



**FORTUNE
IAS ACADEMY**

**PTS 2025
COMPREHENSIVE
TEST 03 - PAPER I KEY**

**fortuneiasacademy@gmail.com |
www.fortuneias.com
+91 - 9495015888 | +91 - 8138940888**



Comprehensive Test 03 - Paper 1 Key

1	b	21	d	41	d	61	c	81	d
2	c	22	b	42	a	62	b	82	a
3	a	23	b	43	a	63	d	83	b
4	c	24	c	44	c	64	a	84	d
5	b	25	a	45	d	65	d	85	c
6	c	26	d	46	b	66	c	86	d
7	a	27	d	47	c	67	d	87	a
8	d	28	d	48	d	68	c	88	a
9	c	29	c	49	b	69	b	89	b
10	d	30	c	50	d	70	b	90	b
11	c	31	b	51	a	71	b	91	c
12	b	32	b	52	a	72	c	92	d
13	b	33	b	53	c	73	c	93	b
14	c	34	c	54	a	74	b	94	b
15	b	35	d	55	a	75	c	95	d
16	c	36	c	56	b	76	d	96	c
17	a	37	b	57	d	77	d	97	c
18	b	38	c	58	c	78	a	98	b
19	c	39	a	59	c	79	b	99	d
20	b	40	d	60	d	80	b	100	d



1) **Answer: (b)**

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Current Affairs

Context: India accounts for nearly half of global snakebite deaths, with around 58,000 fatalities annually.

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Antivenom is the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended standard treatment for snake envenoming, and its early and adequate administration is crucial to prevent or reverse the effects of snakebite. Antivenoms remain the only specific treatment that can potentially prevent or reverse most of the effects of snakebite envenoming when administered early in an adequate therapeutic dose. They are **included in WHO's Model List of Essential Medicines**.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** India primarily **uses Polyvalent Anti-venoms (PVAs)**, which are made from the venom of multiple snake species, particularly the "Big Four"—Indian Cobra, Common Krait, Russell's Viper, and Saw-Scaled Viper.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The Irula tribe of Tamil Nadu and Kerala are known for their expertise in snake handling and venom collection. These skilled individuals have long understood the importance of their bond with snakes. The tribe has turned the handling of venomous snakes into both a livelihood and a cultural heritage.
- **Note:** While the Irula tribe is an indigenous community found in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, their most documented activities related to snake handling and venom collection are centered in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Nilgiris region.

Sources: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10536913/>

2) **Answer: (c)**

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Sports

Context: India's D. Gukesh crowned World Chess Champion.

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The International Chess Federation (FIDE) is the governing body of the sport of chess, and it regulates all international chess competitions. Constituted as a non-governmental institution, it was recognized by the International Olympic Committee as a Global Sporting Organization in 1999.
- FIDE was founded in Paris, France (1924) and is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognizes chess as a sport but has not included it in the Olympic Games.

Source: <https://www.fide.com/about-fide/>

3) **Answer: (a)**

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Terms in news

Context: Principal Purpose Test (PPT) under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) exemptions clarified by Central board of direct taxes.

- **Option (a) is CORRECT.** Principal Purpose Test (PPT) is a provision in modern tax treaties aimed at preventing treaty abuse. It **ensures that tax benefits are granted only for transactions with a genuine economic purpose**. It counteracts tax avoidance strategies that exploit tax treaties.



Sources:<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cbdt-clarifies-exemptions-from-principal-purpose-test-in-double-taxation-avoidance-agreements/articleshow/119053594.cms?from=mdr>

4) **Answer: (c)**

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Current Affairs

Context: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh given a state funeral.

- **Statements 1 and 3 are INCORRECT.** Arrangements for the state funeral are made by the **Ministry of Defence** on receipt of information from the Ministry of Home Affairs. During the period of national mourning, the national flag is flown at half-mast and all official programmes of entertainment are cancelled.
- While **former Presidents, current Prime Ministers, and Governors (only in their respective states) are entitled to a State Funeral, former Prime Ministers are not** automatically granted a State Funeral.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT:** The Central Government has the authority to grant a State Funeral to other dignitaries in special cases. Recent examples include industrialist **Ratan Tata and singer Lata Mangeshkar**, who were accorded state funerals.

Sources:<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/are-former-prime-ministers-mandated-memorials-explained/article69047921.ece>

5) **Answer: (b) (Pairs 1 and 4 are CORRECTLY matched.)**

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Places in news

- **Pair 1 is CORRECTLY matched.** El Fasher, the capital of North Darfur in Sudan, is currently surrounded by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), raising fears of imminent ethnic violence. The city, a last stronghold of the Sudanese army in Darfur, is home to hundreds of thousands of displaced people.
- **Pair 2 is INCORRECTLY matched.** Abiey is disputed **between Sudan and South Sudan**. It is a hotspot for ethnic violence between **Dinka and Nuer** communities.
- **Pair 3 is INCORRECTLY matched.** El Fashaga is a border region **between Sudan and Ethiopia**, facing agricultural land disputes.
- **Pair 4 is CORRECTLY matched.** Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed region between Armenia and Azerbaijan, has faced severe food shortages due to blockades and conflicts, leading to a humanitarian crisis.

Source:<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2025/2/3/as-the-rsf-surrounds-darfurs-el-fasher-ethnic-killings-feared>

6) **Answer: (c)**

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Current Affairs

- **Statements (a) and (b) are CORRECT.** Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 notified by Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change under Environmental Protection Act, 1986.



- The Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025, apply to all vehicle types defined under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, including electric vehicles, battery-operated vehicles, e-rickshaws, and e-carts.
- **Statement (c) is INCORRECT.** Waste batteries and plastic packaging are **not covered** under these rules; they fall under separate regulations like the **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022** and the **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**.
- **Statement (d) is CORRECT.** Vehicle manufacturers must obtain certification under the EPR framework, issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Sources: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2099130#:~:text=The%20Mini%20of%20Environment%2C%20Forest,end%2Dof%2Dlife%20vehicles.>

7) **Answer: (a)**

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Schemes in news

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** PDOAs act as intermediaries by purchasing bulk internet bandwidth from licensed telecom service providers and distributing it to multiple PDOs, which then offer Wi-Fi connectivity to customers.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** Users **must complete eKYC authentication** before accessing the **PM-WANI Wi-Fi networks**. This ensures **security and compliance** with government regulations.

Sources: <https://pmwani.gov.in/wani>

8) **Answer: (d)**

Difficulty level: Easy

Micro Topic: International organizations

Context: INTERPOL has published its first-ever **Silver Notice** to help trace and recover criminal assets, combat transnational organized crime and enhance international police cooperation.

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** Interpol notices are international alerts circulated by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) to share information about crimes, criminals, and threats among member countries. These notices, while not legally binding on member states, are often used as a basis for action, like arrests or extradition requests.
- **Additional Info:** The Silver Notice is the latest addition to INTERPOL's colour-coded notice system and is designed to track and recover criminal assets linked to fraud, corruption, drug trafficking, environmental crimes, and other serious offenses.

Sources: <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2025/INTERPOL-publishes-first-Silver-Notice-targeting-criminal-assets>

9) **Answer: (c)**

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Lakes

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** Wular Lake was formed due to **tectonic activity**. It is **NOT a crater lake**.



- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Zaina Lank, a small island inside Wular Lake, was constructed by King Zainul-Abidin (The Kashmiri Sultan).
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Wular Lake was designated a Ramsar Site in 1990 due to its importance in flood control, biodiversity, and hydrology.
- **Additional Info: Water chestnut (Goer)** grows in the Wular Lake. Growing goer is considered a seasonal economic activity since its demand spikes during autumn season in Kashmir.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jammu-and-kashmir/news-in-frames-wulars-autumn-nibbles/article68748079.ece>

10) Answer: (d)

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Environmental projects

Context: In March 2023, Project greensand became the first project to conduct cross-border offshore CO₂ injection, transporting CO₂ from Belgium to Denmark.

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** Project Greensand is a **carbon capture and storage (CCS)** initiative in the **Danish North Sea**, using depleted oil fields for CO₂ storage. It focuses on CO₂ storage to reduce industrial emissions. It will be the world's first cross-border carbon storage project. The project aims to bury vast amounts of planet-heating carbon dioxide gas beneath the North Sea floor.

Sources: <https://greensandfuture.com/>

11) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Basic science

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The Big Bang Theory suggests that the universe originated from a **singularity – a point of negligible volume, infinite temperature, and infinite density**. This singularity underwent a **massive explosion** around **13.8 billion years ago**, leading to the expansion of space-time itself.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The universe has been expanding since the Big Bang, but the **rate of expansion has not remained constant**. The proposition that the “rate of expansion continues to the present day”, implying constant expansion, is incorrect.
- Around 13.8 billion years ago, the universe expanded faster than the speed of light for a fraction of a second, a period called **cosmic inflation**. Cosmologists think inflation explains many aspects of the universe we observe today, like its flatness, or lack of curvature, on the largest scales. Inflation may have also magnified density differences that naturally occur on space's smallest, quantum-level scales, which eventually helped form the universe's large-scale structures.
- Observations in the 1990s (based on distant supernovae and cosmic microwave background radiation) suggest that the universe's expansion is accelerating due to dark energy.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** The **first atom to form was hydrogen (H-1)**. During **Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN)** (within the first few minutes), the primary elements



formed were **hydrogen (H-1), helium (He-4), and trace amounts of lithium (Li-7) and beryllium.**

Source: Fundamentals of Physical Geography (NCERT Class XI), Chapter 2

12) Answer: (b)

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Internet technologies

Context: Air India has introduced in-flight Wi-Fi services on domestic flights, signifying a new era in Indian air travel.

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT. ATG connectivity is not suitable for flights over oceans**, as it relies on **ground-based cellular towers** that are absent in water bodies. **Satellite-Based Connectivity** is more effective for oceanic regions.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The Flight and Maritime Connectivity (Amendment) Rules, 2024 regulate Wi-Fi usage on flights in Indian airspace, allowing passengers to connect only after reaching 3,000 meters altitude.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Air India is the first Indian airline to offer in-flight Internet on domestic flights, marking a significant development in aviation technology in India.

Sources: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/travel/news/this-indian-airline-launches-in-flight-wi-fi-services-on-domestic-flights-check-details-here/articleshow/116909818.cms>

13) Answer: (b)

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Genetics

Context: Twigstats reveals hi-resolution genetic view of people's ancestors.

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** Twigstats is a new statistical method that improves the accuracy of genome-wide genealogies. It was used to analyze 1,556 ancient DNA (aDNA) samples from Europe, spanning from 500 BC to 1000 AD. It enhances the precision of genetic reconstructions and helps understand population migration and ancestry patterns.

Sources: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/twigstats-new-tool-reveals-hi-res-genetic-view-of-peoples-ancestors/article69053627.ece>

14) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Biotechnology

Context: IISc scientists find a way to break down 'biofilm barriers' by using cow's gut enzyme to aid entry of drugs.

- **A biofilm** is a 3D structure that acts as a microbial battlefield. Biofilms can **start forming when a group of microbes sense a given surface and adhere to it.** Subsequent colonization and production of an extracellular polysaccharide matrix (EPS) solidify the structure. The channelled structure protects the internal surface environment of the bacteria from the external environment.



- **Statement 1 is CORRECT. Biofilms can impact antimicrobial efficacy**, as well as the immune response, **contributing to antimicrobial resistance** and allowing the establishment of persistent/chronic infections.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT. Microbes existing in biofilm** mode are **advantageous for bioremediation** because of greater tolerance to pollutants, environmental stress and ability to degrade varied harsh pollutants via diverse catabolic pathways. Biofilm based bioremediation is used to **decontaminate polluted soil and groundwater**.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT. Biofilms** produced from sustainable feedstocks can function as a non-living biomaterial for **evaporation-based electricity production**. The biofilms can be sandwiched between a pair of mesh electrodes for scalable device integration and current production. The devices can be used as skin-patch devices to harvest electricity from sweat and moisture on skin to continuously **power wearable devices**.

Source: <https://iisc.ac.in/events/breaking-down-bacterial-barriers-using-bovine-gut-enzyme/>

15) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Space technology

- **Statement I is CORRECT.** The **Moon has no atmosphere**, so there is no air resistance to slow down a descending spacecraft. Unlike Mars, where parachutes are effective, **lunar landers must rely entirely on thrusters for deceleration**. The thrusters must be precisely controlled to ensure a soft landing without crashing.
- Parachutes are effective on Mars because it has a thin atmosphere, which provides some air resistance to slow down a descending spacecraft. While Mars' atmosphere is much thinner than Earth's (about 1% of Earth's atmospheric pressure), it is still dense enough for parachutes to generate drag and reduce the spacecraft's speed significantly.
- **Statement II is CORRECT.** The Moon's mass is not uniformly distributed, leading to variations in gravitational pull across different regions. These gravitational anomalies can affect the flight path and stability of a descending vehicle. This makes precise navigation and trajectory corrections essential for a successful landing.
- **Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.** The reason why vehicles landing on the Moon cannot use parachutes is the lack of a substantial atmosphere, not the unevenness of the Moon's gravity. While uneven gravity does affect the trajectory of a spacecraft to some extent, it doesn't prevent the use of parachutes if a significant atmosphere were present.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2024/jan/12/why-landing-on-the-moon-is-proving-more-difficult-today-than-50-years-ago>

16) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Nuclear energy

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Small modular reactors (SMRs) are advanced nuclear reactors that have a power capacity of up to 300 MW(e) per unit, which is about one-



third of the generating capacity of traditional nuclear power reactors. SMRs are modular and can be **factory-assembled and transported** to the installation site, unlike conventional nuclear reactors that are typically built on-site. This feature reduces construction time and cost while ensuring better quality control. Hence, Statement 1 is correct.

- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** SMRs can be **incorporated into an existing grid** or deployed in off-grid locations, depending on energy demand. Their smaller size and modular nature allow them to function alongside other power sources, including renewables, in a hybrid system. Since the article highlights their adaptability in grid integration, this statement is **correct**.

Source: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/what-are-small-modular-reactors-smrs>

17) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Diseases

Context: A New Treatment for Type I and Autoimmune Diabetes Mellitus discovered.

- **Option (a) is CORRECT.** Autoimmune diseases occur when the immune system, which is designed to protect the body from foreign invaders like bacteria and viruses, mistakenly attacks the body's own healthy cells and tissues. This misdirected attack can lead to a wide range of symptoms and health problems, depending on the specific organs or tissues affected. Autoimmune diseases are chronic conditions. Management of symptoms it causes is necessary for the rest of the life.
- Some common autoimmune disorders are:
- Addison's disease
- Celiac disease (gluten-sensitive enteropathy)
- Dermatomyositis
- Multiple sclerosis
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Type 1 diabetes

Source: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/21624-autoimmune-diseases>

18) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Space science

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** A Sun-synchronous orbit is a specific type of polar orbit that allows a satellite to **pass over any given point on Earth's surface at the same local solar time each day**. This consistent timing is crucial for various applications, primarily Earth observation.
- Satellites in SSO, travelling over the polar regions, are synchronous with the Sun. This means they are synchronised to always be in the same 'fixed' position relative to the Sun. This means that the satellite always visits the same spot at the same local time – for example, passing Delhi every day at noon exactly.



Source: https://www.esa.int/Enabling_Support/Space_Transportation/Types_of_orbits#SSO

19) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Renewable energy

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Solar panels work on the principle of the photoelectric effect, where light behaves as particles (photons represent the particle nature of light) that knock electrons loose in the semiconductor material, generating electricity.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** While direct sunlight is ideal for optimal performance, **solar panels can still generate electricity on cloudy days or with indirect sunlight.** They are more efficient in direct sunlight, but do not require it to function.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Solar panels can produce electricity under artificial light, but their efficiency is significantly reduced compared to natural sunlight. Solar panels generate electricity by capturing photons and converting them into electrical energy through the photovoltaic (PV) effect. Artificial lights, like LED, fluorescent, or incandescent bulbs, emit photons, which can be harnessed by solar panels.

Source: <https://www.energysage.com/solar/solar-panels-work/>

20) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Technology

Context: Nano Bubble Technology launched for cleaning and purifying water in National Zoological Park, Delhi.

- **Option (b) is CORRECT. Nanobubbles** are 70-120 nanometers in size, 2500 times smaller than a single grain of salt. They can be **formed using any gas and injected into any liquid.** Due to their size, nanobubbles exhibit unique properties that improve numerous physical, chemical, and biological processes.
- Due to their size and structure, nanobubbles possess distinct properties that make them particularly **effective at improving water quality, enhancing water treatment processes,** and improving productivity in industrial and agricultural applications.
- Nanobubbles are **hydrophobic,** meaning they dislike water. The hydrophobic nature of nanobubbles combined with their surface charge enable nanobubbles to effectively **lift organic and inorganic materials off surfaces** similar to surfactants.
- Nanobubbles have a **strong negative surface charge** that prevents them from coalescing and enables them to **physically separate small particles and droplets** — like emulsified fats, oils, and grease — **from water.**

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2080223>

21) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Election

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** The Single Transferable Vote (STV) system is designed to ensure **proportional representation of minority communities based on their voting**



strength. It operates in multi-member constituencies where voters rank candidates in order of preference, ensuring that every vote contributes to the final outcome and reduces vote wastage. A key feature is the use of a quota system, commonly the Droop quota, which sets the minimum number of votes required for a candidate to be elected. In some cases, the Hare quota is also used. If a candidate exceeds the quota, any surplus votes are transferred to other candidates according to the voters' subsequent preferences, thereby preserving minority votes.

- Unlike majoritarian systems such as First Past the Post (FPTP)—which can result in a winner-takes-all outcome that marginalizes minority groups—STV distributes seats in proportion to the actual vote share. Although systems like the Second-Ballot and Alternative Vote incorporate preferential voting, they do not ensure proportional representation to the same extent. Thus, STV is the most effective method for achieving fair and proportional representation of minority communities.

Source: Chapter 3, Election and Representation, Indian Constitution at work (plus one political science by Prof. Jose.V.George), Page no: 42, 43, 44, 46.

22) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: President's Rule

Context: The Central Government has imposed President's Rule in Manipur under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution, leading to the suspension of the State Assembly following the resignation of the Chief Minister.

- **Options 1 and 3 are CORRECT.** The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 restricts the power of Parliament to extend a proclamation of President's Rule beyond one year. It stipulates that, beyond one year, President's Rule can be extended by six months at a time only if the following two conditions are met:
 - A National Emergency must be in force across India or in the concerned State (or parts thereof); and second,
 - The Election Commission must certify that general elections to the legislative assembly of the concerned State cannot be held due to prevailing difficulties.
- **Option 2 is INCORRECT. A hung assembly, where no party wins a clear majority after elections, is a ground for the imposition of President's Rule, not a ground for its extension.**
- **Option 4 is INCORRECT.** Any resolution approving the proclamation or extension of President's Rule is passed by either House of Parliament **by a simple majority** - that is, by the majority of members present and voting in either House of Parliament, **not by a special majority.**

Source: Chapter 17, Emergency Provisions, Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth (7th Edition), Page no: 179, 182, 183.

23) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Constitutional bodies

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT. Article 350(B)** says there shall be a **Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities** to be **appointed by the President.** The Article states that "It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the



safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this Constitution and report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct, and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to the Governments of the States concerned”.

- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The linguistic minorities are considered as a group or collectives of individuals residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language or script of their own, not necessarily one of the twenty-two languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. **The States Reorganisation Commission (SRC) recommended the creation of a mechanism to address the grievances of the Linguistic Minorities.** Based on the recommendations of the SRC, **7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act, 1956** was enacted, whereby Articles 350A and 350B were included in the Constitution. Article 350-B provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Article 350-B provides for a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, who is known as the **Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India (CLM)** to investigate all the matters relating to the safeguards provided for the linguistic minorities in India. CLM reports to the President upon those matters and the President causes all such reports to be laid before each House of the Parliament. CLM interacts with the linguistic minority groups and the States/UTs on all the matters pertaining to the issues concerning the implementation of the Constitutional and the nationally agreed Scheme of Safeguards for linguistic minorities.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 50, Page 50.1

24) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Judiciary

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** According to **Article 136** of the Constitution of India, the **Supreme Court can grant special leave to appeal against any judgment, decree, determination, sentence, or order passed by any court or tribunal in India**, including High Courts and tribunals. Special Leave Petition is a mechanism to seek permission from the Supreme Court to hear an appeal against a judgment or order of a lower court or tribunal. The Supreme Court's power to grant special leave is discretionary, meaning it is not obligated to grant leave in every case.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Under Article 136(2) of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court's power to grant special leave to appeal **does not extend to judgments or orders passed by courts or tribunals established under laws relating to the Armed Forces.**

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 26

25) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Constitutional bodies

Context: Recent meeting of 53rd GST Council.

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Article 246A inserted through 101st Constitutional Amendment conferred **concurrent taxing powers** on the Union as well as the States



including Union Territories with Legislature (Delhi and Puducherry) to make laws for levy of GST on every transaction of supply of goods or services or both.

- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** While the decisions of the GST Council hold considerable importance, they are **not legally binding** on the Central and State governments. The Parliament retains the ultimate authority to enact GST laws.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 46

26) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Parliament

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The **institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker** originated in India in 1921 under the provisions of the **Government of India Act of 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms)**. At that time, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker were called the President and Deputy President respectively and the same nomenclature continued till 1947. The Government of India Act of 1935 changed the nomenclatures of President and Deputy President to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The Constitution of India requires the Speaker to be a member of the House. Although there are no specific qualifications prescribed for being elected the Speaker, an understanding of the Constitution and the laws of the country is considered a major asset for the holder of the Office of the Speaker. **The Speaker (along with the Deputy Speaker) is elected from among the Lok Sabha members by a simple majority of members present and voting** in the House. Once a decision on the candidate is taken, his/her name is normally proposed by the Prime Minister or the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** According to Article 95(1), The Deputy Speaker has the same general powers as the Speaker when presiding over the House. All references to the "Speaker" in the Rules are deemed to be references to the Deputy Speaker as well for the times when he or she presides. Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be appointed "as soon as may be". Article 93 states that "The House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker".

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 22, Page 22.8

27) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Fundamental Rights

- **Statement II is CORRECT.** The Indian Constitution, specifically in Part III which deals with Fundamental Rights, does not provide a formal definition for the term "untouchability". However, Article 17 abolishes the practice and forbids it in any form. **The term "untouchability" is not defined in the Constitution** itself, nor in the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (formerly the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955). The courts have interpreted "untouchability" in a broader sense, referring to the social disabilities imposed on certain classes of persons due to their birth in certain castes.



- **Statement I is INCORRECT.** While **Article 17** of the Indian Constitution abolishes untouchability and forbids its practice in any form, judicial interpretation suggests that it **primarily addresses historically evolved social disabilities based on caste**, rather than encompassing all forms of social boycott or exclusion from religious services. The courts have interpreted "untouchability" in Article 17 not just in its literal sense, but as encompassing the historical practice of social disabilities imposed on individuals due to their caste or other similar discriminatory practices.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 7

28) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Classical Languages

Context: Cabinet approves conferring status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages.

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** In 2004, the Government of India decided to create a new category of languages called "classical languages". The recognition of a classical language is based on criteria established by a Linguistic Experts Committee. **Recognised Classical Languages are: Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu (2008), Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013) and Odia (2014).** Recently (2024), the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved to confer the status of Classical Language to **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages.**
- Once a language is designated as classical, the Ministry of Education provides various benefits to promote it, including: Two major international awards annually for scholars of eminence in the language; Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Studies in the Classical Language; Requesting the University Grants Commission (UGC) to create Professional Chairs in Central Universities dedicated to the classical language.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2061660>

29) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Fundamental Rights

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Article 25 of the Constitution of India provides for the freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion. **Article 27** of the Constitution of India provides for the freedom from the imposition of taxes for promotion of any particular religion. No person shall be compelled to pay any taxes, the proceeds of which are specifically appropriated in payment of expenses for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomination.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Article 25 states that, nothing in this article shall affect the operation of any existing law or prevent the state from making any law (a) **regulating or restricting any economic, financial, political or other secular activity which may be associated with religious practice;** (b) providing for social welfare and reform or the throwing open of Hindu religious institutions of a public character to all classes and sections of Hindus.



Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 7

30) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Fundamental Rights

Context: Recent observation of Supreme Court in the advisory boards under preventive detention laws.

- **Option (a) is INCORRECT.** Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained. A person arrested under **punitive detention** (not in preventive detention) shall have the right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner.
- **Option (b) is INCORRECT.** A person arrested under **punitive detention has certain rights such as** the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest; Right to consult and be defended by a legal practitioner; Right to be produced before a magistrate within 24 hours, including the journey time; Right to be released after 24 hours unless the magistrate authorizes further detention.
- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** The preventive detention of a person **cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board** reports sufficient cause for extended detention. The board is to consist of judges of a high court. The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 has reduced the period of detention without obtaining the opinion of an advisory board from three to two months. However, this provision has not yet been brought into force, hence, the original period of three months still continues.
- **Option (d) is INCORRECT. The Constitution has divided the legislative power with regard to preventive detention between the Parliament and the state legislatures.** The Parliament has **exclusive authority** to make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with defence, foreign affairs and the security of India. Both the Parliament as well as the state legislatures can concurrently make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, the maintenance of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikant 6th Edition Chapter 7, page 7.15, 7.16.

31) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Evolution of the Earth

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** During Earth's early formation, it was in a molten state due to **intense heat from radioactive decay, gravitational compression, and asteroid impacts.**
- **Gravitational differentiation** caused heavier elements like **iron and nickel** to sink toward the core, while lighter elements like **silicon, oxygen, and aluminum** rose to form the mantle and crust.
- The earth was mostly in a volatile state during its primordial stage. Due to gradual increase in density, the temperature inside has increased. As a result, the material inside started getting separated depending on their densities.
- This allowed heavier materials (like iron) to sink towards the centre of the earth and the lighter ones to move towards the surface. With passage of time, it cooled further and



solidified and condensed into a smaller size. This later led to the development of the outer surface in the form of a crust.

- During the formation of the moon, due to the giant impact, the earth further heated up. It was through the process of differentiation that the earth forming material got separated into different layers.
- **Option (a) is INCORRECT.** Heavier elements do not rise to the surface.
- **Option (c) is INCORRECT.** The Earth's interior is not homogeneous but layered due to differentiation.
- **Option (d) is INCORRECT.** While asteroid impacts influenced surface geology, they did not create Earth's internal layers.

Source: Fundamentals of Physical Geography (NCERT Class XI), Chapter 2.

32) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Landforms

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** **Block mountains** are formed **only due to faulting, not folding**. They are created when large sections of the Earth's crust are lifted or dropped along fault lines, forming **horsts (uplifted blocks)** and **grabens (down dropped blocks)**.
- **Folding**, on the other hand, forms **fold mountains** like the Himalayas.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Block mountains have **steep slopes and flat tops** due to the vertical displacement of land along faults. The lifted blocks (horsts) often create sharp escarpments. The uplifted block (horst) stands between two lowered blocks (graben), leading to steep cliffs.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The **Sierra Nevada in North America** is the **largest block-mountain range in the world**. It is a classic example of a fault-block mountain, formed by the tilting and uplifting of massive rock formations along faults. This mountain extends for a length of 640 km (400 miles) having a width of 80 km (50 miles) and the height of 2,400 to 3,600 m (8,000 to 12,000 feet).

Source: Physical Geography by Savindra Singh, Chapter 11.

33) Answer: (b) (Only Options 2 and 3 are CORRECT.)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Places in News

Context: Ukraine plans new Danube export route to beat polish border spat.

- **Black Sea** is bordered by Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- It is connected to the Mediterranean Sea by the Bosphorus Strait and the Sea of Marmara, and to the Sea of Azov by the Strait of Kerch. Important cities along the Black Sea coast include: Istanbul, Turkey; Burgas, Bulgaria; Constanta, Romania; Odessa, Ukraine; Sochi, Russia; and Poti, Georgia.
- **Options 2, and 3 are CORRECT.** Some of Europe's longest and largest rivers flow into the Black Sea, including the **Danube**, the largest tributary, as well as the **Dnieper (Dnipro)**, Southern Bug, Dniester and Don.



- **Options 1 and 4 are INCORRECT.** Rising in the Valdai Hills northwest of Moscow, the **Volga discharges into the Caspian Sea.** **Rhône River** is a historic river of Switzerland and France and it discharges into the **Mediterranean Sea.**

Source: https://wwf.panda.org/discover/knowledge_hub/where_we_work/black_sea_basin/

34) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Landforms

- **Pair 1 is CORRECT.** The Zagros mountain range runs mainly through Iran and extends into Iraq.
- **Pair 2 is CORRECT.** The Drakensberg Mountains are located in South Africa and Lesotho, forming the eastern part of the Great Escarpment.
- **Pair 3 is CORRECT.** The Atlas Mountains extend across northwestern Africa, prominently in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.
- **Pair 4 is INCORRECT.** The Carpathian Mountains are located in Central and Eastern Europe, **mainly in Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine—not in Spain.**

Sources: NCERT Class XI – Fundamentals of Physical Geography, Oxford Student Atlas.

35) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Atmosphere

- **Option 1 is CORRECT.** In Earth's early history, intense **solar winds** from the young Sun likely **stripped away the planet's initial atmosphere**, which was primarily composed of light gases like **hydrogen and helium.** This is the first stage of evolution



of the atmosphere, marked by the **loss of the primordial atmosphere**. This happened not only in the case of the earth, but also in all the terrestrial planets, which were supposed to have lost their primordial atmosphere through the impact of solar winds.

- **Option 2 is CORRECT.** During the cooling of the earth, gases and water vapour were released from the interior solid earth. **Volcanic activity released large amounts of gases**, including **water vapor (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrogen (N₂), and sulfur compounds**, forming the **primitive atmosphere**. This is the second stage, where the hot interior of the earth contributed to the evolution of the atmosphere. This started the evolution of the present atmosphere. The process through which the gases were outpoured from the interior is called **degassing**.
- **Option 3 is CORRECT.** The presence of **sufficient gravitational force** allowed Earth to **hold onto its atmospheric gases**, preventing them from escaping into space.
- Without adequate gravity, Earth would have lost its atmosphere like the Moon or Mercury.
- **Option 4 is CORRECT.** Early **cyanobacteria** carried out **photosynthesis**, releasing **oxygen (O₂)** into the atmosphere, leading to the formation of Earth's **oxygen-rich atmosphere**. This process, known as the **Great Oxygenation Event**, drastically changed atmospheric composition over time.
- Life was confined to the oceans for a long time. Oceans began to have the contribution of oxygen through the process of **photosynthesis**. Eventually, oceans were saturated with oxygen, and 2,000 million years ago, oxygen began to flood the atmosphere.

Source: Fundamentals of Physical Geography (NCERT Class XI), Chapter 2.

36) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Soils of India

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** **Peaty Soils** are found in the areas of **heavy rainfall and high humidity**, where there is a **good growth of vegetation**. Thus, large quantities of **dead organic matter accumulates** in these areas, and this gives a **rich humus and organic content** to the soil. Organic matter in these soils may go even up to 40-50 per cent. These soils are normally heavy and black in colour. At many places, they are alkaline also.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** It occurs widely in the northern part of Bihar, southern part of Uttarakhand and the coastal areas of West Bengal, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.

Source: India: Physical Environment (NCERT XI), Chapter 6.



37) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Drainage system

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The Teesta River originates in **Sikkim** and flows through **West Bengal** before entering Bangladesh. **It does not pass through a third Indian State.**
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** After flowing through India, the Teesta River enters **Bangladesh**, where it merges with the Brahmaputra River (called Jamuna in Bangladesh). This confluence does not occur within Indian territory.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The **Rangit River**, originating in Sikkim, is one of the main tributaries of the Teesta River. It merges with Teesta near **Melli**, a town on the Sikkim-West Bengal border.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Tista-River>

38) Answer: (c) (Pairs 1, 2 and 3 are CORRECTLY matched.)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Landforms

- **Pair 1 is CORRECTLY matched.** The **Banni grasslands** are located in **Kachchh, Gujarat**, and are one of the largest natural grasslands in India. They are characterized by dry, saline soils and support a variety of wildlife, including migratory birds.
- **Pair 2 is CORRECTLY matched.** **Bugyal** refers to high-altitude alpine meadows found in **Uttarakhand**, such as Auli, Dayara, and Bedni Bugyal. These grasslands remain covered with snow during winter and turn into lush green meadows in summer.
- **Pair 3 is CORRECTLY matched.** In Kashmiri, the word "**Marg**" means "meadow", and it is commonly used for grasslands like Gulmarg, Sonmarg, and Yusmarg. These meadows are important for tourism and agriculture in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Pair 4 is INCORRECTLY matched.** **Manipur** is home to **Ukhrul grasslands** (montane grassland). Sirohi National Park of Manipur is located in the Ukhrul Grasslands. It is famous for the plant **Shirui Lily**.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/etimes/trending/asias-largest-grassland-is-in-the-district-of-kutch/articleshow/107676549.cms>

39) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Drainage system

- **Option (a) is CORRECT.** '**Kalasa Nala**' and '**Banduri Nala**' are tributaries of the **Mahadayi River**, which originates in Karnataka and flows into Goa, where it is known as the **Mandovi River**. These streams have been in the news due to the **Kalasa-Banduri Nala project**, a long-standing water-sharing dispute between **Karnataka and Goa**. The project aims to divert water from these tributaries to meet drinking water needs in northern Karnataka, but Goa has opposed it, citing ecological concerns.

Source: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/water/goa-karnataka-at-loggerheads-again-over-kalasa-banduri-project-as-central-body-inspects-mahadayi-basin>

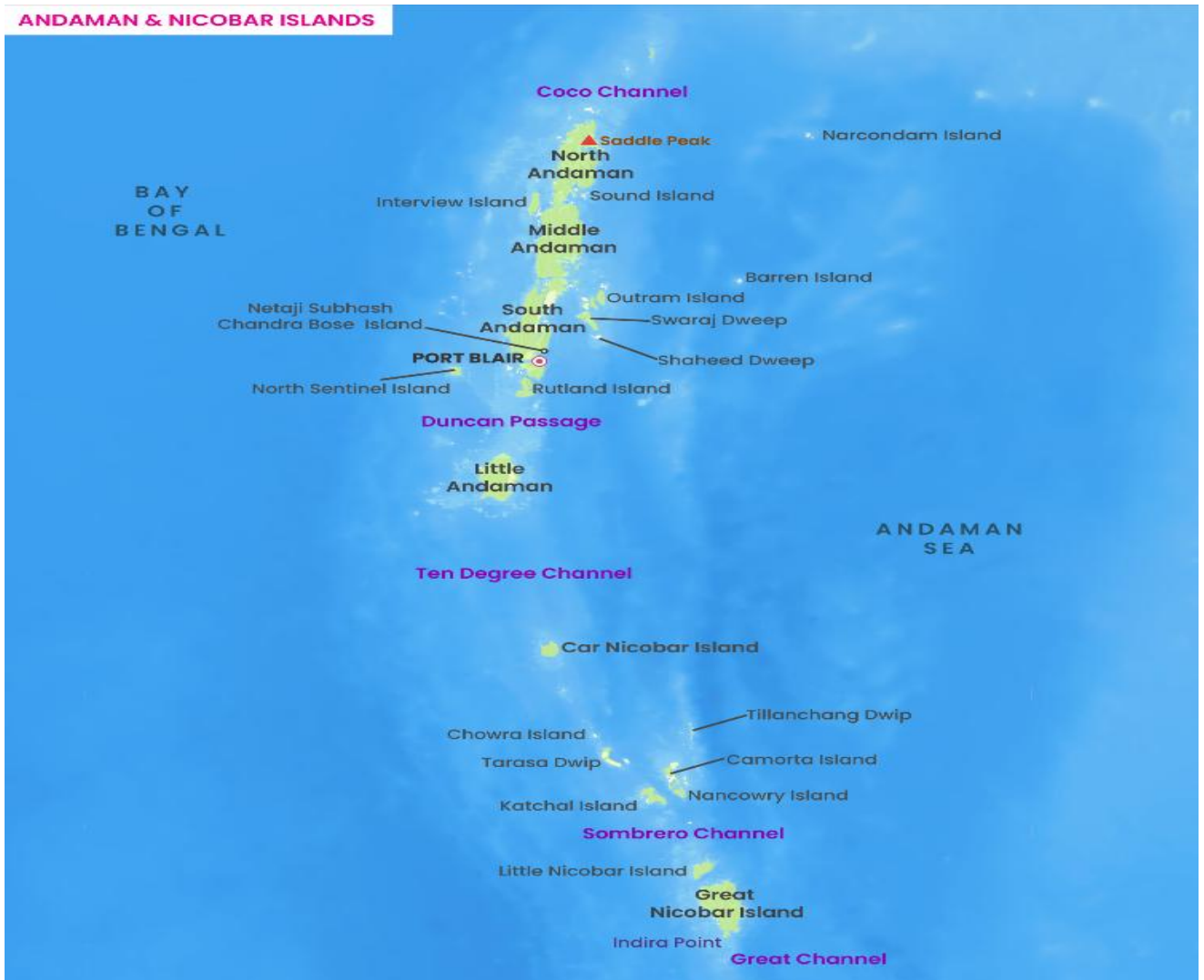


40) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Mapping

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** The map of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is given below:



- The **Coco Channel** is a narrow waterway that separates **Coco Islands (Myanmar)** from **North Andaman Island (India)**. It is strategically important as it lies close to India's **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**, influencing regional maritime security.
- **Duncan Passage** is a strait located between **Rutland Island and Little Andaman in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands** of India. It connects the **Bay of Bengal with the Andaman Sea**.
- The **Ten-Degree Channel** is a major waterway that separates the **Andaman Islands from the Nicobar Islands** in the Bay of Bengal. It is named after the 10-degree latitude that runs through it and serves as a crucial maritime route for international shipping.
- The Sombbrero Channel is a waterway in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located between **Little Nicobar Island and Katchal Island**. It is an important passage within the **Nicobar group of islands**, facilitating navigation and marine biodiversity.

Source: Atlas



41) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Physiography of India

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The Peninsula is primarily composed of **ancient gneisses (metamorphic) and granites (plutonic igneous), not sedimentary and volcanic rocks**. While sedimentary and volcanic formations do exist in some regions (e.g., Deccan Traps for volcanic rocks), they do not constitute the major part of the Peninsula.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The Peninsular region contains several **relict and residual mountains** (e.g., Aravallis, Nallamala, Javadi Hills). However, the rivers of the Peninsula are generally **shallow with low gradients**, rather than deep with high gradients.

Source: India Physical Environment (NCERT XI), Chapter 2.

42) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Climate of India

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Western Disturbances are extra-tropical storms originating in the Mediterranean region that bring winter rainfall to the northwestern parts of India, especially Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh, and parts of Rajasthan.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The **northeastern part of India also gets rainfall during the winter months**. Arunachal Pradesh and Assam may get as much as 50 cm rainfall during winter months.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** Although very small in amount, the **rainfall is extremely useful for Rabi crops**, especially wheat. The rainfall that the Western disturbances bring, influence weather patterns during the winter season, extending their impact as far as Patna in Bihar and is highly advantageous for the growth of rabi crops such as wheat, barley, mustard, gram, lentil, and others.

Source: India – A Comprehensive Geography by D R Khullar, 2nd Edition, Chapters 5

43) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Population pyramid

- **Statement I is CORRECT.** The population pyramid is used to show the age-sex structure of the population. The shape of the population pyramid reflects the characteristics of the population. The left side shows the percentage of males while the right side shows the percentage of women in each age group. The age-sex pyramid of less developed countries is a triangular-shaped pyramid with a wide base.
- **Statement II is CORRECT.** Less developed countries have larger populations in the lower age groups due to high birth rates i.e. expansive population trend.
- **Therefore, Statement I and Statement II are CORRECT and Statement II is the CORRECT explanation of Statement I.**

Source: NCERT Class XII Fundamentals of Human Geography - Chapter III Population Composition



44) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Pollution

Context: Common discussions about Marine microplastic contamination.

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** Microplastics are defined as tiny plastic particles that are typically less than 5 millimeters in size. They can originate from the breakdown of larger plastic waste or from microbeads found in some personal care products. Due to their small size, they are difficult to filter out and often end up in natural environments, especially water bodies.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** A recent study found that microplastics can latch on to the outer membranes of red blood cells and may limit their ability to transport oxygen. The particles have also been found in the placentas of pregnant women. These particles can enter the body through ingestion or inhalation and may pass through the gut lining into the circulatory system. The presence of microplastics in human tissues is raising concerns about possible health risks.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** In marine ecosystems, microplastics can be ingested by a wide range of organisms, from plankton to fish and larger marine mammals. This ingestion leads to bioaccumulation in an organism over time and biomagnification as microplastics move up the food chain, ultimately reaching humans who consume seafood. This process of biomagnification could have significant ecological and health implications, as it introduces potentially harmful substances into the food chain.

Source: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/microplastics.html>

45) Answer: (d)

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Protected Areas

Context: Centre clears oil & gas exploratory drilling in Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary.

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT. Eco-Sensitive zones (ESZs) are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The Supreme Court of India has emphasized the role of ESZs in acting as buffer zones around protected areas (PAs) such as national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, but this is not a provision of the Wildlife Protection Act.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT. The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL),** under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, is responsible for granting approvals for projects that may affect wildlife within or near protected areas. As per Supreme Court rulings and MoEFCC guidelines, industrial projects such as hydrocarbon exploration, mining, and infrastructure development require clearance from the NBWL if they are located within an ESZ.

Source: <https://moef.gov.in/eco-sensitive-zone-esz>

46) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Environmental conventions

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** The **Nagoya Protocol** is an international agreement under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** that specifically addresses **access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their**



utilization. It ensures that indigenous communities and nations receive compensation when their genetic resources are used for commercial or academic purposes.

Source: https://www.salford.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-06/Paper_AEC1607_Nagoya-Protocol.pdf

47) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Lakes

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** Sambhar Lake is **India's largest inland saline lake**, located in **Rajasthan**, and is an important **Ramsar site**. It experiences **seasonal variability**, with water levels fluctuating significantly between wet and dry seasons. The lake is a major **habitat for migratory birds**, including flamingos, and has a long history of **salt production**. The surrounding region has **xerophytic vegetation**, adapted to the arid climate and high salinity of the soil.
- **Uiam Lake** is an **artificial reservoir** located in **Meghalaya**.
- **Dipor Bil** is a **freshwater lake** in **Assam**, designated as a **Ramsar site**.
- **Roop Kund Lake** is a **glacial lake** in **Uttarakhand**, famous for its skeletal remains.

Source: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/464>

48) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Environmental organizations

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is **not a treaty-based intergovernmental organization**. The CDRI is a **partnership** of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the **2019 UN Climate Action Summit** in September 2019.

Source: <https://www.cdri.world/cdri-overview>

49) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Fauna and flora

- Bioluminescence is light produced by a chemical reaction within a living organism. Most bioluminescent organisms are found in the **ocean**. These bioluminescent marine species include **fish, bacteria, and jellies**. Some bioluminescent organisms, including **fireflies and fungi**, are found on land. There are almost no bioluminescent organisms native to freshwater habitats.
- **Option (b) is INCORRECT.** Viruses are not considered living organisms in the traditional sense. They lack the complex cellular machinery required for metabolic processes, including the chemical reactions that produce light in bioluminescent organisms. Therefore, **viruses do not exhibit bioluminescence**.



Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/bioluminescence/#:~:text=Most%20bioluminescent%20organisms%20are%20found,organisms%20native%20to%20freshwater%20habitats>.

50) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Protected areas

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** A State Government has the authority to declare an area as a **Wildlife Sanctuary under Section 18 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WLPA)** and a **National Park under Section 35(1) of WLPA**. However, the declaration of a National Park requires stricter protection and involves higher restrictions compared to a Wildlife Sanctuary. While the State Government has the initial authority, certain approvals, such as those from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), may be needed for further modifications or notifications.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** As per **Section 26A (3) of WLPA**, the alteration of the boundary of a Wildlife Sanctuary requires the **recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)**. Similarly, **Section 35(5)** of WLPA states that the alteration of the boundary of a National Park also requires NBWL's recommendation. However, the article also mentions that the Hon'ble Supreme Court (Order dated 13.11.2000) has placed restrictions on dereservation/denotification of National Parks and Sanctuaries, requiring mandatory court approval for such activities. Thus, while NBWL's recommendation is necessary, the final decision may also require judicial approval.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** A Wildlife Sanctuary can be upgraded to a National Park by the State Government under **Section 35(1) of WLPA**. This process requires stricter regulations and typically entails the complete settlement of rights before conversion, meaning that any existing rights (e.g., grazing, firewood collection) within the sanctuary must be resolved before it is designated as a National Park. Since National Parks have higher protection and stricter restrictions than Wildlife Sanctuaries, the conversion process ensures that the area gets more robust legal protection.

Source: https://www.indiacode.nic.in/show-data?actid=AC_CEN_16_18_00007_197253_1517807324579§ionId=32928§ionno=35&orderno=53

51) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Banking

- **Statement (a) is CORRECT.** A **Digital Banking Unit (DBU) is defined as a specialized fixed-point business unit or hub, equipped with minimum digital infrastructure to deliver digital banking products and services.** This initiative aims to expand the digital footprint of banks and provide a seamless banking experience to customers.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1868239>



52) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: International trade

Context: Recent tariffs imposed by the US on its imports from India, Canada and the European Union.

- **Statement I is CORRECT.** Strategic autonomy refers to a country's effort to reduce dependence on external partners and enhance self-reliance in key sectors. The rise of strategic autonomy in trade policy reflects a shift where countries aim to reduce dependence on global supply chains and external economic influences, prioritizing national interests and economic self-sufficiency. This trend has led to a **decline in reliance on multilateral trade agreements and institutions** like the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- **Example:** US threat to exit WTO and their unilateral tariff policy. All major powers have implemented similar policies advocating different reasons and using different narratives, but with ultimately a similar effect. While in the US, 'America First' became the major slogan under the Trump administration and defined a new yardstick for an inward-looking America, the US had already shown earlier signs of withdrawal from its role of benevolent hegemon.
- China's attitude towards Western economies has become much more assertive and, in some cases, even openly contentious in the direction of a new global leader aiming for reduced dependence on Western powers.
- **Statement II is CORRECT and explains Statement-I.** Strengthening strategic autonomy **often involves trade protectionism, supply chain diversification, and prioritizing domestic production over global integration.** This approach **can reduce competitiveness in the global market**, making it harder to sustain high export growth. Moreover, countries adopting strategic autonomy may face **retaliatory tariffs** from trading partners, further hindering export performance and global market access.
- The adoption of measures described in Statement-II (trade protectionism, reshoring, etc.) is a direct manifestation of the pursuit of 'strategic autonomy' mentioned in Statement-I. Countries are reducing their reliance on multilateral trade frameworks and institutions because they are actively implementing policies aimed at increasing their self-reliance and control over their economies, as outlined in Statement-II. **Therefore, Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.**

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2016/08/would-a-us-exit-from-the-wto-unravel-global-trade/>

53) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Inflation

Context: The Hindu news report: Retail inflation at 7-month low of 3.6%

- **Option 1 is CORRECT.** A decline in retail inflation below the RBI's target may **indicate weak consumer demand** and lower business activity, suggesting an economic slowdown. When demand weakens, businesses may **reduce production and investment**, leading to slower economic growth.



- **Option 2 is CORRECT.** When retail inflation falls below the RBI's target, it can lead to an **increase in real interest rates**. Real interest rates are calculated as:
 - Real Interest Rate = Nominal Interest Rate - Inflation Rate
- **If the nominal interest rate remains unchanged** while inflation decreases, the real interest rate rises. For example, if the nominal interest rate is 6% and inflation drops from 4% to 2%, the real interest rate increases from 2% to 4%.
- **Option 3 is CORRECT.** If inflation is below the target, the **RBI is less likely to raise interest rates to control inflation**.

Source: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/realinterestrate.asp>

54) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Schemes in news

Context: Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024, amending the Patents Rules, 2003, (under the Patents Act, 1970) have been notified by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

- **Option 1 is CORRECT. SIPP (Startup Intellectual Property Protection): A scheme to help Indian startups protect and file their intellectual property rights** at a reduced cost. Hence part of National IPR policy.
- **Option 2 is CORRECT. NIPAM (National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission): A government initiative to spread awareness about intellectual property rights (IPR)** among students, startups, and businesses. Hence part of National IPR policy.
- **Option 3 is INCORRECT.** The **Stand Up India Scheme is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among women and SC/ST communities but is not specifically part of the National IPR Policy.**
- **Option 4 is INCORRECT.** The **Make in India Initiative focuses on encouraging manufacturing in India and is not directly related to the National IPR Policy.**

Source: <https://ipindia.gov.in/SIPP.htm>

55) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Infrastructure

Context: Benchmarking Infrastructure Development report released by World Bank analyses Public-Private Partnership (PPP) regulatory landscapes across 140 economies.

- **Option 1 is CORRECT. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is allowed in infrastructure projects under the PPP model.** Various sectors such as highways, ports, and airports have attracted FDI through PPP arrangements.
- **Option 2 is CORRECT. The PPP model involves risk-sharing between the public and private sector.** Typically, the government provides land, regulatory support, or viability gap funding, while the private entity undertakes financing, construction, and operation
- **Option 3 is INCORRECT.** The PPP model does not mandate complete privatization of public sector assets. Instead, it allows **private sector participation while retaining public ownership** in most cases.

Source: <https://www.niti.gov.in/verticals/ppp>



56) Answer: (b) (Pair 3 is INCORRECTLY matched.)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Banking

- **Pair 1 is CORRECTLY matched. SARFAESI Act, 2002:** This Act empowers banks and financial institutions to recover secured loans without needing to approach the courts. It allows for the seizure and sale of assets used as security for loans in cases of default.
- **Pair 2 is CORRECTLY matched. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016:** The IBC aims to provide a time-bound process for insolvency resolution, ensuring that companies in financial distress undergo a structured process to resolve their debts. It promotes faster recovery and resolution.
- **Pair 3 is INCORRECTLY matched. RBI's Risk-Based Supervision Framework:** This framework is designed to assess the risks associated with financial institutions and ensure that they are adhering to prudential norms. It **does not impose criminal liability on wilful defaulters**. The responsibility for imposing criminal liability lies with other legal provisions, such as the FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act). **The RBI's framework is focused on identifying risks and supervising institutions accordingly, not directly enforcing criminal action on defaulters.**

Source: https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/1988/1/A1999_42.pdf

57) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: National income

Context: Sluggish growth of private Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) as a percentage of GDP has been a significant challenge for the Indian economy.

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** A **high incremental capital-to-output ratio (ICOR) means more capital is required to generate additional output**, which can indicate **inefficiency**. Contrarily, a low ICOR reflects more efficient use of capital.
- Even in a high-saving economy, **capital formation depends on investment efficiency, policy environment, and economic conditions, not just the ICOR.**
- **A high ICOR often reflects lower productivity of capital, which can slow down capital formation rather than ensure it.**
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF)** refers to **investment in fixed assets** like infrastructure, machinery, and buildings, which contribute to production capacity.
 - It does NOT include the following:
 - **Intermediate consumption** (goods/services used up in production like raw materials).
 - **Household final consumption** (spending on goods/services for direct consumption, such as food, clothing, and rent).

Source: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/icor.asp>

58) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Basic economy

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** A public good is defined as a good that is non-rivalrous (one person's consumption does not reduce availability for others) and non-excludable



(it is difficult to exclude others from using it). Examples include national defence and public parks.

- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** A common-pool resource is a good that is rivalrous (use by one person reduces availability for others) but non-excludable (others cannot be easily excluded from using it). Example: fisheries.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** A private good can be both rivalrous (consumption by one person reduces the quantity available for others) and excludable (others can be prevented from using it). Examples include food, clothing, and cars.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/money/public-good-economics>

59) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: National income

Context: News report on change in base year for GDP estimation

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The Government of India is set to update the base year for calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2011-12 to 2022-23, aiming to provide a more accurate representation of the country's economic structure. This update is the first in over a decade, with the last revision being done in 2011-12.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** Regular updates to the GDP base year are crucial to accurately reflect structural changes in the economy, including shifts in consumption patterns, sectoral contributions, and the inclusion of emerging sectors. By aligning with the economic realities of 2022-23, the revised series will offer a more precise framework for policymaking and analysis.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-to-revise-gdp-base-year-from-2011-12-to-2022-23/articleshow/115898380.cms?from=mdr>

60) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: International trade

Context: Statistics on India's exports and imports.

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** India continues to be a net importer of steel for 9MFY25 (April-December), with shipments of the metal coming in at almost double the exports. As per an internal report of the Steel Ministry, steel imports rose over 20 per cent y-o-y to 7.3 million tonne (mt) for the nine-month period, while exports slumped by 25 per cent to 3.6 mt during the same period. This is amongst the lowest exports made by Indian steel mills in recent years.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** India has a trade surplus in the services sector. India is the seventh-largest services exporting country globally. India ranks 2nd in the world in telecommunication, computer, and information services exports.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** Since there is sufficient refining capacity in the country, India is a net exporter of petroleum products. However, certain petroleum products (e.g. LPG, Lubes/LOBS etc.) are imported mainly due to deficit in production, refinery shutdown/s, technical and commercial considerations, etc.



Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-remains-net-importer-of-steel-as-imports-surge-20-while-exports-plunge-25-in-9mfy25/article69080873.ece>

61) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Election

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** The right to contest an election in India is classified as a **statutory right**, meaning it is granted and regulated by legislation rather than being inherent or constitutionally guaranteed. **The Supreme Court of India has consistently held that this right is neither fundamental nor derived from common law but is conferred solely by statute.**
- This statutory framework is primarily established by the **Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961**. These laws outline specific procedures and qualifications for electoral candidacy. For instance, under Section 33 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a candidate's nomination must be proposed by an eligible voter. The Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, further detail the requirements for submitting nomination papers, including the necessity of a proposer. In a 2022 judgment, the Supreme Court reaffirmed this position, emphasizing that the right to contest elections is a statutory privilege subject to conditions imposed by legislation. The Court noted that **an individual cannot claim an inherent right to contest an election without adhering to the statutory requirements**, such as having a proposer for their nomination.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/right-to-contest-election-is-not-a-fundamental-right-supreme-court-holds/articleshow/94182953.cms?from=mdr>

62) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Judiciary

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** The doctrine of "**pith and substance**" is a key principle in Indian constitutional law, **applied to resolve conflicts when a law enacted by one legislative body (Centre or State) appears to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the other.** It is particularly **relevant in cases of overlap between legislative competencies as defined by the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.**
- This doctrine examines the true nature and purpose of a law—its "pith" (core subject) and "substance" (essential purpose). If the law primarily falls within the enacting legislature's jurisdiction, it remains constitutionally valid, even if it incidentally affects matters outside its domain. By ensuring flexibility in legislative powers, the doctrine prevents rigid interpretations that could hinder governance, thereby maintaining the federal balance between the Centre and the States.

Source: <https://www.sconline.com/blog/post/2023/09/16/evolution-of-the-doctrine-of-repugnancy-a-perspective-of-the-supreme-court/>



63) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Vice-President

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The qualifications for the Vice-President differ from those of the President in one key aspect – the Vice-President must be **qualified for election as a member of the Rajya Sabha**, while the President must be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The Vice-President, as the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, **does not vote in the ordinary course of business**, as they are not a member of the Rajya Sabha. However, the Vice-President **is entitled to cast a vote in the case of a tie**, acting as a casting vote to break the tie.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** There is **no such restriction** in the Constitution or in the rules of the Rajya Sabha that the removal of the Vice-President cannot be initiated or completed while the House is in session. The procedure for the removal of the Vice-President is governed by **Article 67(b)**, which requires:
 - A resolution to remove the Vice-President must be filed with a minimum notice period of 14 days.
 - Resolution passed in the **Rajya Sabha by an effective majority** (i.e., a majority of all the then members of the House).
 - Agreement by a **simple majority in the Lok Sabha**.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth, 7th Edition, Chapter 23

64) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Fundamental Rights

- **Options 1, 2 and 3 are CORRECT.** In the literal sense, **Certiorari means 'to be certified' or to be informed**. It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal either to transfer a case pending with the latter to itself or to squash the order of the latter in a case. It is issued on the grounds of excess of jurisdiction or lack of jurisdiction or error of law. Thus, unlike prohibition, which is only preventive, certiorari is both preventive as well as curative. **Previously, the writ of certiorari could be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities and not against administrative authorities. However, in 1991, the Supreme Court ruled that the certiorari can be issued even against administrative authorities affecting rights of individuals.** Like prohibition, certiorari is also **not available against legislative bodies and private individuals or bodies**.

Source: India Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 7, Page 7.23.

65) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Constitutional amendment

- **Statement (a) is INCORRECT.** The procedure for the Amendment of the Constitution of India as per Article 368 is as follows: A bill for the amendment of the Constitution **can be introduced in either House of the Parliament**, but not in the State Legislatures.



- **Statement (b) is INCORRECT.** The bill can be **introduced either by a minister or by a private member** and does not require prior permission of the President. The bill must be passed in each House by a **Special Majority**, that is, a majority (more than 50 percent) of the total membership of the House and a majority of two-thirds of the members of the House present and voting.
- **Statement (c) is INCORRECT.** **Each House must pass the bill separately.** In case of a disagreement between the two Houses, there is **no provision for holding a joint sitting** of the two Houses for deliberation and passage of the bill. If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the States by a Simple Majority, that is, a majority of the members of the House present and voting.
- **Statement (d) is CORRECT.** After duly passed by both Houses of Parliament and ratified by the State Legislatures, where necessary, the bill is presented to the President for his/her assent. The **President must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration by the Parliament.** The **24th Amendment** made it mandatory for the President to give his assent to constitutional amendment bills. After the President's assent, the bill becomes an Act (i.e. a Constitutional Amendment Act), and the Constitution stands amended as per the changes made by the Act.

Source: Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth 6th Edition Chapter 22.

66) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: International organizations

Context: The withdrawal of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger from ECOWAS.

- **Option (c) is INCORRECT.** The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is a regional political and economic union of fifteen countries located in West Africa. It aims to promote economic integration and stability in the region. **Cameroon is not a member of ECOWAS.** It is part of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).
- The 12 members* of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are Benin, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, **Ghana**, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, **Nigeria, Senegal**, Sierra Leone, and Togo.
- ***Note:** In 2024, the military governments of **Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali** jointly announced their withdrawal from the bloc, after having been suspended following respective military takeovers in these countries, reducing the total ECOWAS membership to 12 countries. These three countries experienced military coups between 2020 and 2023. ECOWAS imposed sanctions on them to restore democratic governance. In response, they announced their exit and formed a **new alliance: the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).**

Source: <https://ecowas.int/member-states/>



67) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Geological Time Scale

- The geologic time scale is a system that divides Earth's history into **eons, eras, periods, epochs, and ages**, based on significant geological and biological events, allowing geologists to understand and date Earth's events.
- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The **first life appeared during the Archean eon**, much earlier than the Cambrian period. The Cambrian period (about 541 million years ago) is known for the **Cambrian Explosion**, a rapid diversification of life forms, but **life itself originated billions of years earlier** in the form of simple prokaryotic cells (bacteria and archaea) during the Archean eon (~3.5 billion years ago).
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** **Homo sapiens first appeared in the Pleistocene epoch**, not the Holocene. Fossil evidence suggests that **Homo sapiens evolved around 300,000 years ago** during the **Pleistocene epoch** (~2.6 million to 11,700 years ago). The **Holocene epoch** (beginning ~11,700 years ago) marks the rise of human civilizations, but anatomically modern humans existed before this period.

Geological Time Scale

<i>Eons</i>	<i>Era</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Epoch</i>	<i>Age/ Years Before Present</i>	<i>Life/ Major Events</i>
	Cainozoic (From 65 million years to the present times)	Quaternary	Holocene Pleistocene	0 - 10,000 10,000 - 2 million	Modern Man Homo Sapiens
		Tertiary	Pliocene Miocene	2 - 5 million 5 - 24 million	Early Human Ancestor Ape: Flowering Plants and Trees
			Oligocene Eocene Palaeocene	24 - 37 million 37 - 58 Million 57 - 65 Million	Anthropoid Ape Rabbits and Hare Small Mammals : Rats - Mice
	Mesozoic 65 - 245 Million Mammals	Cretaceous Jurassic Triassic		65 - 144 Million 144 - 208 Million 208 - 245 Million	Extinction of Dinosaurs Age of Dinosaurs Frogs and turtles
Palaeozoic 245 - 570 Million		Permian		245 - 286 Million	Reptile dominate-replace amphibians
		Carboniferous		286 - 360 Million	First Reptiles: Vertebrates: Coal beds
		Devonian		360 - 408 Million	Amphibians
		Silurian		408 - 438 Million	First trace of life on land: Plants
		Ordovician Cambrian		438 - 505 Million 505 - 570 Million	First Fish No terrestrial Life : Marine Invertebrate
Proterozoic Archean	Pre-Cambrian 570 Million - 4,800 Million			570 - 2,500 Million 2,500 - 3,800 Million	Soft-bodied arthropods Blue green Algae: Unicellular bacteria
Hadean				3,800 - 4,800 Million	Oceans and Continents form - Ocean and Atmosphere are rich in Carbon dioxide
Origin of Stars	5,000 - 13,700 Million			5,000 Million	Origin of the sun
Supernova				12,000 Million	Origin of the universe
Big Bang				13,700 Million	

Source: Fundamentals of Physical Geography (NCERT Class XI), Chapter 2.



68) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Pollution

- **Statements 1 and 2 are CORRECT.** Radon is a **naturally occurring radioactive noble gas** that has no smell, colour or taste. Radon is **produced from the natural radioactive decay of uranium**, which is found in all rocks and soils. Radon can also be found in water.
- Radon escapes from the ground into the air, where it decays and produces further radioactive particles. As we breathe, these particles are deposited on the cells lining the airways, where they can damage DNA and potentially cause lung cancer.
- Outdoors, radon quickly dilutes to very low concentrations and is generally not a problem. The average outdoor radon level (*l*) varies from 5 Bq/m³ to 15 Bq/m³. However, **radon concentrations are higher indoors and in areas with minimal ventilation**, with highest levels found in places like mines, caves and water treatment facilities. In buildings such as homes, schools, offices, radon levels can vary substantially from 10 Bq/m³ to more than 10 000 Bq/m³. Given the properties of radon, occupants of such buildings could unknowingly be living or working in very high radon levels.

Source: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/radon-and-health#:~:text=Overview,in%20very%20high%20radon%20levels>.

69) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Renewable energy

- **Options 1, 3 and 5 are CORRECT.** There are five major renewable energy sources:
 1. Solar energy from the sun
 2. Geothermal energy from heat inside the earth
 3. Wind energy
 4. Biomass (Wood and wood waste, Municipal solid waste, Landfill gas and biogas, Ethanol and Biodiesel)
 5. Hydropower from flowing water
- Major non-renewable energy sources are:
 1. Petroleum
 2. Hydrocarbon gas liquids
 3. Natural gas
 4. Coal
 5. Nuclear energy

Source: <https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/what-is-energy/sources-of-energy.php>

70) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Technology

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) are unique digital tokens stored on a blockchain, which represent ownership of distinct digital assets such as artwork, music, videos, collectibles, or in-game items.



- Non-fungible means that something is unique and cannot be easily replaced with something else of the same kind. Tokens in this context refer to digital assets that represent ownership or proof of authenticity. Therefore, Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) are primarily used to create and represent ownership of unique digital items, such as: Digital art, Music, Videos, Virtual real estate and Collectible items.
- While NFTs can be used in various applications related to digital ownership and transactions, their primary purpose is to establish and verify the uniqueness and ownership of digital assets.

Source: NITI Aayog paper on Blockchain.

71) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Awards

Context: Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2024 Awarded to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for “studies of how institutions are formed and affect prosperity”.

- **Statement 1 is INCORRECT.** The **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences is commonly known as the Nobel Prize of economics. It is not one of the five Nobel Prizes established by Alfred Nobel's will** in 1895.
- Alfred Nobel's will established five Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace, with the first awards given in 1901.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** **Amartya Sen was the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize for Economics in 1998** for his contributions to welfare economics and social choice theory.

Source: <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/>

72) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Agriculture

Context: Agricultural exports in India registered an 8% decline in the year (2023 – 24) and fell short of the ambitious target of \$60 billion by 2022 (set by India’s Agricultural Export Policy, 2018).

- **Option 1 is CORRECT.** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (**APEDA**) is a government body **responsible for promoting the export of agricultural and processed food products** from India.
- **Option 2 is INCORRECT.** In India, the **Geographical Indications Registry, which falls under the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks within the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, is responsible for managing Geographical Indication (GI) registrations. APEDA does not handle GI registration for Indian products overseas.
- **Option 3 is CORRECT.** **APEDA functions as the Secretariat for the National Accreditation Board (NAB)**, which is the accreditation body for the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/make-it-farmer-friendly-9324370/>



73) Answer: (c) (Option 3 is INCORRECT.)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Agriculture

Context: The Union cabinet approved the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), from 2024-25 to 2030-31.

- **Option 1 is CORRECT.** Leading the nation, **Gujarat contributes approximately 42% of India's total groundnut production.**
- **Option 2 is CORRECT.** **Rajasthan** - a significant producer, accounting for about **17%** of the country's groundnut output.
- **Option 3 is INCORRECT.** **Kerala is not a major groundnut-producing State**, primarily due to its humid climate and soil conditions, which are less conducive to groundnut cultivation.
- **Option 4 is CORRECT.** **Karnataka** produces approximately **6% of the nation's groundnuts.**
- **Option 5 is CORRECT.** **Tamil Nadu** contributes around **11%** to India's groundnut production.
- **Option 6 is CORRECT.** **Andhra Pradesh** is a notable groundnut-producing State in India, contributing approximately **9%** to the nation's total groundnut production.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2082792>

74) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Financial inclusion

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) aims to offer efficient banking services to every household in India, ensuring financial security and empowerment.
- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** **As a payments bank, IPPB is not permitted to provide loan or credit services**, including to small and marginal farmers. However, IPPB can refer customers to partner banks for loan or credit services through its collaborations with these banks. This allows IPPB to help customers access credit facilities indirectly.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** IPPB focuses on delivering accessible, affordable, and reliable banking services, particularly targeting rural and underserved regions to enhance financial inclusion.

Source: <https://www.ippbonline.com/web/ippb/about-us1>

75) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Schemes in news

- **Statements 1 and 2 are CORRECT.** The 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)' was introduced in the Union Budget for 2023-24. It aims to promote and conserve mangroves, which are unique natural ecosystems known for their high biological productivity and carbon sequestration capabilities. Additionally, mangroves serve as a protective barrier for coastlines against cyclones, typhoons, and



tidal waves. The **programme will cover approximately 540 square kilometres across nine coastal states and four UTs** over five years (2023-2028).

- The programme is being implemented in convergence mode, with funding from the State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National CAMPA, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and other sources. **State forest departments are the primary implementing agencies of the programme.** Gap funding to support the core and support activities under MISHTI is through National-CAMPA.

Source: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/economicsurvey/doc/echapter.pdf>

76) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Mahajanapadas

- **Row 1 is CORRECTLY matched.** The capital of Anga (Bihar) was Champa (located at the confluence of Ganga and Champa rivers). Champa was an important commercial centre on the trade routes and merchants sailed from here to Suvarnabhumi (South-East Asia).
- **Row 2 is CORRECTLY matched.** The Capital of Mallas were Kushinara and Pava. Kushinara and Pava are very important in the history of Buddhism, since Buddha took his last meal and was taken ill at Pava, and went to his Mahaparinirvana at Kushinara.
- **Row 3 is CORRECTLY matched.** Vatsa (on the banks of river Yamuna) had the capital Kaushambi (at the confluence of the Ganga and Yamuna, near Allahabad). It was ruled by King Udayana.
- **Row 4 is INCORRECTLY matched.** The **capital of Ashavaka/Assaka** (located on the banks of the **Godavari River**) was **Potali** (Telangana). It was the only Mahajanapada situated to the south of the Vindhya Range, and was in Dakshinapatha.

Source: Ancient and Medieval India by Poonam Dalal Dahiya (Page no: 130)

77) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Vedic period

- **Statement I is INCORRECT.** Even though a socially organised “varna system” was not prevalent and tribal elements were stronger in the society, yet **Rig Vedic society can still not be considered a totally egalitarian society as social stratification was there based on the division of labour and gender.**
- **Statement II is CORRECT.** The Rig Vedic society was not divided on caste lines and even the Rajans, the Purohits, the artisans, etc., were part of the clan networks. **Occupation was not based on birth.** Members of a family could adopt different occupations.

Source: Ancient and Medieval India by Poonam Dalal Dahiya (Page no: 104).



78) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Archaeological sites

- **Option (a) is CORRECT.** The Mesolithic Age represents the intermediate stage in Stone Age Culture. The characteristic tools of this age were microliths. **Bagor, Rajasthan** on River Kothari is the largest and best documented Mesolithic site in India.

Source: Ancient and Medieval India by Poonam Dalal Dahiya (Page no: 34)

79) Answer: (b) (Only Pairs 1 and 3 are CORRECTLY matched.)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Indus Valley civilization

- **Pair 1 is CORRECTLY matched.** When **Alexander reached the Beas River**, his soldiers, war-weary, homesick, and diseased, refused to march further. Facing mounting internal dissent and the prospect of an encounter with the powerful army of Dhanananda, the ruler of Magadha, which was one of the most formidable adversaries in India at the time, Alexander was compelled to retreat. To mark the farthest point of his advance, he erected 12 huge stone altars on the northern bank of the Beas.
- **Pair 2 is INCORRECTLY matched.** The dominant sight at Lothal is the massive dockyard. It was excavated beside **Bhogava River, a tributary of the Sabarmati River.**
- **Pair 3 is CORRECTLY matched.** There is evidence of earliest ploughed fields from Harappan civilisation at **Kalibangan**. Kalibangan is on the southern bank of **river Ghaggar** in Rajasthan.

Sources: Ancient and Medieval India by Poonam Dalal Dahiya (Page no: 142)

80) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Jainism

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** Terapanth and Mandir Margi are the sects of **Jainism.**
- Other sects of Jainism:

Digambaras:

- Major Sub-Sects
 - Mula Sangh
 - Kashtra sangh
 - Bisapantha
 - Terapantha
 - Taranpantha or Samaiyapantha
 - Gumanapantha
 - Totapantha

Svetambaras:

- Major Sub-Sects
 - Murtipujaka
 - Sthanakvasi
 - Deravasi or Mandira-margi
 - Terapanthi

Source: Page 184, Faith & Philosophy of Jainism by Arun Kumar Jain.



81) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Buddhism

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** The ruins of the Buddhist Stupa at Amaravati were first discovered by Colin Mackenzie, the first surveyor general of India, **in 1797.**
- Mackenzie was a Scottish army officer in the British East India company who became the first Surveyor General of India. It was he who produced the first authentic geographical map of south India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/Col.-Colin-Mackenzie-Eagle-eye-of-a-manuscript-man/article16925797.ece>

82) Answer: (a)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Turkish expansion in India

- **Statement I is CORRECT.** 12th century India witnessed **Turkish expansion** which culminated in the establishment of Delhi Sultanate. During the period, **Islamised and Persianised Turks** began expanding towards India. **Plentiful supply of horses and war materials** were important factors which aided in the success of Turkish expansion.
- **Statement II is CORRECT.** The Turks had at their disposal the availability of **finest breeds of horses in the steppes of central Asia.** They were the best varieties in the entire world and they were **bred by sturdy, disciplined warriors.** They were imported to Arabia and India because the native breeds there were not as good as the central Asian ones.
- **Statement III is CORRECT.** The region of Ghur and its neighbouring areas were **rich in metals, especially iron.** The people of Ghur **specialized in production of weapons and war-equipment** and exported them to neighbouring lands. Therefore, war implements and materials were easily available to the Turkish warriors. When **Mahmud Ghazni** attacked Ghur in 1020 CE, its chief Abul Hasan Khalaf brought him shields and cuirasses and a tribute of arms was levied on him. The value of Ghurid arms was identified and admired by Mahmud and he employed Ghurid officers as experts in siege-warfare.

Source: Chapter 1- West and Central Asia between 10th and 12th Centuries, Medieval India by Satish Chandra, Sixth edition. Page no-15.

83) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Vijayanagara empire

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** **Krishnadeva Raya's rule (1509-1529)** was characterised as one of the greatest periods of the Vijayanagara empire. During his reign, the empire flourished under conditions of unparalleled peace and prosperity. Krishnadeva Raya is credited with building some fine temples and adding impressive gopurams to many important south Indian temples. He also **founded** a suburban township near Vijayanagara called **Nagalapuram after his mother.**

Source: Theme 7, NCERT Class XII, Themes in Indian History part- II, Page-170.



84) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Mughal administration

- **Option (d) is CORRECT:** The mansabdari system under the Mughals was a central administrative mechanism involving ranks and assignment of jagirs (land revenue assignments). The increase in mansabdars without adequate jagirs created pressure on the revenue system, causing inefficiencies and competition for resources.
- **Option (a) is INCORRECT:** Although more mansabdars existed, it did not reflect improved administrative efficiency; rather, it reflected strain.
- **Option (b) is INCORRECT:** The Mughal Empire was contracting, not expanding, in its later phase.
- **Option (c) is INCORRECT:** A rise in mansabdars didn't necessarily mean an actual increase in fighting troops, due to financial and administrative constraints.

Sources: NCERT Class XII – Themes in Indian History Part II.

85) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Terms in medieval India

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** "Jharokha" was a prominent feature in medieval Indian architecture, especially in Rajput and Mughal buildings, allowing rulers or nobles to observe processions or address the public.
- **The jharokha, as an architectural device, can be found across Mughal and Rajput architecture.** While the exact origin of this kind of window is a bit muddy, research suggests it can be traced all the way back to the Mauryan Empire around 300 BCE.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/air-india-unveils-new-logo-and-livery-maharaja-mascot-takes-a-backseat-in-rebranding-for-global-audiences-101691692655653.html>

86) Answer: (d)

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Hoysalas

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** The Hoysalas of Dwarsmudra, as they are commonly known in history, emerged in the Kannadiga region and occupied prominence during 11th-14th centuries in South India with Belur as the centre of the activities (later, the capital shifted to Halebidu). At that time the western Chalukyas of Kalyani and the Cholas along with the Pandayas, Kakatiyas (in the east), Kalachuris, Yadavas of Devgiri (northern Karnataka) were prominent in the region. The weakened and waning political authority of the Cholas and Pandyas eased the road to supremacy of the Hoysalas. **The founder of the dynasty was Nripa Kama II who was a feudatory of the Western Gangas.**

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/61911/1/Unit-6.pdf>



87) Answer: (a)

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Harsha period

- **Option (a) is CORRECT.** Harsha sent an envoy to the Tang court in China in 641 CE. Chinese Buddhist monk Xuanzang also documented Harsha's reign.
- **Option (b) is INCORRECT.** Though a contemporary of Harsha and known for resisting his advances, there is no record of him establishing diplomatic ties with China.
- **Option (c) is INCORRECT.** He was a Pallava ruler known for defeating Pulakesin II, but he did not establish relations with China.
- **Option (d) is INCORRECT.** He expanded Chola naval power, but formal diplomatic contact with China was not attributed to him in 641 CE.

Sources: A. L. Basham – The Wonder That Was India.

88) Answer: (a)

Difficulty level: Easy

Micro Topic: Wavell Plan

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The Wavell Plan (1945) proposed to create an all-Indian Executive Council, except the governor general and the Commander-in-Chief.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The Congress rejected the plan mainly because the plan attempt to reduce the status of INC to a purely hindu party instead of its right to include members of all communities.
- **Statement 3 is INCORRECT.** The **Wavell Plan failed, and the Constituent Assembly was formed later under the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946)**, not directly because of Wavell's proposals.

Source: Spectrum's Modern India by Rajiv Ahir 2017 edition, page 509-510

89) Answer: (b)

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Peasant movements

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** The Tebhaga Movement (1946-47) was a major peasant movement in Bengal, led by the Kisan Sabha (the peasant wing of the Communist Party of India). It demanded that sharecroppers (bargadars) retain two-thirds (tebhaga) of their harvest, instead of the customary half, which was given to landlords (jotedars). The movement gained momentum after World War II, when economic distress and food shortages worsened the condition of peasants. The British authorities and local landlords resisted the movement, leading to violent clashes, but it eventually paved the way for land reforms in independent India.

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/67775/1/Unit-8.pdf>

90) Answer: (b)

Difficulty level: Medium

Micro Topic: Revolt of 1857

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The revolt was fuelled by economic exploitation of peasants, particularly through harsh land revenue systems (Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari,



Mahalwari) and the annexation of princely states under the Doctrine of Lapse (e.g., Satara, Jhansi, Nagpur).

- **Statement 2 is INCORRECT.** The revolt **was concentrated in North and Central India, particularly in places like Delhi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Jhansi, and Bareilly.** However, the Bengal and Madras presidencies remained largely unaffected.
- **Statement 3 is CORRECT.** The lack of unity among leaders, combined with internal conflicts (e.g., disagreements between Nana Saheb, Rani Lakshmi Bai, and Bahadur Shah Zafar) and British military superiority, led to the failure of the revolt.
- **Statement 4 is CORRECT.** The Government of India Act, 1858 abolished the East India Company's rule and brought India under direct British Crown administration, with a Secretary of State for India in London.

Source: <https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/19872/1/Unit-4.pdf>

91) Answer: (c)

Difficulty level: Hard

Micro Topic: Judicial reforms

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** The Cornwallis Code, implemented by Lord Cornwallis in 1793, aimed to establish a more structured and equitable legal system in British India, separating revenue collection from judicial functions and introducing principles of equality before the law, though it also had limitations and unintended consequences. Although it excluded Indian judges from trying European subjects, it somewhat achieved judicial equality, as Europeans and Indians were tried under the same law.
- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** The Indian High Courts Act of 1861 abolished the existing criminal courts and civil courts. The act established High Courts in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, each with both original and appellate jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases thus creating a unified judicial structure under British administration.

Sources: Spectrum's Modern India by Rajiv Ahir 2017 edition– Development of judiciary in British India Page 584.

92) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: National Movement

- **Option (d) is CORRECT.** The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in April 1919, carried out under General Dyer, was a turning point in India's freedom struggle. It provoked widespread outrage across the country. Sir Shankaran Nair, a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, resigned in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- **Note:** Rabindranath Tagore protested by renouncing his knighthood, not by resigning from any official position.

Sources: Bipan Chandra – India's Struggle for Independence.

93) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Greenhouse effect

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** Nitrous oxide (N₂O) is recognized by the IPCC as a **long-lived greenhouse gas** with **ozone-depleting potential**, making it significant in both climate



change and atmospheric chemistry discussions. It is **colourless and non-flammable at room temperature**, aligning with its known physical properties. The gas possesses a **slight metallic scent and taste**, which is characteristic of its composition. At **elevated temperatures**, nitrous oxide acts as a **powerful oxidiser**, as it decomposes to release free oxygen alongside nitrogen. Commonly known as **laughing gas**, N_2O is widely used in **surgery and dentistry** for its **anaesthetic and pain-reducing effects**, highlighting its medical relevance beyond environmental concerns.

Source: NCERT Class XII – Chemistry in Everyday Life.

94) Answer: (b)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Technology

- **Option (b) is CORRECT.** NMR spectroscopy is a high-end analytical tool used to determine the composition of complex mixtures, especially in food testing, for identifying both nutrients and adulterants. NMR testing has been in the news due to its use in analyzing the authenticity and quality of food products like honey, milk, and edible oils.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-hindu-explains-is-there-anything-called-pure-honey-and-how-is-honey-tested/article61939371.ece#:~:text=The%20NMR%20test%20is%20not,and%20Markfed%20Sohna%20Honey%20passing.>

95) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Coral Reefs

- **Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 are CORRECT.** Coral reefs in India are primarily found in the areas of Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep Islands and Malvan.

Source: <https://incois.gov.in/portal/CoralReef.jsp#:~:text=Coral%20reefs%20are%20present%20in,Nicobar%2C%20Lakshadweep%20Islands%20and%20Malvan.>

96) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Species in news

- **Option (c) is CORRECT.** Batagur baska is a species of **freshwater turtle**, specifically a river terrapin. It is **critically endangered** and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act. Found in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal and parts of Odisha in India. Its population has declined drastically due to habitat destruction, poaching, and egg collection.

Source: <https://iucn.org/es/node/13413>

97) Answer: (c)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Protected areas

- **Statement 1 is CORRECT.** India has taken several steps to achieve the National Biodiversity Target no: 6 and **Aichi Biodiversity Target** no: 11 which aim to conserve



a substantial portion of the coastal and marine areas in the country and world respectively. Towards achieving these two targets, 106 coastal and marine sites have been identified and prioritized as Important Coastal and Marine Areas (ICMBAs) by the Wildlife Institute of India. Sixty-two ICMBAs have been identified along the west coast of India, and 44 have been identified along the east coast.

- **Statement 2 is CORRECT.** ICMBAs can be upgraded to Protected Areas such as Conservation Reserve or Communities Reserve. Of these 106 ICMBAs, 22 have been prioritized for immediate conservation actions and **proposed to be upgraded as Protected Areas under categories such as Conservation or Communities Reserve** to increase participation of the local communities in governance.

Source: http://www.wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ICMBAs_8247.aspx

98) Answer: (b) (Options 3 and 4 are CORRECT)

Difficulty Level: Hard

Micro Topic: Protected areas

- **Options 1 and 2 are INCORRECT.** The Tropic of Cancer passes through 8 states in India: Gujarat, Rajasthan, southern Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, southern West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- Kuno National Park, the site of **cheetah re-introduction**, is located in northern Madhya Pradesh. Buxa Tiger Reserve is located in northern West Bengal.
- **Option 3 is CORRECT.** Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is located in Andaman Islands.
- **Option 4 is CORRECT.** Papikonda national park is located in Andhra Pradesh.

Source: http://www.wiienvis.nic.in/Database/npa_8231.aspx

99) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Medium

Micro Topic: Pollution

- **Options 1, 2 and 3 are CORRECT.** Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and coliform bacteria levels are commonly used as indicators to determine the degree of water pollution. Coliform bacteria are organisms found in the environment and the feces of all warm-blooded animals, including humans. While coliform bacteria themselves are not likely to cause illness, their presence in drinking water suggests that disease-causing organisms (pathogens) may also be present in the water system.
- Freshwater typically contains organic matter, which can be quantified as Total Organic Carbon (TOC). To assess the amount of organic matter in water, related properties like BOD and COD are measured. BOD, or Biochemical Oxygen Demand, is an approximate measure of the amount of biodegradable organic matter present in a water sample. It refers to the amount of oxygen needed by aerobic microorganisms to oxidize the organic matter into a stable inorganic form.
- On the other hand, Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) measures the oxygen equivalent of the organic matter in a water sample that can be oxidized by a strong chemical oxidant like dichromate. COD is widely used to evaluate the oxidizability of both organic



and inorganic materials in water bodies and effluents from sewage and industrial plants.

Source: NCERT ClassXII– Biology,

https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/resourcesquality/wgachapter3.pdf

100) Answer: (d)

Difficulty Level: Easy

Micro Topic: Fauna and flora

- **Options 1, 2, 3 and 4 are CORRECT. Mosquitos, ants,** birds, bats, butterflies, **moths,** flies, beetles, **wasps,** small mammals, and most importantly, bees are pollinators. They visit flowers to drink nectar or feed off of pollen and transport pollen grains as they move from spot to spot.
- Just like bees or butterflies, mosquitoes (especially male) transfer pollen from flower to flower as they feed on nectar, fertilizing plants and allowing them to form seeds and reproduce.

Source: NIOS - Environmental Science Material.

**PTS 2025 – Comprehensive Test 03 -Paper 1 – Micro list**

Question	Micro topic	Difficulty level
1	Current Affairs	Hard
2	Sports	Hard
3	Terms in news	Hard
4	Current Affairs	Medium
5	Places in news	Hard
6	Current Affairs	Medium
7	Schemes in news	Hard
8	International organisations	Easy
9	Lakes	Medium
10	Environmental Projects	Hard
11	Basic Science	Hard
12	Internet Technologies	Hard
13	Genetics	Hard
14	Biotechnology	Medium
15	Space Technology	Medium
16	Nuclear Energy	Medium
17	Diseases	Easy
18	Space science	Medium
19	Renewable energy	Medium
20	Technology	Hard
21	Election	Medium
22	President's Rule	Medium
23	Constitutional bodies	Medium
24	Judiciary	Medium
25	Constitutional bodies	Easy
26	Parliament	Hard
27	Fundamental Rights	Easy
28	Classical languages	Hard
29	Fundamental Rights	Medium
30	Fundamental Rights	Hard
31	Evolution of the Earth	Medium
32	Landforms	Medium
33	Places in news	Hard
34	Landforms	Medium
35	Atmosphere	Medium
36	Soils of India	Hard
37	Drainage system	Medium
38	Landforms	Hard
39	Drainage system	Hard
40	Mapping	Hard
41	Physiography of India	Medium
42	Climate of India	Easy
43	Population pyramid	Easy
44	Pollution	Easy
45	Protected Areas	Medium
46	Environmental Conventions	Medium
47	Lakes	Medium
48	Environmental Organisations	Hard
49	Fauna and flora	Medium
50	Protected areas	Medium
51	Banking	Medium
52	International Trade	Easy
53	Inflation	Medium
54	Schemes in news	Medium
55	Infrastructure	Medium



56	Banking	Hard
57	National income	Hard
58	Basic economy	Medium
59	National income	Easy
60	International trade	Medium
61	Election	Medium
62	Judiciary	Hard
63	Vice-President	Medium
64	Fundamental rights	Medium
65	Constitutional amendment	Easy
66	International organisations	Hard
67	Geological Time Scale	Medium
68	Pollution	Medium
69	Renewable energy	Easy
70	Technology	Medium
71	Awards	Hard
72	Agriculture	Medium
73	Agriculture	Hard
74	Financial inclusion	Medium
75	Schemes in news	Hard
76	Mahajanapadas	Hard
77	Vedic Period	Easy
78	Archaeological sites	Hard
79	Indus Valley Civilization	Hard
80	Jainism	Medium
81	Buddhism	Hard
82	Turkish Expansion in India	Medium
83	Vijayanagara Empire	Hard
84	Mughal Administration	Easy
85	Terms in Medieval India	Hard
86	Hoysalas	Medium
87	Harsha Period	Hard
88	Wavell Plan	Easy
89	Peasants Movements	Medium
90	Revolt of 1857	Medium
91	Judicial reforms	Hard
92	National movement	Hard
93	Greenhouse effect	Medium
94	Technology	Hard
95	Coral Reefs	Medium
96	Species in news	Hard
97	Protected areas	Medium
98	Protected areas	Hard
99	Pollution	Medium
100	Fauna and Flora	Easy

Difficulty Level	Number of Questions
Easy	15
Medium	47
Hard	38
Total Questions	100