC.**
	+ The first global stocktake technical synthesis report is released by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). **Hence option (c) is correct.**
	+ The report warns that the world is **“not on track”** to meet the long-term goal of limiting global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius.
	+ The **synthesis report ties into a larger exercise called the ‘global stocktake,**’ that is expected to take place once in five years.
	+ T**he report also acknowledged that improved Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)** from countries with ambitious emissions reduction targets have led to near-universal climate action. However, it is clear that the progress is inadequate and the window to “course correct” is rapidly closing.

The synthesis report culminates the second phase of the GST process, summarising three technical discussions held between 2022 and 2023. Its findings are expected to provide a strong science-based foundation for the third and final “**politicalphase” of GST** coming up at the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the UNFCCC in Dubai later this year. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements regarding Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) Waves:**1. These waves are the discreet electromagnetic emissions observed in the Earth's magnetosphere.
2. These waves are generated in the equatorial latitudes.
3. These waves can resonate with charged particles causing them to move in a cyclical motion.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * **Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron Waves:**
	+ Scientists have identified Electromagnetic Ion Cyclotron (EMIC) waves, a form of plasma waves in the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri.
	+ The EMIC waves are the discreet electromagnetic emissions observed in the Earth's magnetosphere. Their signatures can be recorded in both spaces as well as ground-based magnetometers. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
	+ These waves are **generated in the equatorial latitudes** and propagate along magnetic field lines to their footprint in the high-latitude ionosphere. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
	+ These waves **can resonate with charged particles**, particularly ions, that are trapped in the magnetosphere, **causing them to move in a cyclical motion. Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
	+ These waves play an important role in the precipitation of **killer electrons** (electrons having speeds close to the speed of light, which form the radiation belt of planet Earth), which are hazardous to space-borne technology/instruments.
* **Magnetosphere**
	+ Magnetosphere is the cavity in which the Earth lies and stays protected from the wrath of the Sun.
	+ It is formed by the interaction between Earth's magnetic field and the solar wind, which is a continuous stream of charged particles, mainly electrons and protons, flowing from the Sun.
	+ Earth's magnetic field is generated by the motion of molten iron in its outer core.
* **Magnetometer**
	+ A magnetometer is a scientific instrument used to measure the strength and direction of magnetic fields.
	+ It can be used to study the Earth's magnetic field, as well as the magnetic fields of other celestial bodies, such as planets, moons, stars, and galaxies.

Magnetometers work based on the principles of electromagnetic induction or magnetoresistance. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following countries:**1. Iran
2. Iraq
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Jordan
5. United Arab Emirates

**Which of the countries given above share border with the Persian Gulf?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1, 3 and 5 only |
| Option | 1, 3, 4 and 5 only |
| Option | 2, 3 and 5 only |
| Option | 1, 2, 3 and 5 only |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * Persian Gulf is bordered on the **north, northeast, and east by Iran**; on the **southeast and south by part of Oman** and by the **United Arab Emirate**s; on the **southwest and west by Qatar, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia**; and on the **northwest by Kuwait and Iraq.**

**Jordan doesn’t border with Persian Gulf**. **Hence option 4 is not correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to the Enhanced Collaborative Autonomous Rover System (ECARS), consider the following statements:**1. It is a multi-terrain manned ground vehicle for a wide range of military situations.
2. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * The Enhanced Collaborative Autonomous Rover System (ECARS), a cutting-edge 4×4 **multi-terrain unmanned ground vehicle (UGV). The speed of the system ranges between 16 and 20 km per hour, with a payload capacity of 350 kg and towing payload capacity of 500 kg. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
* ECARS UGV is armed with an enhanced collision avoidance system and advanced mission planning capabilities, rendering it a dependable resource for a wide range of military situations.
* **It is developed by Pune’s Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd, a fully-owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

**A key feature of ECARS is its compatibility with various systems, including Remote Controlled Weapon Stations (RCWS), water jet machines** and capability of transporting heavy materials. This makes ECARS a key tool for border surveillance and more. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to the Snakes, consider the following statements:**1. All snakes are diurnal.
2. All snakes are cold-blooded and must regulate their body temperatures.
3. All snakes shed their skin because it does not grow with their body size.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * **Snake:** There are more than 35,000 species of the snake around the world, of which only 600 are venomous. Of these 600, 330 species are found in India. The most commonly found dangerous snakes are the ones we call the big four — krait, Russel’s viper, saw-scaled viper and Indian-spectacled cobra.
* Snakes have some clear differences from other reptiles. They have no limbs, no moveable eyelids, and no ear openings. About 600 species are venomous, and only about 200—seven percent—are able to kill or significantly wound a human.
* Their upper and lower jaw separate to allow snakes to consume prey up to three times larger than the diameter of their head. Snakes eat their prey whole.
* **Most snakes are nocturnal. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.** Their tongue is used to smell their air.
* **Snakes are cold-blooded**, or ectotherms, and must sun themselves to regulate their body temperatures. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
* While most snakes lay eggs, some give live birth. Snakes shed their skin because it doesn't fit anymore or because it's old or worn out. When snakes grow, their skin does not, so they outgrow it. When this happens, they shed their outer layer of skin. Snakes can shed their skin as often as once a month, although it's usually only a handful of times a year at most. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

There are more than 3,000 species of snakes on the planet and they’re found everywhere except in Antarctica, Iceland, Ireland, Greenland, and New Zealand. They live almost everywhere, in deserts, forests, oceans, streams, and lakes. Snakes cannot survive in places where the ground stays frozen year-round so there **are no snakes in Antarctica.** Radio telemetry has been used to study the movement patterns of snakes to tackle India‘s huge snakebite problem. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following are essential growth conditions required for Coffee cultivation?**1. Direct Sunlight is necessary for the Coffee plantation.
2. Coffee plant needs abundant rainfall.
3. Fertile soils rich in iron and potash are most suitable for its cultivation.
4. Coffee can not tolerate water stagnation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below. |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 2, 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 1 and 4 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * **Coffee is a tropical plantation crop.** Its seeds are roasted, ground and are used for preparing a beverage. There are three varieties of coffee i.e. **arabica, robusta and liberica.** India mostly grows superior quality coffee, arabica, which is in great demand in International market.
* Essential growth conditions required for the cultivation of coffee are as follows:
	+ Climate: Coffee is a **tropical plant** which is also grown in semi-tropical climate. The coffee tree requires heat, humidity and abundant rainfall.
	+ Temperature: Coffee requires an average temperature between 20°-27°C. Although it grows in day temperature over 32°C in the Arabian Peninsula. Growth is most rapid during hot rainy season and during cool dry season berries ripen and ready for picking. Bright sunshine and warm weather are necessary for the harvesting.
	+ Coffee **needs abundant rainfall,** i.e., 100 to 200 cm annually. The hill slopes which receive orthographic rainfall are thus best for coffee cultivation. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
	+ Shade: **Direct sunlight is harmful for coffee plants**; therefore, these are planted under shade of taller trees such as bananas. In Brazil, leguminous plants are used which not only provide shade but also enrich soil with nitrogen. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
	+ **Topography:** Generally, coffee is grown on **slopes having height between 600 to 1,800 meters.** The suitability of slopes for coffee is because these are well-drained and also cooler. **Water stagnation is very harmful for coffee plants;** therefore, hill slopes are best suitable for it. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**
	+ **Soils:** The ideal soil is one with a good **sub-surface drainage.** The presence of humus, nitrogenous matter, potash, iron in the soil is an advantage. **Well-drained volcanic soils** are also suitable. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

In **India**, **Coffee** is cultivated in the highlands of **Western Ghats** in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Karnataka alone accounts for more than two-third of total production of coffee in the country. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **The 'State of the Rhino 2023' report was released recently. In this context, consider the following statements:**1. The 'State of the Rhino' report is released annualy by the World Wide Fund for Nature.
2. The greater one-horned rhinos, which are native to India are categorised as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * Every September, the **International Rhino Foundation (IRF)** publishes its signature report, **State of the Rhino**, which documents current population estimates and trends, where available, as well as key challenges and conservation developments for the five surviving rhino species in Africa and Asia. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
* There are five species of rhino namely **Black rhino, Greater one-horned rhino, Javan rhino, Sumatran rhino and White rhino.** Out of them, three rhino species are found in Asia namely Sumatran rhino, Javan rhino and Greater one-horned rhino (Indian rhino).
* Three species of rhino—black, Javan, and Sumatran—are critically endangered.

**Indian rhino is largest of all rhino species** and commonly found in India (Assam, West Bengal and Utter Pradesh), Nepal, Bhutan, and Pakistan. It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds. It is **presently classified as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Hence statement 2 is not correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to Co-operative Societies, consider the following statements:**1. The right to form co-operative societies is a fundamental right.
2. The Parliament is empowered to make laws regulating the multi-state cooperative societies.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2011 gave a constitutional status and protection to cooperative societies. In this context, it made the following three changes in the Constitution:
	+ It made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right (Article 19). **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
	+ It included a new Directive Principle of State Policy on the promotion of cooperative societies (Article 43-B).
	+ It added a new Part IX-B in the Constitution which is entitled as “The Cooperative Societies” (Articles 243-ZH to 243-ZT).
* The new Part IX-B contains various provisions to ensure that the cooperative societies in the country function in a democratic, professional, autonomous and economically sound manner.
* **It empowers the Parliament in respect of multi-state cooperative societies** and the state legislatures in respect of other co-operative societies to make the appropriate laws regulating Cooperative Societies in India. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
	+ State Cooperative Societies Acts of individual states

Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 for the multi-state Cooperative societies with Area of operation in more than one State. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **"The Act made the Legislative Business to be conducted in public instead of in secret and reports of proceedings were officially published. Standing orders were adopted to conduct and regulate proceedings. The Bills were referred to Select Committees before being passed by the Council. It gave the legislature for the first time the right to frame its own rules and procedure."****Which of the following acts is being described in the above-given passage?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Pitt's India Act of 1784 |
| Option | Charter Act of 1833 |
| Option | Charter Act of 1853 |
| Option | Government of India Act of 1858 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * Under **the Charter Act of 1853**, discussions in the Council, when acting in its legislative capacity, became oral instead of in writing. Bills passed through the usual three stages and were referred to Select Committees.
* **The legislative business was conducted in public instead of in secret and reports of proceedings were officially published. Standing orders were adopted to conduct and regulate proceedings.**
* The new Council conceived its duties not to be confined only to legislation but also began to assume the character of a miniature representative assembly, assembled for the purpose of enquiry into and redress of grievances.
* **The Act of 1853 gave the legislature for the first time the right to frame its own rules and procedure.** Shri Prasanna Kumar Tagore was appointed to the post of Clerk of the Council and he went on to provide the Council with a parliamentary form of procedure and encouraged it to assert its independence as a separate organ of government.

The public was allowed to witness the proceedings of the Council and press reporting was permitted in 1856. Despite the progressive establishment of legislative practices and procedures, there was, however, no Indian participation in the Council. **Hence the correct answer is option (c)** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements about the office of the High Court in India:**1. The power to extend the jurisdiction of High court is vested with the Parliament.
2. The judges of a high court are appointed by the Governor of the respective states.
3. A High Court can settle dispute between two states.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * The **Parliament can extend** the jurisdiction of a high court to any union territory or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court from any union territory. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
* The judges of a high court are **appointed by the President**.
* The chief justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the chief justice of India and the governor of the state concerned.
* For appointment of other judges, the chief justice of the concerned high court is also consulted.
* In case of a common high court for two or more states, the governors of all the states concerned are consulted by the president. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**

When there is a dispute which arises **between the States of India** or between the State Government and the Union Government then it is the jurisdiction of **the Supreme Court** under **Article 131** of the Constitution that gives it the power to resolve these kinds of disputes. **Hence statement 3 is not correct**. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS), which has been designated as the Tiger Reserve recently is located at** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Chattisgarh |
| Option | Madhya Pradesh |
| Option | Rajasthan |
| Option | Jharkhand |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * Recently Chhattisgarh State Wildlife Board rejected National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) recommendation to assign Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) the status of a Tiger Reserve. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
* Challenging the governments decision a public interest litigation (PIL), demanding to designate the Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS) as a tiger reserve and the Chilpi Range as a buffer zone has been filed. But the Chhattisgarh high court has dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL).
* The court emphasized that the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had only suggested measures for the potential declaration of BWS as a Tiger Reserve and had not issued a binding recommendation.

There are to date 54 tiger Reserves and the last one to get the status was Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary which is located in the state of Chhattisgarh. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following are the criteria for declaring a Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)?**1. High endemism
2. Presence of rare and threatened species and Keystone species
3. High density of forest and tree cover.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * **“Biodiversity Heritage Sites” (BHS) are well-defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity** comprising of any one or more of the following components: the richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them. **Hence option 1 is correct**.
* Under **Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government** in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). Under subsection (2) of Section 37, the State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
* **Criteria:**
	+ **The richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories.**
	+ High endemism.
	+ **Presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance**
	+ Wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties.
	+ Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity with or without a long history of human association with them.

**High density and forest cover is not a criteria used to identify BHS. Hence option 3 is not correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following are the determinants of Minimum Support Price (MSP)?**1. Demand and supply
2. Amount of annual rainfall
3. International price trends
4. Implications of MSP on consumers

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1, 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 4 only |
| Option | 1, 2, 3 and 4 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * The minimum support price is an agricultural product price, set by the Government of India to purchase directly from the farmer. This rate is to safeguard the farmer to a minimum profit for the harvest if the open market has a lesser price than the cost incurred.
* Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is mandated to recommend minimum support prices (MSPs) to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country
* While recommending price policy of various commodities under its mandate, the Commission keeps in mind the various Terms of Reference (ToR) given to CACP in 2009. Accordingly, it analyses
	+ **demand and supply**
	+ cost of production
	+ **price trends in the market, both domestic and international**
	+ inter-crop price parity
	+ terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture
	+ a minimum of 50 per cent as the margin over the cost of production
	+ **likely implications of MSP on consumers of that product.**
* CACP submits its recommendations to the government in the form of Price Policy Reports every year, separately for five groups of commodities namely Kharif crops, Rabi crops, Sugarcane, Raw Jute and Copra.
* As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities, which comprise 7 kinds of cereal (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soybean, sesame, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

**Hence only options 1, 3 and 4 are correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements:**1. In a closed economy, savings and investment remain equal.
2. In an open economy, savings are always more than investments.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * A closed economy refers to an economy that does not interact with other economies. Saving and investment are equal in a closed economy.
* Let's now consider how saving (S) and investment (I) are related to the international flows of goods and capital as measured by net exports and net capital outflow.
* Each unit of output sold in a closed economy is consumed, invested, or bought by the government. To see what this identity can tell us about financial markets, subtract C and G from both sides of this equation. We obtain, **Y - C - G = I. (Y = GDP and C = Consumption).**
* The left side of this equation **(Y - C - G)** is the total income in the economy that remains after paying for consumption and government purchases:
* This amount is called national saving, or just saving, and is denoted by S. Substituting S for Y - C - G, we can write the last equation as S = I.
* National saving is the income of the nation that is left after paying for current consumption and government purchases. National saving (S) equals Y - C - G.
* If we rearrange the equation to reflect this fact, we obtain, **Y - C - G = I + NX**
* **S = I + NX.**
* Because net exports (NX) also equal net capital outflow (NCO), we can write this equation as **S = I + NCO**
* **Saving = Domestic Investment + Net capital outflow**
* This equation shows that a nation's saving must equal its domestic investment plus its net capital outflow. **In a closed economy, net capital outflow is zero (NCO = 0), so saving equals investment (S = I).**
* By contrast, an open economy has two uses for its saving: domestic investment and net capital outflow.

When a nation’s saving exceeds its domestic investment, its net capital outflow is positive, indicating that the nation is using some of its saving to buy assets abroad. When a nation’s domestic investment exceeds its saving, its net capital outflow is negative, indicating that foreigners are financing some of this investment by purchasing domestic assets. **Therefore, savings are not always more than investments.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Bandi Jeevan' that served as a textbook for the revolutionary movement in India was written by |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Ramprasad Bismil |
| Option | Sachindranath Sanyal |
| Option | Jogesh Chatterjea |
| Option | Surya Sen |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * Determined to fight the oppressive British rule, **Sachindranath Sanyal** (**or Sachindra Nath)** started participating in revolutionary activities from a young age. **In 1913, when he was just 20 years old, he** **opened a chapter of the revolutionary organization ‘Anushlian Samiti’ in Benaras.** He used to organize fitness activities and motivate youth to fight for the motherland.
* **In 1915, Sachindra Nath and Rash Bihari Bose were involved the Ghadar Party’s armed rebellion plan to overthrow British rule.** Sanyal trained the youth in revolutionary tactics and prepared them forthe uprising. But to their misfortune, their plan was leaked to the British and the efforts of the Ghadar party to overthrow the British government went in vain.
* This incident alerted the British and led to the arrest of many Ghadarites and revolutionaries, including Sachindra. **Sachindra was sentenced to life and deported to the Cellular Jail of Andaman for his involvement in the Benaras Conspiracy**; his house was also confiscated by the British. **Here he wrote the famous book “Bandi Jeevan” (A Life of Captivity). This book is by revered by freedom fighters like Bhagat Singh.** In 1920 in the wake of the victory of Britain and its allies in the First World War, the British had freed many prisoners, among them Sachindra Nath.
* The harrowing time spent at the Cellular Jail did not break the spirit of Sachindra Nath and he continued with his revolutionary ways. **He co-founded the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** which was later renamed to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and mentored great freedom fighters such as Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Bhagwati Chandra Vohra among others.
* Sachindra Nath was arrested again in 1924 for what was considered as a provocative speech against the government. He was sent for the second time to the Cellular Jail for his involvement in the Kakori raid.

He had contracted Tuberculosis and was released from jail due to his deteriorating health condition in 1937. However, this was not the end of his jail confinement and Sachindra continued to participate in the freedom struggle. He was again imprisoned in Rajasthan in 1939 and in Uttar Pradesh in 1942. He was later moved to Gorakhpur jail where he succumbed to TB and passed away on February 6, 1943. **Hence option (b) is the correct answer.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements:**1. Light waves are longitudinal waves.
2. Photon energy of visible light is lesser than the infrared radiation.
3. Sun appears red during sunset and sunrise due to scattering of light.
4. The shorter the wavelength of the light, the more it is refracted.

Which of the statements given above are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 2, 3 and 4 only |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * **Visible light** is a form of **electromagnetic (EM) radiation**, as are radio waves, infrared radiation, ultraviolet radiation, X-rays and microwaves. Generally, visible light is defined as the wavelengths that are visible to most human eyes. Visible light falls in the range of the EM spectrum **between infrared (IR) and ultraviolet (UV).** It has **frequencies of about 4 × 10^14 to 8 × 10^14 hertz (Hz)** and wavelengths of about 740 nanometers (nm) to 380 nm.
* Waves are classified into two groups: transverse or longitudinal. In a transverse wave, the particles are displaced perpendicular to the direction the wave travels. In a **longitudinal wave** the particles are displaced **parallel to the direction** the wave travels (e.g.. Sound waves). **Light waves are transverse** i.e., the vibrating electric vector associated with each wave is perpendicular to the direction of propagation. **Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
* **Photon energy** is the energy carried by a single photon. The amount of energy is directly proportional to the photon's electromagnetic frequency and thus, equivalently, is inversely proportional to the wavelength. **The higher the photon's frequency, the higher its energy.** Since the **frequency of visible light is more than infrared radiation,** photon energy of visible light is more than infrared energy. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
* During sunrise and sunset, the rays have to travel a larger part of the atmosphere because they are very close to the horizon. Therefore, light other than red is mostly scattered away. Most of the **red light**, which is the least **scattered**, enters our eyes. Hence, the sun and the sky appear red **due to scattering of sun rays**. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
* When light passes from a more dense to a less dense substance, (for example passing from water into air), the light is **refracted** (or bent) away from the normal. The normal is a line perpendicular (forming a 90 degree angle) to the boundary between the two substances. The bending occurs because light travels more slowly in a denser medium. The amount of refraction increases as the wavelength of light decreases. **Shorter wavelengths of light** (violet and blue) are slowed more and consequently **experience more bending** than do the longer wavelengths (orange and red). **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Hence option (b) is the correct answer.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **The Central Information Commission (CIC) is required to receive and inquire into a complaint from a person in which of the following cases?**1. If a person has been refused information that was requested.
2. If a person has not received response to his information request within the specified time limits.
3. If a person thinks information given is incomplete, misleading or false.

Select the correct answer using the code given below. |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * **Central Information Commission:** It is a statutory body constituted under Right to Information Act, 2005.It consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions is the nodal ministry for the Central Information Commission.
* It is the duty of the Commission to receive and inquire into a complaint from any person:
* who has not been able to submit an information request because of non-appointment of a Public Information Officer;
	+ **who has been refused information that was requested;**
	+ **who has not received response to his information request within the specified time limits;**
	+ who thinks the fees charged are unreasonable;
	+ **who thinks information given is incomplete, misleading or false; and**
	+ any other matter relating to obtaining information.

**Hence, all the statements are correct**. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **In the context of the employment scenario in India, consider the following statements:**1. Compared to urban areas, the proportion of workforce residing in rural areas is higher.
2. While women account for fifty per cent of the total workforce in the country, they form just one-third of the urban workforce.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * Those activities which contribute to the gross national product are called economic activities. All those who are engaged in economic activities, in whatever capacity — high or low, are workers. Even if some of them temporarily abstain from work due to illness, injury or other physical disability, bad weather, festivals, social or religious functions, they are also workers. Workers also include all those who help the main workers in these activities.
* While estimating the number of workers, all those who are engaged in economic activities are included as employed. Since the majority of our people reside in rural areas, the proportion of the workforce residing there is higher (about 70%). **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
* Men form the majority of the workforce in India. About 70 per cent of the workers are men and the rest are women (men and women include child labourers in respective sexes). Women workers account for one-third of the rural workforce whereas, in urban areas, they are just one-fifth of the workforce. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
* The worker-population ratio is an indicator that is used for analyzing the employment situation in the country. This ratio is useful in knowing the proportion of the population that is actively contributing to the production of goods and services of a country. If the ratio is higher, it means that the engagement of people is greater; if the ratio for a country is medium, or low, it means that a very high proportion of its population is not involved directly in economic activities.
* For every 100 persons, about 35 are workers in India. In urban areas, the proportion is about 34, whereas in rural India, the ratio is about 35. People in rural areas have limited resources to earn a higher income and participate more in the employment market.

Many do not go to schools, colleges and other training institutions. Even if some go, they discontinue in the middle to join the workforce; whereas, in urban areas, a considerable section is able to study in various educational institutions. Urban people have a variety of employment opportunities. They look for the appropriate job to suit their qualifications and skills. In rural areas, people cannot stay at home as their economic condition may not allow them to do so. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to the seaweed, consider the following statements:**1. More than 95% of the seaweed harvested for human consumption is cultivated.
2. The seaweeds do not require fertilizer, pesticides, freshwater and land.
3. India's first multi-purpose seaweed park will be established in Lakshadweep.

How many of the above statements are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Only one |
| Option | Only two |
| Option | All three |
| Option | None |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * **Seaweeds are a type of marine algae, often found in coastal waters. It can vary in size and colour and is used in various industries, including food, cosmetics, and agriculture.** Seaweed is rich in nutrients and has diverse applications worldwide.
* They are good source of calcium, magnesium, potassium, zinc, selenium, and a variety of other minerals and amino acids. They are the significant source of iodine, which aids thyroid function and combats infection. **More than 95% of the seaweed harvested for human consumption is cultivated rather than taken from the wild. Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
* **Unlike land-based crops, seaweed doesn’t require fertilizer, pesticides, freshwater, or land.** It grows fast—some marine algae can be ready to harvest in as little as six weeks—and absorbs CO2 while it’s growing, making it a valuable carbon sink. Algae also absorbs other excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, and creates new habitats for marine life. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
* **Recently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying laid the Foundation Stone for a Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu** (Valamavur, Ramanathapuram district). It is in line with the Union Budget 2021 that India’s first Fisheries Aquapark in form of ‘Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu’ will be established. **Hence, statement 3 is not correct.**

The park aims to promote seaweed cultivation for employment, value-added products, and conservation. It involves 136 coastal fishing villages and offers support to entrepreneurs. The Multipurpose Seaweed Park is a significant investment to promote seaweed cultivation and research, benefiting scientists, researchers, and local communities. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With regard to Vijayanagara forts, consider the following statements:**1. Cities were fortified along with agricultural tracts and forests.
2. There was a single line of fortification for the cities.
3. No mortar or cementing agent was employed anywhere in the construction of these forts.
4. Gateways to forts were influenced by Turkish architecture.

Which of the statements given above are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 4 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 1, 2, 3 and 4 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * **Abdur Razzaq, an ambassador sent by the ruler of Persia to Calicut (present-day Kozhikode) in the fifteenth century, was greatly impressed by the fortifications and mentioned seven lines of forts**. **These encircled not only the city but also its agricultural hinterland and forests**. **Hence statement 1 is correct but statement 2 is not correct**.
* The massive masonry construction was slightly tapered. **No mortar or cementing agent was employed anywhere in the construction.** The stone blocks were wedge-shaped, which held them in place, and the inner portion of the walls was of earth packed with rubble. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
* What was most significant about this fortification is that it enclosed agricultural tracts. Abdur Razzaq noted that “ between the first, second and the third walls there are cultivated fields, gardens and houses”.
* And Paes observed: “From this first circuit until you enter the city there is a great distance, in which are fields in which they sow rice and have many gardens and much water, in which water comes from two lakes.” **This tract was serviced by an elaborate canal system drawing water from the Tungabhadra**.
* A second line of fortification went around the inner core of the urban complex, and a third line surrounded the royal centre, within which each set of major buildings was surrounded by its own high walls.

The fort was entered through well-guarded gates, which linked the city to the major roads. Gateways were distinctive architectural features that often defined the structures to which they regulated access. **The arch on the gateway leading into the fortified settlement as well as the dome over the gate are regarded as typical features of the architecture introduced by the Turkish Sultans**. **Hence statement 4 is correct**. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which is common to the places known as Sualkuchi, Pochampalli, Paithan? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Underground cave systems |
| Option | Centers of Silk Production |
| Option | Water reservoirs |
| Option | Uranium deposits |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * **Silk** is known as the “Queen of Textiles” due to grandeur, natural sheen, and inherent affinity for dyes, high absorbance etc. It stands for livelihood opportunity for millions owing to **high employment oriented**, low capital intensive and remunerative nature of its production.
* **Sericulture** industry provides employment to approximately **8 million** persons in rural and semi-urban areas in India. India has the unique distinction of being the **only country** producing all the five known commercial silks, namely, **mulberry, tropical tasar, oak tasar, eri and muga**, of which muga with its golden yellow glitter is unique and prerogative of India. India is the Second largest producer of silk in the World. Among the four varieties of silk produced (2014-15), **Mulberry accounts for (74.51%)**, Tasar (8.5%), Eri (16.5%) and Muga (0.55% ) of the total raw silk production.
* Major centers of silk production are: **Sualkuchi (Assam)**; Dharmavaram, **Pochampally** (Andhra Pradesh); Kanchipuram, Salem (Tamil Nadu); **Paithan** (Maharashtra); Surat, Cambay (Gujarat) etc.

**Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which of the following statements is not correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | It was set up at the Rio Summit to channelize funds from developed countries to developing countries. |
| Option | It supports investments in both mitigation as well as adaptation projects. |
| Option | It pays particular attention to the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). |
| Option | It allows investment both from the public sector as well as private sector through institutional investors and financial institutions. |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * The **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** is the world’s largest dedicated fund helping developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change. It was **set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010. The GCF was set up in 2010 under the UNFCCC’s financial mechanism to channel funding from developed countries to developing countries to allow them to mitigate climate change and also adapt to disruptions arising from a changing climate. Hence, option (a) is not correct.**
* **GCF invests in adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries, managing a project portfolio that is implemented by its partner organisations, known as Accredited Entities.** GCF has a crucial role in serving the Paris Agreement, supporting the goal of keeping average global temperature rise well **below 2 degrees C**. It does this by channelling climate finance to developing countries, which have joined other nations in committing to climate action. It is intended to be the centre piece of efforts to raise Climate Finance of **$100 billion a year by 2020.**
* GCF’s investments are aimed at achieving maximum impact in the developing world, supporting paradigm shifts in both mitigation and adaptation. **The Fund aims for a 50:50 balance between mitigation and adaptation investments over time.** It also aims for a floor of 50 percent of the adaptation allocation for particularly vulnerable countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African States. **Hence option (b) is correct.**
* The Fund pays particular attention to the needs of societies that are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, in particular **Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and African States. Hence option (c) is correct.**
* In order to scale up GCF’s activities and de-risk the delivery of capital flows, GCF has set up the Private Sector Facility (PSF), a dedicated division designed to fund and mobilise private sector actors, including institutional investors, project sponsors and financial institutions. PSF promotes private sector investment through concessional instruments, including low-interest and long-tenor project loans, lines of credit to banks and other financial institutions, equity investments and risk mitigators, such as guarantees, first-loss protection, and grant-based capacity-building programmes. **Hence option (d) is correct.**
* GCF aims to catalyse a flow of climate finance to invest in low-emission and climate-resilient development, driving a paradigm shift in the global response to climate change.
* **Who will govern the Fund?**

The Fund is governed and supervised by a Board that will have full responsibility for funding decisions and that receives the guidance of the **Conference of Parties (COP)**. The Fund is accountable to, and functions under the guidance of, the COP. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to the transport network in India, consider the following statements:**1. Rural roads constitute the maximum length of the road network in India.
2. Indian Railways is the world’s largest freight carrier.
3. India has one of the fastest-growing aviation markets with the third-largest domestic aviation market.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * The road network is the backbone of the transport system in India and it is very well integrated with the multi-modal system of transportation, which provides crucial links with airports, railway stations, ports, and other logistical hubs. With 63.86 lakh km of rural-urban roads and national-state highways, India is next only to the United States of America that has a road network of 66.45 lakh km. Rural roads have the longest length among the road network of India. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
* Indian Railways (IR) with over 67,580 route kilometres, is the third-largest network in the world under single management. During the FY20, IR carried 1.2 billion tonnes of freight and 8.1 billion passengers – making it the world’s largest passenger carrier and fourth-largest freight carrier. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
* The GoI has allowed the private players to operate in the Railway sector through the PPP mode under the "New India New Railway" initiative. The initiative is expected to garner an investment of about ` 30,000 crores from the private sector.
* The aviation market in India is one of the fastest-growing in the world. India’s domestic traffic has more than doubled from around 61 million in FY14 to around 137 million in FY20, a growth of over 14 per cent per annum. **From the third-largest domestic aviation market, it is expected to become the thirdlargest overall (including domestic and international traffic) by the year FY25. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

According to the IATA (International Air Transport Association), China would displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market in the mid-2020s. The aviation market is defined in terms of traffic to, from and within a country, as per the grouping. India will take 3rd place after the US, surpassing the UK around 2024. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Recently Santiniketan has been designated as the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS) of India. In this context, consider the following statements:**1. Its design has been predominantly inspired from Greek and Roman architecture.
2. It is the only world heritage site in Bengal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * **Recent Context: Santiniketan (District Birbhum, West Bengal) has been designated as the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS)** of India.
* It is the **third WHS of West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways. Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
* **Along with Rabindranath Tagore, Surendranath Kar, Nandalal Bose, Patrick and Arthur Geddes played key roles in shaping it.**
* Santiniketan is an ensemble of historic buildings, landscapes and gardens, pavilions, artworks, and continuing educational and cultural traditions.
* It drew elements from ancient, medieval, and folk traditions of India as well as **Japanese, Chinese, Persian, Balinese, Burmese and Art Deco forms (Western Europe and the United States).**
* **Indigenous Architecture Style: It veered away from the prevalent Beaux Arts (Roman and Greek classicism but combined with more flamboyant French and Italian Renaissance) and European modernism. Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
* **Buildings Material:** Both traditional materials (mud and thatch) and reinforced cement concrete.

**Open spaces:** Integral part of complex, has been used for cultural exchange and safeguard Indian art and cultural events through the mediums of fairs and seasonal festivals. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | What is ‘Deepfake’ a term often mentioned in the news? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | It is manufacturing of the counterfeit products which looks alike original products. |
| Option | It is an internet fraud related to the digital payments. |
| Option | It is a software malware that steals data of host computer by behaving as an original owner of the system. |
| Option | It is a manipulated digital representation produced by artificial intelligence that yields fabricated images and sounds that appear to be real. |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * The word Deepfake is made from deep learning and fake. **Deepfake is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) software that superimposes a digital composite on to an existing video (or audio).** These are AIpowered algorithms that manipulate appearances and voices of people into real-looking footage. **Hence option (d) is the correct answer.**

**Background:** The origin of the word “deepfake” can be traced back to 2017 when a Reddit user, with the username “deepfakes”, posted explicit videos of celebrities. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements:**1. Bhakti saints in the region of modernday Karnataka were popularly called Dasa saints.
2. The important contribution of Karnataka's bhakti movement was the development of Carnatic music.
3. Purandaradasa was one of the earliest Dasa bhakti poets

Which of the above statements is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * In **Karnataka,** t**he Dasa saints** propagated the bhakti movement. They rejected the social and caste distinctions and included all sections of people in their movement**. Hence statement 1 is correct.**
* The earliest Dasa bhakti poets were **Sripadaraja, Purandaradasa and Kanakadasa. Hence statement 3 is correct.**
* The greatest gift of the Karnataka's bhakti movement was the **development of Carnatic classical music. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
* **Puranadaradasa** is considered as the **father of Carnatic classical music.**
* The Dasa saints expressed their love towards God Krishna through music and dance. The Dasa saints **did not worship Radha**.

Some of their compositions are as -Sripadaraja composed **Bhramargeet, Benugeet and Gopigeet.** Jagannath Dasa composed **‘Harikathamritsar’**. Tipamma Dasa and Maddhavadasa made the Vaishnava music popular in their vernacular language. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to the Enemy Property, consider the following statements:**1. It is the property captured by warring nations in each other's territory.
2. It is held by the Union Government under the custodianship of the President.
3. Civil courts are barred from hearing disputes relating to enemy property.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * **Enemy Property:** When nations go to war, they often seize the properties in their countries of the citizens and corporations of the enemy country. Properties that are seized under these circumstances are referred to as alien properties or enemy properties. **Hence, statement 1 is not correct.**
* During India-China war in 1962, and India – Pakistan war in 1965 and 1971, Central government took over properties of citizens of China and Pakistan in India under the Defence of India Acts.
* The responsibility of the administration of enemy properties was handed over to the Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEPI), an office under the Central government. **Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**
* Enemy Property Act, 1968, defines ‘enemy’ as a country (and its citizens) that committed external aggression against India (i.e., Pakistan and China).
* The expanded definition of the term “enemy subject”, and “enemy firm” under Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2017 include the legal heir and successor of an enemy, whether a citizen of India or a citizen of a country which is not an enemy; and the succeeding firm of an enemy firm, irrespective of the nationality of its members or partners.
* **It prohibits Indian citizens who are legal heirs of enemies from inheriting enemy property and brings them within the definition of ‘enemy’.**
* CEPI, with prior approval of the central government, may dispose or sale enemy properties.

It prohibits civil courts and other authorities from hearing certain disputes relating to enemy property. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following powers enjoyed by the Chief Justice of India are mentioned in the Indian Constitution?**1. Appoint other place or places as the seat of the Supreme Court.
2. Appointment of ad hoc judge in Supreme Court.
3. Assignment of cases to judges of Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below. |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | **Administrative Position of Chief Justice of India (CJI) can be analyzed from the following:*** **Seat of the Supreme Court (Article 130):** The Constitution declares Delhi as the seat of the Supreme Court. But, it also authorises the chief justice of India to appoint other place or places as seat of the Supreme Court. He can take decision in this regard only with the approval of the President. **Hence option 1 is correct.**
* **Ad hoc Judge (Article 127):** When there is a lack of quorum of the permanent judges to hold or continue any session of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India can appoint a judge of a High Court as an ad hoc judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. He can do so only after consultation with the chief justice of the High Court concerned and with the previous consent of the president. **Hence option 2 is correct.**
* Retired Judges (Article 128): At any time, the chief justice of India can request a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a retired judge of a high court (who is duly qualified for appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court) to act as a judge of the Supreme Court for a temporary period. He can do so only with the previous consent of the president and also of the person to be so appointed.
* Freedom to Appoint its Staff (Article 146): The Chief Justice of India can appoint officers and servants of the Supreme Court without any interference from the executive. He can also prescribe their conditions of service.

**The assignment of cases** is done by CJIA as per the Supreme Court Rules. Although, the Supreme Court Rules are framed by the Supreme Court in exercise of powers under Article 145 of the Constitution. **Hence option 3 is not correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Recently Kokborok language was in the news. Its widely spoken in which of the following states/UT? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Ladakh |
| Option | Odisha |
| Option | Lakshadweep |
| Option | Tripura |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | * **Recent Context:** Recently many people were detained in Tripura during a 12-hour statewide strike called by the Twipra Students’ Federation (TSF) to **press for the introduction of Roman script for Kokborok, state’s indigenous lingua franca,**and other demands.
* **Kokborok is the language spoken by the Borok people belonging to Tripura.**
	+ Borok is a branch of the Boro people of Assam belonging to the Sino-Tibetan linguistic group and racial Mongoloids.
	+ Kokborok belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family and has a close affinity with other language families like Bodo, Garo, Dimasa etc.
		- **Doulot Ahammad wrote the first Kokborok Grammar (1897).**

**Hence option (d) is the correct answer.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which of the following statements is correct about the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | Foreign investment greater than 10 percent of the paid-up capital of a company can be considered as the FDI. |
| Option | FDI is more liquid asset for an investor than FPI. |
| Option | FPI investors are active investors and take controlling positions in domestic firms. |
| Option | All the statements (a), (b) and (c) are correct. |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * According to IMF and OECD definitions, the acquisition of at least ten percent of the ordinary shares or voting power in a public or private enterprise by non-resident investors makes it eligible to be categorized as a foreign direct investment (FDI). In India, a particular FII is allowed to invest up to 10% of the paid-up capital of a company, which implies that any investment above 10% will be construed as FDI, though officially such a definition did not exist. It may be noted that there is no minimum amount of capital to be brought in by the foreign direct investor to get the same categorized as FDI. Hence option (a) is the correct answer.
* FDI investors cannot easily liquidate their assets and depart from a nation, since such assets may be very large and quite illiquid. FPI investors can exit a nation literally with a few mouse clicks, as financial assets are highly liquid and widely traded.
* FDI can be used to develop infrastructure, set up manufacturing facilities and service hubs, and invest in other productive assets such as machinery and equipment, which contributes to economic growth and stimulates employment. FDI is obviously the route preferred by most nations for attracting foreign investment since it is much more stable than FPI and signals long-lasting commitment.

FDI investors typically take controlling positions in domestic firms or joint ventures and are actively involved in their management. FPI investors, on the other hand, are generally passive investors who are not actively involved in the day-to-day operations and strategic plans of domestic companies, even if they have a controlling interest in them. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements:**1. Pure water reaches its maximum density at 4°C.
2. The boiling point of water increases with increase in altitude.
3. The mixture of hydrogen and oxygen is often referred to as water gas.
4. Compared to land surfaces, water warms and cools more slowly.

Which of the statements given above are correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 2, 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 1 and 4 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | * Water is an inorganic, transparent, tasteless chemical substance. It is the main constituent of Earth's hydrosphere and the fluids of all known living organisms. It is vital for all known forms of life, even though it provides no calories or organic nutrients.
* Chemical formula of water is H2O. A **water molecule** consists of **two atoms of hydrogen linked by covalent bonds** to the same atom of oxygen. Atoms of oxygen are electronegative and attract the shared electrons in their covalent bonds. Consequently the electrons in the water molecule spend slightly more time around the oxygen atomic center and less time around the hydrogen atomic centers. The covalent bonds are therefore polar, and the oxygen atoms have a slight negative charge (from the presence extra electron share), while the hydrogens are slightly positive (from the extra un-neutralized protons). **correct.**
* When water is a liquid, the water molecules are packed relatively close together but can slide past each other and move around freely. **Pure water has a density of 1.000 g/cm3 at 4˚ C (which is maximum)**. As the temperature increases or decreases from 4˚ C, the density of water decreases. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
* The temperature at which liquid water begins turning to vapor, which occurs when its vapor pressure equals the atmospheric pressure. At **higher elevation**, atmospheric pressure declines. This means **heated water reaches its boiling point more quickly** i.e., at a lower temperature. Hence boiling point decreases with increase in altitude. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.**
* **Water gas** is a combustion fuel containing **carbon monoxide (CO) and hydrogen gas (H2).** Water gas is made by passing steam over heated hydrocarbons. The reaction between steam and hydrocarbons produces synthesis gas. The water-gas shift reaction can be used to reduce carbon dioxide levels and enrich hydrogen content, making water gas. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**
* Specific heat is defined by the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of 1 gram of a substance 1 degree Celsius (°C). **Water has a high specific heat capacity.** This is why water is valuable to industries as a coolant. The high heat capacity of water also helps regulate the rate at which air changes temperature, which is why the temperature change between seasons is gradual rather than sudden, especially near the oceans.
* This same concept can be expanded to a world-wide scale. **Water** surrounding or near cities **take longer to heat up and longer to cool down than do land masses**, so cities near the oceans will tend to have less change and less extreme temperatures than inland cities. This property of water is one reason why states on the coast and in the center of the country can differ so much in temperature patterns. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

**Hence option (c) is the correct answer.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992 does not apply to which of the following Indian states/union territories?**1. Nagaland 2. Mizoram3. Meghalaya 4. KeralaSelect the correct answer using the code given below. |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 2 and 4 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2, 3 and 4 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | * **Article 243M provides that the Part IX does not apply to certain areas:**
	+ Scheduled Areas referred to in clause (1), and the tribal areas referred to in clause (2), of article 244.
	+ the States of **Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram**; **Hence options 1, 2 and 3 are correct.**
	+ the Hill Areas in the State of Manipur for which District Councils exist under any law for the time being in force.
	+ Nothing in this part apply to - relating to Panchayats at the district level shall apply to the hill areas of the District of Darjeeling in the State of West Bengal for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists under any law for the time being in force; shall be construed to affect the functions and powers of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council constituted under such law.
* **Panchayati Raj System in Kerala began with the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act in 1994.**

**Hence option 4 is not correct.** |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **With reference to the Asiatic Cheetahs, consider the following statements:**1. They are listed as "Extinct in The Wild" by IUCN across Asia.
2. They primarily occupy areas with dense vegetation.
3. African Cheetahs are bigger in size as compared to Asiatic Cheetahs.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct? |
| Type | multiple\_choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 3 and 4 only |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | * **Cheetah:** Today, there are estimated to be only **7,100 cheetahs** left in the wild – and their future remains uncertain. Cheetahs have vanished from approximately 90 percent of their historic range in Africa, and are **extinct in Asia except** for a single, isolated population of perhaps 50 individuals **in central Iran.**
* **Population:** Cheetahs are listed as **“Vulnerable”** by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Cheetah has been protected under **Appendix I** of the **CITES** since 1 July 1975 which means commercial international trade in wild-sourced cheetah is prohibited. Cheetahs are listed as “Vulnerable” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, but after a recent study revealed significant population declines, scientists are calling for cheetahs to be uplisted to “Endangered.” **In North Africa and Asia, they are considered “Critically Endangered.” Hence statement 1 is not correct.**
* **Vegetation:** Cheetahs primarily **occupy areas without dense vegetation**. These habitats include deserts, plains or grasslands. Cheetahs **also tend to thrive in savannas and scrubland**. Cheetahs can be found in any wide-open habitat where they can find and hunt prey. Open land without dense vegetation is advantageous to the cheetah because these big cats rely on speed for successful hunting. **Hence statement 2 is not correct.** Cheetahs also **avoid wetlands** where swampy ground would inhibit their speed. Cheetahs will inhabit areas where the ground is covered in thick brush, however, since this type of vegetation provides hiding places but does not prevent swift running.
* **Elevation and Climate:** Cheetahs **prefer a habitat with a dry climate**, since low humidity and rainfall often correspond with a low level of vegetation. Similarly cheetahs tend to live at altitudes above sea level and sometimes occupy sparsely vegetated mountains. **Desert vegetation gives cheetahs adequate protection** in seeking lairs and shade without providing prey with hiding places or preventing cheetahs from reaching their maximum running speeds.
* **Cheetah reintroduction programme in India:** The shortlisted locations for reintroduction of Cheetah include **Kuno-Palpur National Park** in Sheopur, **Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary** in Damoh, **Madhav National Park** in Shivpuri and **Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary** in Mandsaur. Kuno-Palpur was, in fact, chosen for Gir lions also.
* **Differences between African cheetah and Asiatic cheetah**
	+ **African cheetah:** IUCN status– They are **vulnerable** under the IUCN Red List. Distribution– Around 6,500-7,000 African cheetahs present in the wild. Characteristics– They **are bigger in size as compared to Asiatic Cheetah**. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Asiatic cheetah:** IUCN status– The Asiatic cheetah is classified as a **“critically endangered”** species by the IUCN Red List. Status in India– The Asiatic Cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952. Distribution– They are only 40-50 and found **only in Iran**. Characteristics– Smaller and paler than the African cheetah. The neck is much smaller and longer. It has more fur, a smaller head and a longer neck. Usually, they have red eyes and they have a more cat-like appearance. Asiatic cheetahs mostly prey on medium-sized prey like goitered gazelle, wild sheep and goats, cape hares, and chinkara. The Asiatic cheetah’s habitat is not as diverse as the African continent. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | “Membrane Bioreactors” are often discussed in the context of : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Assisted reproductive technologies |
| Option | Drug delivery nanotechnologies |
| Option | Vaccine production technologies |
| Option | Wastewater treatment technologies |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution |  |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Indian economy,“Collateral Borrowing and Lending Obligations” are the instruments of :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Bond market |
| Option | Forex market |
| Option | Money market |
| Option | Stock market  |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | A collateralized borrowing and lending obligation (CBLO) is a money market instrument that represents an obligation between a borrower and a lender concerning the terms and conditions of a loan |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | the numiber of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year. |
| Option | the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population. |
| Option | the birth rate minus death rate. |
| Option | the average number of live births 2 woman would have by the end of herchild-bearing age. |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | The total fertility rate in a specific year is defined as the total number of children that would be born to each woman if she were to live to the end of her child-bearing years and give birth to children in alignment with the prevailing age-specific fertility rates. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Consider the following statements :** (1) In India, Non-Banking Financial Companies can access the LiquidityAdjustment Facility window  of the Reserve Bank of India. (2) In India, Foreign Institutional Investors can hold the Government Securities (G-Secs). (3) In India, Stock Exchanges can offer separate trading platforms for debts. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 only  |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | A liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) is a tool used in monetary policy, primarily by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), that allows banks to borrow money through repurchase agreements (repos) or to make loans to the RBI through reverse repo agreements.The Reserve Bank regulates and supervises the NBFCs in terms of Chapter III B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The Reserve Bank has put in place a set of directions to regulate the activities of NBFCs under its jurisdiction.According to RBI, non-resident retail investors eligible to invest in government securities under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, can also invest in G-Secs through this platform.NSE will be the first exchange to offer a separate trading platform for debts. Other exchanges like BSE and MCX-SX are awaiting Sebi's clearance to launch debt trading. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities ? 1. Insurance Companics 2. Pension Funds 3. Retail Investors Select the correct answer using the code given below : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only  |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Government bonds are generally considered safer due to backing by the government, offering stability but lower yields. Corporate bonds, on the other hand, often provide higher yields but come with relatively higher risk as they depend on the issuing company's financial health. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following : 1. Exchange-Traded Funds (EETF') 2. Motor vehicles  3. Currency swap Which of the above is/are considered financial instruments ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Financial instruments are assets that can be traded or used for investment purposes. It can be broadly categorized into Equity-based (stocks, representing ownership in a company) and Debt-based (bonds, loans, representing a loan made by an investor to a borrower) securities. They also include Derivatives, Money Market Instruments, Mutual Funds, ETFs, Foreign Exchange and Commodities. Currency swaps are important financial instruments used by banks, investors, and multinational corporations. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the sectors of the Indian economy, consider the following pairs :How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Only one  |
| Option | Only two |
| Option | Only three |
| Option | All four |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | Primary SectorIn Primary sector of economy, activities are undertaken by directly using natural resources. Agriculture, Mining, Fishing, Forestry, Dairy etc. are some examples of this sector.It is called so because it forms the base for all other products. Since most of the natural products we get are from agriculture, dairy, forestry, fishing, it is also called Agriculture and allied sector.People engaged in primary activities are called red-collar workers due to the outdoor nature of their work.Secondary SectorIt includes the industries where finished products are made from natural materials produced in the primary sector. Industrial production, cotton fabric, sugar cane production etc. activities comes under this sector.Hence its the part of a country's economy that manufactures goods, rather than producing raw materials Since this sector is associated with different kinds of industries, it is also called industrial sector. People engaged in secondary activities are called blue collar workers. Examples of manufacturing sector: Small workshops producing pots, artisan production. Mills producing textiles, Factories producing steel, chemicals, plastic, car. Food production such as brewing plants, and food processing. Oil refinery.Tertiary Sector/Service Sector This sector’s activities help in the development of the primary and secondary sectors. By itself, economic activities in tertiary sector do not produce a goods but they are an aid or a support for the production. Goods transported by trucks or trains, banking, insurance, finance etc. come under the sector. It provides the value addition to a product same as secondary sector. This sector jobs are called white collar jobs. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following materials:1. Agricultural residues2. Corn grain3. Wastewater treatment sludge4. Wood mill wasteWhich of the above can be used as feedstock for producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 3 and 4 only |
| Option | 1, 2, 3 and 4 |
| Option | 1,3 and 4 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | Sustainable Aviation Fuel is integral to the strategy adopted by the aviation industry to go net-zero by 2050. It is essentially a biofuel, and biofuels can be produced by all the above feedstocks as all of them have organic content. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to physical capital in Indian economy, consider the following pairs :How many of the above pairs are correctly matched ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Only one  |
| Option | Only two |
| Option | Only three |
| Option | All four |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | Computer is a fixed capital. Fixed capital is a concept in economics and accounting, first theoretically analyzed in some depth by the economist David Ricardo. It refers to any kind of real or physical capital (fixed asset) that is not used up in the production of a product.Farmer's plough is an example of fixed capital factor of production.Machines and office furniture are fixed capital which can be used again and again for further production. It is also known as the durable use of producer goods. Raw material and fuel are circulating capital which is used only once in production.Production requires a variety of raw materials such as the yarn used by the weaver and the clay used by the potter. Also, some money is always required during production to make payments and buy other necessary items. Raw materials and money in hand are called working capital. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual worlds that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items” ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Bigdata analytics  |
| Option | Cryptography |
| Option | Metaverse |
| Option | Virtual matrix  |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | The metaverse refers to an immersive and persistent three-dimensional virtual realm, shared with many users, that spans various digital platforms and merges with the physical world, where people can shop, work, play and hang out together in real time. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the rule/rules imposed by the Reserve Bank of India while treating foreign banks, consider the following statements : 1. There is no minimum capital requirement for wholly owned banking subsidiaries in India. 2. For wholly owned banking subsidiaries .in India, at least 50% of the board members should be Indian nationals. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | The minimum net worth of the WOS on conversion would not be less than Rs. 3 billion and the WOS will be required to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio of 10 per cent of the risk weighted assets or as may be prescribed from time to time on a continuous basis.The composition of the board of directors of WOS should meet the following requirements: a) not less than 51 percent of the total number of members of the board of directors shall consist of persons as defined under Section 10A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; b) not less than two-third of the directors should be non-executive directors; c) not less than one-third of the directors should be independent of the management of the subsidiary in India, its parent and any subsidiary or other associate of the foreign bank parent; d) not less than 50 per cent directors should be Indian nationals/NRIs/PIOs subject to the condition that one-third of the directors are Indian nationals resident in India. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider reference to Corporate the following statements : 1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities. 2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | Any activity benefitting employees of the company is not consideredas eligible CSR activity. As per the rule, any activity designedexclusively for the benefit of employees shall be considered as an"activity benefitting employees" and will not qualify as permissibleCSR expenditure.Companies are required to spend a minimum of 2% of their net profitover the preceding three years as CSR. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements : Statement-I : If the United States of America (USA) were to default on its debt, holders of US Treasury Bonds will not be able to exercise their claims to receive payment. Statement-II : The USA Government debt is not backed by any hard assets, but only by the faith of the Government. Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-Il explains. |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain. |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect. |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct. |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution |  |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements : Statement-I : Syndicated lending spreads the risk of borrower default across multiple lenders.  Statement-II : The syndicated loan can be a fixed amount/lump sum of funds, but cannot be a credit line. Which one- of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | A syndicated loan is a form of financing that is offered by a group of lenders. Syndicated loans arise when a project requires too large a loan for a single lender or when a project needs a specialized lender with expertise in a specific asset class.Syndicating allows lenders to spread risk and take part in financial opportunities that may be too large for their individual capital base. Lenders are referred to as a syndicate, which works together to provide funds for a single borrower. The borrower can be a corporation, a large project, or a sovereign government. The loan can involve a fixed amount of funds, a credit line, or a combination of the two. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee : 1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Bank of India (RBI) in alignment with its monetary policy.  2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet. 3. Itisinsured against inflation by its very design. 4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash. Which of the statements given above are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 2 and 4 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 4 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution |  |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to ancient/Tndia, Gautama Buddha was generally known-by which, of the. followiAng epithets ?  1. Nayaputta 2. Shakyamuni 3. Tathagata Select the correct answer using the code given below : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,2and3 |
| Option | None of the above are epithets of Gautama Buddha |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | Epithet, adjective or phrase that is used to express a characteristic of a person or thing,  1. Surviving early Jain and Buddhist literature uses several names (or epithets) for Mahavira, including Nayaputta, Muni, Samana, Nigantha, Brahman, and Bhagavan  2. **Shakyamuni,** epithet applied to Gautama Buddha.  3. Tathagata, (Sanskrit and Pali), one of the titles of a buddha and the one most frequently employed by the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, when referring to himself. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following information :

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|  | **Archaeological Site** | **State** | **Description** |
| **1** | Chandraketugarh |  Odisha | Trading Port town |
| **2** | Inamgaon | Maharashtra | Chalcolithic site |
| **3** | Mangadu | Kerala | Megalithic site |
| **4** | Salihundam | Andhra Pradesh | Rock-cut cave shrines |

In which of the above rows is the given |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2  |
| Option | 2 and 3 |
| Option | 3 and 4 |
| Option | 1 and 4 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution |  **A.** **Chandraketugarh is an archaeological site located in the state of West Bengal, India.** It is famous for its rich historical significance and extensive archaeological remains that span several periods of ancient Indian history. Here are the key aspects that make Chandraketugarh notable: 1. Historical Significance: The site provides valuable insights into the early historic period of Bengal, dating back to the Mauryan and pre-Mauryan periods (around 3rd century BCE) and extending through the Sunga, Kushana, Gupta, and Pala periods. 2. Archaeological Finds: Excavations at Chandraketugarh have revealed a wealth of artifacts, including terracotta figurines, pottery, beads, coins, seals, and sculptures. These artifacts reflect the artistic, economic, and cultural activities of the region over centuries. 3. Terracotta Art: The site is particularly renowned for its exquisite terracotta art, which includes intricate figurines and panels depicting various deities, animals, and scenes from daily life. These terracottas are considered among the finest examples of ancient Indian craftsmanship. 4. Coins and Seals: A variety of coins and seals have been discovered at Chandraketugarh, indicating its importance as a trade and administrative center. These include coins from the Mauryan, Sunga, Kushana, and Gupta periods, providing evidence of the region's economic prosperity and connections with other parts of India and beyond. 5. Urban Settlement: The remains suggest that Chandraketugarh was a well-planned urban settlement with a fortified structure, indicating its strategic importance and advanced urban planning during ancient times.6. Cultural Influence: The artifacts and structures found at Chandraketugarh show a blend of various cultural influences, reflecting the cosmopolitan nature of the settlement and its role as a melting pot of different cultures and traditions. B. Inamgaon is an important archaeological site located in the Pune district of Maharashtra, India. It is particularly famous for its significance in understanding the Chalcolithic (Copper Age) period in the Indian subcontinent. Here are the key aspects that make Inamgaon notable: 1. Chalcolithic Settlement: Inamgaon is one of the most extensively excavated Chalcolithic sites in India, providing critical insights into the lifestyle, economy, and culture of the Chalcolithic communities that thrived in the Deccan region. 2. Agricultural Practices: The site offers evidence of advanced agricultural practices, including the cultivation of crops such as wheat, barley, lentils, peas, and millet. It also provides information about the domestication of animals like cattle, sheep, and goats. 3. Settlement Patterns: Excavations at Inamgaon have revealed the layout of the settlement, including residential structures, storage pits, and burial sites. The settlement was well-planned, with distinct areas for living, working, and burial, indicating a high level of social organization. 4. Artifacts: A variety of artifacts have been discovered at Inamgaon, including pottery, tools, ornaments, and figurines. These artifacts shed light on the technological advancements, artistic expressions, and daily life of the Chalcolithic people. 5. Burial Practices: The site is renowned for its well-preserved burial sites, which include extended burials, urn burials, and secondary burials. The burial goods found with the skeletons, such as pottery, beads, and tools, provide valuable information about the social and ritual practices of the community. 6. Architectural Remains: The excavation has unearthed remains of mud houses with thatched roofs, granaries, and other structures, giving a clear picture of the architectural techniques and settlement planning of the time. 7. Environmental Adaptation: Studies of the site have shown how the inhabitants adapted to their environment, including their strategies for water management and agricultural sustainability. This includes evidence of seasonal occupation, suggesting a well-adapted lifestyle to the semi-arid climate of the region. 8. Cultural Insights: The findings at Inamgaon provide a glimpse into the cultural life of the Chalcolithic people, including their dietary habits, trade relations, and craft specialization. Overall, Inamgaon is a key site for understanding the Chalcolithic period in India, offering extensive data on the agricultural, social, and cultural practices of ancient communities in the Deccan region. C. Mangadu, in Kerala is a newly discovered prehistoric site where megaliths are found in large numbers. The date of the Mangadu megaliths is approximately from 1000 B.C. to 100 B.C Shaped like a hat or a an umbrella these megaliths found in various parts of Kerala, including Mangadu are known as topikals meaning 'hat stone' and as kudaikals which mean 'umbrella stone' because of their shape. The stones used in these megaliths were laterite and it was available close by this site. The topikals were prepared by first digging a pit and placing four stones vertically in it and then covering it with a circular stone, thus making it look like a cap or hat. The burial urns were kept beneath in an underground hole. The kudikals were also made in a similar manner, but with the small difference that the stone, which was kept on top, was big which resulted in an umbrella-like appearance. D. Salihundam is an important archaeological site located on the banks of the Vamsadhara River in the Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, India. It is famous for the following reasons: Buddhist Monastic Complex: Salihundam is renowned for its extensive Buddhist remains, which include stupas, viharas (monasteries), chaityas (prayer halls), and numerous sculptures. The site provides valuable insights into the spread of Buddhism in the region from the 2nd century BCE to the 12th century CE. Stupas: The site is particularly noted for its well-preserved stupas. These are dome-shaped structures that co tain relics and are used as places of meditation. The main stupa at Salihundam is a significant attraction and is surrounded by smaller stupas and other Buddhist structures. Architectural Significance: The architecture at Salihundam reflects the influence of various periods and styles, including early Hinayana (Theravada) and later Mahayana and Vajrayana (Tantric) phases of Buddhism. This diversity in architectural styles indicates the site's long period of occupation and its importance as a center of Buddhist learning and practice. Sculptures and Inscriptions: Numerous sculptures and inscriptions have been discovered at Salihundam, depicting various Buddhist deities and scenes from the life of Buddha. These artifacts provide important information about the religious and cultural practices of the time. Cultural and Historical Importance: Salihundam played a crucial role in the history of Buddhism in South India. The site is believed to have been a major center for Buddhist learning and pilgrimage. The presence of numerous monastic structures suggests that it was a thriving community of monks and scholars. Tourism and Research: Today, Salihundam attracts tourists, historians, and archaeologists. The site is managed by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and is a significant location for understanding the spread and influence of Buddhism in southern India. Salihundam's rich archaeological remains make it a key site for studying the history and development of Buddhism in the region, showcasing the architectural and cultural achievements of ancient Buddhist communities. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Who of the following rulers of medieval India gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Krishnadevaraya |
| Option | Narasimha Saluva  |
| Option | Muhammad Shah III |
| Option | Yusuf Adil Shah |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | The ruler of medieval India who gave permission to the Portuguese to build a fort at Bhatkal was the Vijayanagara Emperor Krishnadevaraya. Bhatkal is located in present-day Karnataka, India, and during Krishnadevaraya's reign (1509-1529), the Portuguese were actively seeking permission from local rulers to establish forts and trading posts along the Indian coast. This was part of their strategy to expand their influence and trade networks in the region. Krishnadevaraya's granting of permission to build a fort at Bhatkal reflects the complex interactions between Indian rulers and European powers during the Age of Exploration. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements : 1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of bad harvests or natural calamities. 2. Under the Permanent Settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both l and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | Ryotwari settlement ;- This system of land revenue was instituted in the late 18th century by Sir Thomas Munro, Governor of Madras in 1820. This was practised in the Madras and Bombay areas, as well as Assam and Coorg provinces. In this system, the peasants or cultivators were regarded as the owners of the land. They had ownership rights, could sell, mortgage or gift the land. The taxes were directly collected by the government from the peasants. Features of the Permanent Settlement Landlords or Zamindars were recognised as the owners of the land. They were given hereditary rights of succession of the lands under them. The Zamindars could sell or transfer the land as they wished. The Zamindars’ proprietorship would stay as long as he paid the fixed revenue at the said date to the government. If they failed to pay, their rights would cease to exist and the land would be auctioned off. The amount to be paid by the landlords was fixed. It was agreed that this would not increase in future (permanent). The fixed amount was 10/11th portion of the revenue for the government and 1/10th was for the Zamindar. This tax rate was way higher than the prevailing rates in England. The Zamindar also had to give the tenant a patta which described the area of the land given to him and the rent he had to pay the landlord. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements " : 1. There are no parables in Upanishads. 2. Upanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas. Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both l and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | **1. The Upanishads,** which are ancient Indian philosophical texts forming the concluding part of the Vedas, primarily contain dialogues, teachings, and discussions on metaphysical and spiritual topics rather than parables in the conventional sense found in Western literature. However, within these dialogues and teachings, there are several allegorical and metaphorical stories that convey deeper spiritual truths and principles. These can be considered akin to parables in other religious and philosophical traditions.  2. Here are a few examples from the Upanishads that are often interpreted allegorically:  **3. The Story of Indra and Prajapati:** In the Chandogya Upanishad, there is a story where the god Indra approaches Prajapati, the creator deity, seeking knowledge of the ultimate reality (Brahman). Prajapati uses various symbols and allegories to teach Indra about the nature of the self (Atman) and Brahman.  **4. The Two Birds:** In the Mundaka Upanishad, there is a famous allegory of two birds sitting on the same tree: one bird eats the fruits (symbolizing the individual soul enjoying the fruits of actions), while the other simply observes without eating (symbolizing the witnessing consciousness or higher self).  **5. The City of Nine Gates:** In the Katha Upanishad, there is a description of the body as a city with nine gates (eyes, ears, nostrils, mouth, anus, and urethra), guarded by the Atman (the Self) dwelling within. relationship between the individual soul and the divine. While they may not be structured in the same narrative style as parables found in other religious texts, they fulfill a similar role in conveying spiritual wisdom through symbolic storytelling.This allegory illustrates the relationship between the physical body and the eternal self.  **6. The Teaching of Nachiketa:** In the Katha Upanishad, Nachiketa, a young seeker of knowledge, engages in a dialogue with Yama, the lord of death. Through this dialogue, profound truths about life, death, and the eternal self (Atman) are conveyed.  7. These allegorical stories and teachings within the Upanishads serve to illustrate abstract philosophical concepts and provide deeper insights into the nature of reality, the self, and theUpanishads were composed earlier than the Puranas. The Upanishads are ancient Indian philosophical texts that are considered the concluding part of the Vedas, which are among the oldest scriptures of Hinduism. They were composed between 800 BCE to 400 BCE, though some may have been composed slightly earlier or later. The Puranas are a genre of ancient Indian texts that came into existence later than the Upanishads. They were composed over a longer period, from around 300 BCE to 1500 CE, with different Puranas being composed at different times within this span. Puranas are characterized by their narrative style, containing myths, legends, genealogies of gods and goddesses, cosmology, geography, and descriptions of rituals and religious practices. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements:1. India is a member of the International Grains Council.2. A country needs to be a member of (lie InternationalGrains Council for exporting or importing rice andwheat.Which of the statements given above is/are correct? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both l and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | Statement 2 is wrong: A country needs not to be a member ofthe International Grains Council for exporting or importingrice and wheat. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which one of the following was the latest inclusion in the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Chhaudance |
| Option | Durga puja |
| Option | Garba dance |
| Option | Kumbh mela |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage from India includes fifteen examples (all are intangible cultural heritage). The latest cultural heritage included in the list is Garba, a tradition dance form from Gujarat. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Who was the Provisional President of the Constituent Assembly before Dr. Rajendra Prasad took over ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | C.Rajagopalachari |
| Option | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar  |
| Option | T.T.Krishnamachari |
| Option | Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | The Constitution was framed by the Constituent Assembly of India, established by the members of the provincial assemblies elected by the people of India. Dr Sachidanand Sinha was the first & temporary president of the Constituent Assembly. Later, Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected its president. Dr BR Ambedkar, the chairman of its Drafting Committee, is considered the chief architect of the Indian Constitution which provides a comprehensive and dynamic framework to guide and govern the country, keeping in view her unique social, cultural and religious diversity. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Government of India Act, 1935, consider the following statements :  1. It provided for the establishment of an All India Federation based on the union of the British Indian Provinces and Princely States.  2. Defence and Foreign Affairs were kept under the control of the federal legislature.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | All India Federation:The Act established an All-India Federation, comprising British Indian Provinces and Indian States. The conditions for a state to join the federation were specified in the Instrument of Accession. It was at the discretion of each state to decide whether or not to join the federation. For the federation to be formed, a minimum of 50% of the Indian states needed to opt to join. However, the provisions for the federation were not fully implemented due to a lack of participation from the required number of princely states.Reserved Subjects:The Reserved Subjects category included subjects that were to be administered by the Governor-General on the advice of the Executive Councillors. The Executive Council was limited to a maximum of three members. Examples of reserved subjects included religious affairs, defence, administration of tribal areas, and external affairs. The Governor-General retained ultimate authority over the administration of these subjects. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which one of the following is, a work attributed to playwright Bhasa ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Kavyalankara |
| Option | Natyashastra |
| Option | Madhyama-vyayoga |
| Option | Mahabhashya |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | The work "Kavyalankara" is traditionally attributed to Bhamaha (also known as Bhāmaha), an ancient Indian scholar and literary critic. He is considered one of the pioneers in the field of Alankara Shastra (the study of poetic ornamentation) in Sanskrit literature. "Bhamaha's Kavyalankara" is an important text in Indian literary theory, where he discusses various aspects of poetic composition, aesthetics, and the use of figures of speech (alankaras) in poetry. It lays down principles for creating beautiful and effective poetry, influencing subsequent literary works and critics in both Sanskrit and other Indian languages. Bhamaha's "Kavyalankara" is regarded as a foundational text in the development of literary criticism in ancient India and continues to be studied for its insights into poetic techniques and aesthetic principles.The Natyashastra (also spelled as Natya Shastra) is an ancient Indian treatise on the performing arts, particularly drama, dance, and music. It is traditionally attributed to Bharata Muni, an ancient sage and scholar who is believed to have lived sometime between the 2nd century BCE and the 2nd century CE. The Natyashastra is an extensive work that covers various aspects of theatrical performance, including stage design, costumes, makeup, gestures (mudras), vocal techniques, musical instruments, and the psychology of actors and audience. It provides detailed instructions for the construction and performance of dramatic works, aiming to codify and systematize the art of drama as it was practiced in ancient India. This seminal text not only influenced the development of classical Indian performing arts but also had a profound impact on Indian aesthetics, philosophy, and cultural practices. It continues to be studied and revered as a foundational work in the field of performing arts in India and beyond.The Mahābhāshya (meaning "Great Commentary") is an ancient Sanskrit treatise on grammar written by the scholar Patañjali. Patañjali is renowned for his contributions to various fields, including grammar, yoga, and Indian philosophy. His Mahābhāshya is a comprehensive commentary on the foundational text of Panini's Asthādhyāyī, which is considered the most authoritative and systematic exposition of Sanskrit grammar.The work "Madhyama-Vyayoga" is attributed to the ancient Indian playwright Bhasa. Bhasa is considered one of the earliest and most influential playwrights in Sanskrit literature, believed to have lived sometime between the 3rd century BCE and the 3rd century CE. He is renowned for his dramatic compositions, which include both comedies and tragedies."Madhyama-Vyayoga," also known as "The Middle One," is one of Bhasa's surviving plays. It is a satirical comedy that parodies the conventions and characters of traditional Sanskrit drama, offering insights into ancient Indian social and cultural life. Bhasa's works are valued not only for their literary merit but also for their portrayal of the diversity and depth of ancient Indian dramatic tradition. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Sanghabhuti, an Indian Buddhist monk, who travelled to China at the end of the fourth century AD, was the author of a commentary on : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Prajnaparamita Sutra |
| Option | Visuddhimagga |
| Option | Sarvastivada Vinaya |
| Option | Lalitavistara |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | 1. Nagarjuna was also termed as the Indian Einstein. He proposed the Theory of Relativity in his time in the form of a Sutra which is also called as the Prajna Parimata Sutra. He was a great patron of Mahayana doctrine.  2. Visuddhimagga, encyclopedic and masterful summary and exposition of the teaching of the Mahavihara school of Theravada Buddhism. It was written during the reign of the Sri Lankan king Mahanama in the 5th century CE by the great Buddhist commentator Buddhaghosa.  3. The Lalitavistara Sūtra is a Buddhist scripture that narrates the life of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as Buddha. It describes his birth, early life, spiritual journey, enlightenment, and teachings. The authorship of the Lalitavistara Sūtra is traditionally attributed to a collective effort of the Mahasanghika school of early Buddhism. It is considered one of the most important texts in the Mahayana Buddhist tradition, offering a detailed account of the Buddha's life and emphasizing his qualities as a Bodhisattva prior to his enlightenment. As with many ancient Buddhist texts, the exact authorship of the Lalitavistara Sūtra is uncertain, as it was likely composed and transmitted orally before being written down. It represents the collective wisdom and teachings of early Buddhist communities who revered and preserved stories of the Buddha's life and teachings. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following properties included in the World Heritage List veleased by UNESCO :  1. Shantiniketan 2. Rani-ki-Vav  3, Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas 4. Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodhgaya  How many of the above properties were included in 2028 ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Only one |
| Option | Only two |
| Option | Only three |
| Option | All four |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | In September 2023, 12th-century Hoysala Temples of Karnataka were included in the list by UNESCO.In September 2023, Santiniketan, West Bengal, was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO.27th July 2021 – Dholavira, Harappan City in the Rann of Kutchh, becomes India’s 40th UNESCO World Heritage Site.25th July 2021 – UNESCO has inscribed the Rudreswara Temple (Ramappa Temple) at Palampet, Warangal, Telangana on the List of World Heritage Sites. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | As per Article 368 of the Constitution of India, the Parliament may amend any provision of the Constitution by way of :  1. Addition 2. Variation 3. Repeal  Select the correct answer using the code given below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article.(2) An amendment of this Constitution may be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament, and when the Bill is passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting, it shall be presented to the President who shall give his assent to the Bill and thereupon] the Constitution shall stand amended in accordance with the terms of the Bill: Provided that if such amendment seeks to make any change in— (a) article 54, article 55, article 73, article 162, article 241 or article 279A; or (b) Chapter IV of Part V, Chapter V of Part VI, or Chapter I of Part XI; or (c) any of the Lists in the Seventh Schedule; or (d) the representation of States in Parliament; or (e) the provisions of this article,the amendment shall also require to be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the Bill making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent.(3) Nothing in article 13 shall apply to any amendment made under this article.(4) No amendment of this Constitution (including the provisions of Part III) made or purporting to have been made under this article whether before or after the commencement of section 55 of the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976 shall be called in question in any court on any ground.(5) For the removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that there shall be no limitation whatever on the constituent power of Parliament to amend by way of addition, variation or repeal the provisions of this Constitution under this article. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following countries:1. Italy2. Japan3. Nigeria4. South Korea5. South AfricaWhich of the above countries are frequently mentioned in themedia for their low birth rates, or ageing population ordeclining population?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1, 2 and 4 |
| Option | 1, 3 and 5 |
| Option | 2 and 4 only |
| Option | 3 and 5 only |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | Median Age of Population of Japan is 49.5.Median Age of Population of Italy is 48.1.Median Age of Population of South Korea is 45.The above countries are experiencing a rapidly ageingpopulation and also sometimes reducing population.While the Median Age of Population of South Africa is 30and that of Nigeria is 19.1. These countries are experiencingrapidly rising population. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which of the following statements are corfect in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament ?  1. Article 109 mentions /special procedure in respect of Money Bills.  2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.  3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it.  4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha. Select the answer using the code given below : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Option | 1,3 and 4 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | Article 109 in Constitution of India 109. Special procedure in respect of Money Bills(1) A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.(2) After a Money Bill has been passed by the House of the People it shall be transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations and the Council of States shall within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the Bill return the Bill to the House of the People with its recommendations and the House of the People may thereupon either accept or reject all or any of the recommendations of the Council of States.(3) If the House of the People accepts any of the recommendations of the Council of States, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses with the amendments recommended by the Council of States and accepted by the House of the People.(4) If the House of the People does not accept any of the recommendations of the Council of States, the Money Bill shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form in which it was passed by the House of the People without any of the amendments recommended by the Council of States.(5) If a Money Bill passed by the House of the People and transmitted to the Council of States for its recommendations is not returned to the House of the People within the said period of fourteen days, it shall be deemed to have been passed by both Houses at the expiration of the said period in the form in which it was passed by the House of the People.Article 110 in Constitution of India110. Definition of "Money Bills"(1) For the purposes of this Chapter, a Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters, namely:-- (a) the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax; (b) the regulation of the borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India, or the amendment of the law with respect to any financial obligations undertaken or to be undertaken by the Government of India; (c) the custody of the Consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of moneys from any such Fund; (d)the appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India; (e) the declaring of any expenditure to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure; (f) the receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a State; or (g) any matter incidental to any of the matters specified in sub-clauses (a) to (f).(2) A Bill shall not be deemed to be a Money Bill by reason only that it provides for the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or for the demand or payment of fees for licences or fees for services rendered, or by reason that it provides for the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes.(3) If any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the House of the People thereon shall be final.(4) There shall be endorsed on every Money Bill when it is transmit led to the Council of States under article 109, and when it is presented to the President for assent under article 111, the certificate of the Speaker of the House of the People signed by him that it is a Money Bill.Article 117 in Constitution of India117. Special provisions as to financial Bills(1) A Bill or amendment making provision for any of the matters specified in sub-clauses (a) to (f) of clause (1) of article 110 shall not be introduced or moved except on the recommendation of the President and a Bill making such provision shall not be introduced in the Council of States:Provided that no recommendation shall be required under this clause for the moving of an amendment making provision for the reduction or abolition of any tax.(2) A Bill or amendment shall not be deemed to make provision for any of the matters aforesaid by reason only that it provides for the imposition of fines or other pecuniary penalties, or for the demand or payment of fees for licences or fees for services rendered, or by reason that it provides for the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax by any local authority or body for local purposes.(3) A Bill which, if enacted and brought into operation, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India shall not be passed by either House of Parliament unless the President has recommended to that House the consideration of the Bill. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which of the following is/are correctly matched in terms of equivalent rank in the three services of Indian Defence forces ?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Army | Airforce | Navy |
| 1 | Brigadier | Air Commodore | Commander |
| 2 | Major General | Air Vice Marshal | Vice Admiral |
| 3 | Major | Squadron Leader | Lieutenant Commander |
| 4 | Lieutenant Colonel | Group Captain  | Captain  |

Select the correct answer using the code given below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l and 4 |
| Option | l and 3 |
| Option | 2,3 and 4 |
| Option | 3 only  |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Air Force** | **Army** | **Navy** |
| Marshal of the Indian Airforce | Feilo Marsha | Admiral of the Fleet |
| Alr Cheit Marshal | General | Admiral |
| Air Marshall | Lieutenant General Antty Consmodiore/VCOASI | Vice Admiral/FOC--C/VONSE |
| Air Vice Marshall | Lieutenant General | Vice Admiral |
| Air Commodore | Brigadier | Captain |
| Group Captain | Colonel | Captain |
| Wing Commander | Lieutenant Colonel | Commarider |
| **Squadron Leader** | **Major** | **Lieutenant Commandes** |
| Flight Lieutenant | Captain | Lieutenant |
| Flying Officer | Lieutenant | Sub Lieutenant |
| Flight cadet |  |  |

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| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | The, Nerth Eastern Council (NEC): was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 1971, Subsequent to the amendment of NEC 8. Act in 20024 the Council comprises which of the following members ?  1. Governor of the Constituent State  2. Chief Minister of the Constituent State  3. Three Members to be nominated by the President of India  4. The Home Minister of India  Select the correct answer using the code given ' . below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,3 and 4 only |
| Option | 2 and 4 only |
| Option | 1,2,3 and 4 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Formation of North Eastern CouncilThe North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act 1971 as an advisory body for the socioeconomic and balanced development of the North-Eastern Areas. The Council commenced its functioning in 1972. NEC members include the Governors and Chief Ministers of the 8 states, including Sikkim, the Chairman, and 3 members nominated by the President. Over the past 35 years, the NEC has significantly promoted new economic ventures in the northeast part of India. Its activities aim to overcome the region's development obstacles, offering hope in this potentially rich but previously underdeveloped area.Objectives of North Eastern CouncilThe following are the chief objectives of the North Eastern Council:To ensure balanced, integrated, and sustainable development of the North Eastern Region.To prepare and coordinate an integrated plan to meet the infrastructure requirements of the North Eastern Region.To provide adequate social and economic development opportunities to the people of the North Eastern Region.To aggressively promote infrastructure and other development activities in the North Eastern Region.To assist in developing an Institute of national importance in the North Eastern region.To ensure proper integration of the North Eastern Region with mainland India.North Eastern Council: CompositionThe North Eastern Council shall consist of the following members:All the governors and Chief Ministers of the 8 North Eastern states.3 members of the North Eastern Council were nominated by the President of India.The Union Home Minister acts as the ex-officio chairman of the North Eastern Council.The Minister of State (Independent charge) of the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is the ex-officer Vice-chairman of the North Eastern Council. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | How many Delimitation Comimissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023 ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | One |
| Option | Two |
| Option | Three |
| Option | Four |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | The first delimitation exercise was conducted by the Indian President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51. The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952. There have been four Delimitation Commissions: 1952 1963 1972 2002There were no such commissions after the census in 1991 and 1981. **Delimitation Commission**The Delimitation Commission is a high-level body set up by an act of the Parliament.It is appointed by the country’s President.It works in tandem with the Election Commission of India.Delimitation Commission Members:A retired judge of the Supreme CourtThe Chief Election CommissionerState Election Commissioners (of the respective states)Functions of Delimitation CommissionThe Delimitation Commission is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law. Its orders cannot be questioned in a court of law. The copies of the orders are laid before the Lok Sabha and the legislative assemblies concerned, but no change is permitted in them.The Delimitation Commission has to determine the number and boundaries of constituencies in such a manner that the population of all seats is the same, as far as possible practically.The Commission also identifies the seats to be reserved for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities, in areas where their population is significant.If the members of the Commission have differing opinions, then the decision of the majority will be taken into consideration.The Commission releases draft proposals to the public through the Gazette of India and the official gazettes of states, and also in regional language newspapers.It also conducts public sittings wherein the public’s opinion is heard through written or oral representations.If found appropriate, changes are made to the draft proposal.The final order is published in the Gazettes and comes into effect by a date specified by the President. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages ?  1. Konkani  2. Manipuri  3. Nepali  4. Maithili  Select the correct answer using the code given below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Option | 1,2 and 4 |
| Option | 1,3 and 4 |
| Option | 2,3 and 4 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | There are 22 languages that have been recognized in the eighth schedule of the Indian constitution.Part XVII of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages of India from articles 343 to 351.Originally, only 14 languages were mentioned and later, after several amendments, the other languages were added. The Sindhi language was added in the 8th schedule by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967.Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992.Bodo, Dongri, Maithili, and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.In all the 22 official languages the Hindi language is spoken by most of Indians. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following pairs :  Party Its Leader.  1. Bharatiya Jana Sangh Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee  2. Socialist Party C. Rajagopalachari  3. Congress for Democracy Jagjivan Ram  4. Swatantra Party Acharya Narendra Dev How many of the above are correctly matched ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Only one |
| Option | Only two |
| Option | Only three |
| Option | All four |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution |  |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which of the following statements are correct about the Constitution of India ?  1. Powers of the Municipalities are given in Part IX A of the Constitution.  2. Emergency provisions are given in Part XVIII of the Constitution.  3. Provisions related to the amendment of the Constitution are given in Part XX of the Constitution.  Select the answer using the code given below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | Part IXA of the Constitution was inserted by the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Act, 1992. It contains provisions for local self government at the urban level.Part XVIII of the Constitution contains provisions for emergency situations, including national, localised and financial emergencies.Part-xx Article 368 (1) of the Constitution of India grants constituent power to make formal amendments and empowers Parliament to amend the Constitution by way of addition, variation or repeal of any provision according to the procedure laid down therein, which is different from the procedure for ordinary legislation. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which one of the following statements is correct as per the Constitution of India ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Inter-State trade and commerce is a State subject under the State List. |
| Option | Inter-State migration is a State subject. under the State List. |
| Option | Inter-State-quarantine is a Union subject under the Union List. |
| Option | Corporation tax is a State subject under the State List. |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | Inter-State trade and commerce.Interstate migration comes under the seventh schedule of the Constitution, List I (Union List), entrusting the authority to the central government. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India, has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Article 15 |
| Option | Article 16 |
| Option | Article 19 |
| Option | Article 21 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | few important cases concerned with Article 21:AK Gopalan Case (1950): Until the 1950s, Article 21 had a bit of a narrow scope. In this case, the SC held that the expression ‘procedure established by law’, the Constitution has embodied the British concept of personal liberty rather than the American ‘due process’.Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India Case (1978): This case overturned the Gopalan case judgement. Here, the SC said that Articles 19 and 21 are not watertight compartments. The idea of personal liberty in Article 21 has a wide scope including many rights, some of which are embodied under Article 19, thus giving them ‘additional protection’. The court also held that a law that comes under Article 21 must satisfy the requirements under Article 19 as well. That means any procedure under law for the deprivation of life or liberty of a person must not be unfair, unreasonable or arbitrary. Read the Maneka Gandhi case in detail in the linked article.Francis Coralie Mullin vs. Union Territory of Delhi (1981): In this case, the court held that any procedure for the deprivation of life or liberty of a person must be reasonable, fair and just and not arbitrary, whimsical or fanciful.Olga Tellis vs. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985): This case reiterated the stand taken earlier that any procedure that would deprive a person’s fundamental rights should conform to the norms of fair play and justice.Unni Krishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh (1993): In this case, the SC upheld the expanded interpretation of the right to life.The Court gave a list of rights that Article 21 covers based on earlier judgments. Some of them are: Right to privacy Right to go abroad Right to shelter Right against solitary confinement Right to social justice and economic empowerment Right against handcuffing Right against custodial death Right against delayed execution Doctors’ assistance Right against public hanging Protection of cultural heritage Right to pollution-free water and air Right of every child to a full development Right to health and medical aid Right to education Protection of under-trials |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | What are the duties of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) ag Head of the Department of Military Affairs ?  1. Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee  2. Exercise military commang over the three Service Chiefs  3. Principal Military Advisor to Defence Minister on all tri-service matters  Select the correct answer using the code given below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Statement 2 is wrong (CDS will not exercise any military command, including over the three Service Chiefs, so as to be able to provide impartial advice to the political leadership.) |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Operations undertaken by the Army towards upliftment of the local population in remote areas to include addressing of their basic needs is called: |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Operation Sankalp |
| Option | Operation Maitri |
| Option | Operation Sadbhavana |
| Option | Operation Madad |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | As part of ‘Operation SADBHAVANA’, Indian Army is undertaking multiple welfare activities such as running of Army Goodwill Schools, Infrastructure Development Projects and Education Tours etc. for the children living in remote areas of Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh. To improve the standard of education and to provide them with quality education, Indian Army is presently running seven (07) Army Goodwill Schools (AGS) under ‘Operation SADBHAVANA’ in Ladakh Region. More than 2,200 Students are currently studying in these schools. The funds are being utilised for various activities like Human Resource/Skill Development, Sports, Healthcare, National Integration, Infrastructure Development, Ecology, Environment and Education. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | The longest border between any two countries in the world is between: |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Canada and the United States of America |
| Option | Chile and Argentina |
| Option | China and India |
| Option | Kazakhstan and Russian Federation |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | The international land border between the United States and Canada is the longest in the world at almost 8,900 kilometers. It includes the border between Canada and the continental U.S. as well as the border between Alaska and northern Canada. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | **Which of the following statements about the Ethics Committee in the Lok Sabha are correct**?1. Initially it was an ad-hoc Committee2. Only a Member of the Lok Sabha can make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of the Lok Sabha.3. This Committee (cannot) take up any matter which is sub-judice. Select the answer using the code given below: |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1, 2 and 3 |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | ● Statement 1 is correct: During the sixteenth Lok Sabha, the Ethics Committee was constituted. Prior to this, it was a ad-hoc committee● Statement 2 is incorrect: Any person or Member of Parliament can make a complaint relating to unethical conduct of a member of parliament.● Statement 3 is correct: The Committee on Ethics shall not take up any matter which is sub-judice and the decision of the Committee as to whether such matter is or is not sub-judice shall for the purposes of these rules be treated as final. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements regarding ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’:  1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.  2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.  3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.  Which of the statements given above are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | Introducing the ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’, Law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said it aims to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and assemblies. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Which of the -following statements about “Exercise Mitra Shakti-2023’ are correct ?  1. This was a joint/militaxy exercise between India and. Bangladesh.  2. It commenced in Aundh (Pune).  3. Joint response during counter-terrorism operations was a goal of this operation.  4, Indian Air Force was a part of this exercise.  Select the answer using the code given below :  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1,2and3 |
| Option | 1,2and4 |
| Option | 1,3and4 |
| Option | 2,3and4 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | The 9th edition of the India-Sri Lanka joint military exercise, "Mitra Shakti-2023," commenced on November 16, 2023, in Aundh (Pune). The joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka is being conducted from 16 to 29 November 2023. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to : |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | a government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.  |
| Option | the Parliament/Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition. |
| Option | the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case. |
| Option | the Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy. |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | ProhibitionA writ of prohibition is issued by a Court to prohibit the lower courts, tribunals and other quasi-judicial authorities from doing something beyond their authority. It is issued to direct inactivity and thus differs from mandamus which directs activity. It is issued when the lower court or tribunal acts without or in excess of jurisdiction or in violation of rules of natural justice or in contravention of fundamental rights. It can also be issued when a lower court or tribunal acts under a law that is itself ultra vires.The difference between the writ of certiorari and prohibition is that they are issued at different stages of proceedings of the case. The writ of certiorari is issued after the case is heard and decided. It is issued to quash the decision or order of the lower court when the lower court passed an order without or in excess of jurisdiction. Whereas, the writ of prohibition is issued prohibiting the proceedings in the lower court which acts without or in excess of jurisdiction while the case is pending before it. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements :  1. "It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.  2. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both l and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | "It is the predident of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe. A community declared as a Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements :  1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual Financial Statement before both the Houses of Parliament.  2. At the Union level, no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both l and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | The Annual Financial Statement is caused to be laid before both Houses of Parliament by the President. Article 112 of the Indian Constitution says that every year “the President of India shall cause to be laid before both the houses of the parliament” the “Annual Financial Statement”. This is popularly known as Budget. The Budget gives the complete picture of the estimated receipts and expenditures of the Government of India for that year.As per the article 113 At the Union level, no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Who of the following is the author of the books “The India Way” and “Why Bharat Matters”?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Bhupender Yadav |
| Option | Nalin Mehta  |
| Option | Shashi Tharoor |
| Option | Subrahmanyam aishankar |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | The Indian Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World”**About the Book:**“The Indian Way” is a comprehensive examination of India’s foreign policy and its strategic approach to navigating the complexities of an unpredictable world. Published in 2020, the book provides insights into how India perceives and responds to various international challenges.Why Bharat Matters: Defining India’s Role in a Globalized World”**About the Book:**“Why Bharat Matters” goes beyond foreign policy, delving into why India, or Bharat, is a crucial player in today’s interconnected world. This book is a call to recognize India’s inherent strengths and the pivotal role it plays in global affairs. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following pairs.How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Only one pair  |
| Option | Only two pairs |
| Option | All three pairs |
| Option | None of the pairs |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | **Argentina- Worst Economic crisis**  Persistent fiscal deficits and chronic inflation are longstanding issues in Argentina. The inflation rate averaged 190% between 1944 and 2023, and the government defaulted on its sovereign debt nine times (of which three occurred during the past two decades).**2. Sudan- war between the country’s regular army and paramilatry forces** It all revolves around infighting between two rival groups: the Sudanese Army and a paramilitary group known as the Rapid Support Forces. The Rapid Support Forces, led by General Mohammed Hamdan Dagalo – who is generally known by the name Hemedti – has worked alongside the Sudanese Army to help keep the military in power.**3. Turkey**  Turkey had applied for EU membership in 1999, but talks made little progress since 2016. On July 10, 2023, Turkish President Erdogan agreed to support Sweden's NATO bid. On 23 January 2024, the Turkish Parliament accepted Sweden's accession bid with a vote of 287 in favor, 55 against and 4 abstained. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements :  Statement-I : Sumed pipeline is a strategic route for Persian Gulf oil and natural gas shipments to Europe.  Statement-II : Sumed pipeline connects the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.  Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | The Sumed pipeline was opened in 1977. It is 320 km long .it concts red sea and Mediterranean sea. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements : 1. The Red Sea receives very precipitation in any form.2. water enters the Red Sea from rivers.**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?** |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both 1 and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | Red sea lies in sub Tropical area and is bordered by vast dry land masses and hence does not receive much rainfall. Though it receives many seasonal rivers like River Hadas, Anseba, Barka etc |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Locomotives using fossil fuels |
| Option | Ships lining fossil fuels |
| Option | Extraction of metals from ores |
| Option | Power plants using fossil fuels |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | According to the EPA’s official website:• EPA’s national ambient air quality standards for SO2 are designed to protectagainst exposure to the entire group of sulfur oxides (SOx). SO2 is thecomponent of greatest concern and is used as the indicator for the largergroup of gaseous sulfur oxides (SOx). Other gaseous SOx (such as SO3) arefound in the atmosphere at concentrations much lower than SO2.• Emissions that lead to high concentrations of SO2 generally also lead to theformation of other SOx. The largest sources of SO2 emissions are fromfossil fuel combustion at power plants and other industrial facilities.• Smaller sources of SO2 emissions include: industrial processes such asextracting metal from ore; natural sources such as volcanoes; andlocomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burnfuel with a high sulfur content. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements :  Statement-I :  There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region.  Statement-II :  There have heen military takeovers/coups d’état in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.  Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-Il does not explain Statement-I |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct  |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | the Sahel suffers from a long history of political instability, armed rebellions (especially in Mali and Niger), and bad governance. Since gaining independence in the 1960s, countries in the region have faced challenges of state- and nation-building.There have been several coup d'états in West Africa and the Sahel in recent years, raising concerns about the future of democracy. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements : Statement-I :  India does not import apples from the United States of America. Statement-II : .  In India, the .law prohibits the import of Genetically Modified food without the approval of the competent authority.  Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I  |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | After India removed “retaliatory import duty” on US apples in September, imports of American apples have surged 40 times in three months, while traders are hopeful of regaining market share. In 2017-18, the import of US apples was a record of over 7 million boxes, which dropped to 50,000 boxes in the 2022–23 (September–August) season.In India, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, prohibits import, manufacture, use or sale of GM food without FSSAI's approval. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements :  While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok consideration Sabha is under  1. He/She shall not preside.  2. He/She shall not have the right to speak.  3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | l only |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Answer | 1 |
| Solution | Article 96 in Constitution of India96. The Speaker or the Deputy Speaker not to preside while a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration(1) At any sitting of the House of the People, while any resolution for the removal of the Speaker from his office is under consideration, the Speaker, or while any resolution for the removal of the Deputy Speaker from his office is under consideration, the Deputy Speaker, shall not, though he is present, preside, and the provisions of clause (2) of article 95 shall apply in relation to every such sitting as they apply in relation to a sitting from which the Speaker, or, as the case may be, the Deputy Speaker, is absent.(2) The Speaker shall have the right to speak in, and otherwise to take part in the proceedings of, the House of the People while any resolution for his removal from office is under consideration in the House and shall, notwithstanding anything in article 100, be entitled to vote only in the first instance on such resolution or on any other matter during such proceedings but not in the case of an equality of votes. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Indian, Parliament, consider the following statements  1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.  2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.  3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | l and 2 |
| Option | 2 and 3  |
| Option | 3 only |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution |  |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements :  1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.  2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.  3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 1 and 2 |
| Option | 2 and 3 |
| Option | 3 only |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | Article 85 in Constitution of India **85. Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution**(1) The President shall form lime to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.(2) The President may from lime to time - (a) prorogue the Houses or either House; (b) dissolve the House of the People. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements :  Statement-I :  The European Parliament approved The Net-Zero Industry Act recently.  Statement-II :  The European Union dintends to. achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and therefore aims to develop all of its own clean technology by that time.  Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I  |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I :  |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect  |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct |
| Answer | 3 |
| Solution | Statement 1 is correct Statement 2 is incorrectStriving to become the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050. The EU aims to be climate-neutral by 2050 – an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. This objective is at the heart of the European Green Deal , and is a legally binding target thanks to the European Climate Law . |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | Consider the following statements :  Statement-I :  Recently, Venezuela has achieved a rapid recovery from its economic crisis and Succeeded in preventing its people from fleeing/emigrating to other countries,  Statement-II :  Venezuela has the world’s largest oil reserves.  Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I . |
| Option |  (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does explain Statement-I not |
| Option | Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect  |
| Option | Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Statement 1 is incorrect Statement 2 is correctIn recent years, Venezuela has suffered economic collapse, with output shrinking significantly and rampant hyperinflation contributing to a scarcity of basic goods, such as food and medicine. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme, consider the following statements  1.To implement the scheme, the Central Government provides 100% funding.  2. Under the Scheme, Cadastral Maps are digitised.  3. An initiative has been undertaken to transliterate the Records of Rights from local language to any of the languages recognized by the Constitution of India.  Which of the statements given above are correct ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 and 2 only |
| Option | 2 and 3 only |
| Option | 1 and 3 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 3 |
| Answer | 4 |
| Solution | Statement 1 is correct Statement 2 is incorrectStatement 3 is correct For modernization of land records system in the country, a modified programme, viz., the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP), now renamed as Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), has been formulated.Cadastral Maps digitized is more than 68% in 28 States/ UTs (2,52,51,446 maps out of total 3,69,86,358 maps) |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the ‘Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan’, consider the following statements :  1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility.  2. Under this scheme, private sector health providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.  Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1 only |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | Both1and 2 |
| Option | Neither 1 nor 2 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | The Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. The program aims to provide assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care, free of cost, universally to all pregnant women on the 9th of every month.Hon’ble Prime Minister of India highlighted the aim and purpose of introduction of the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan in the 31st July 2016 episode of Mann Ki Baat.PMSMA guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd / 3rd trimesters of pregnancy at designated government health facilities.The programme follows a systematic approach for engagement with private sector which includes motivating private practitioners to volunteer for the campaign; developing strategies for generating awareness and appealing to the private sector to participate in the Abhiyan at government health facilities. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |

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| Question | With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider, the following statements :  1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme s 21 to/40 years.  “2. " Age specific' contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.  3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of ¥ 3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.  4. Family pension is applicable to the spouse and unmarried daughters.  " Which of the statements given above is/are correct ? |
| Type | multiple-choice |
| Option | 1,3 and 4 |
| Option | 2 and 3 only  |
| Option | 2 only |
| Option | 1,2 and 4 |
| Answer | 2 |
| Solution | Statement 1 is incorrect Statement 2 is correctStatement 3 is correct Statement 4 is incorrect Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan is available to unorganized workers between 18 and 40 years of age. if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse. |
| Positive Marks | 2 |
| Negative Marks | 0.67 |