UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (PRELIMINARY) EXAMINATION 2017

Question 1 | Polity / Parliament

With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:
1. A private member's bill is a bill presented by a Member of Parliament who is not elected but only nominated by the President of India.
2. Recently, a private member's bill has been passed in the Parliament of India for the first time in its history.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. A private member's bill is introduced by any MP who is not a minister – elected or nominated – not only by nominated members.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect per the official key. No private member's bill has been passed by both Houses since 1970 (the Rajya Sabha passed the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill in 2015, but it lapsed in the Lok Sabha); passage by Parliament 'for the first time in history' is therefore wrong.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

- Static: Private members' bills and business; Fridays in Lok Sabha. Current affairs: Private members' bills on Uniform Civil Code, population control and others; tradition of non-passage.

SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity (Parliament)
2. Lok Sabha Secretariat – loksabha.nic.in
3. PRS Legislative Research – prsindia.org

Question 2 | History / Ancient India

With reference to the difference between the culture of Rigvedic Aryans and Indus Valley people, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Rigvedic Aryans used the coat of mail and helmet in warfare whereas the people of Indus Valley Civilization did not leave any evidence of using them.
2. Rigvedic Aryans knew gold, silver and copper whereas Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.
3. Rigvedic Aryans had domesticated the horse whereas there is no evidence of Indus Valley people having been aware of this animal.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 1 and 3 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. The Rigveda mentions armour (varman) and helmets; Harappan sites show no such evidence.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. Harappans knew gold, silver, copper and bronze, but not iron.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. The horse is prominent in the Rigveda, whereas Harappan evidence of the horse is not clear (the Surkotada find is disputed).

➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

- Static: Rigvedic vs Harappan culture; Aryan debate. Current affairs: Rakhigarhi DNA studies; Dholavira World Heritage tag.

SOURCES

1. R.S. Sharma – India's Ancient Past
2. NCERT Class 12 Themes in Indian History Part I
3. Upinder Singh – A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India

Question 3 | Governance / Skills

'Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme' is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to
(a) Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels.
(b) Enrolling the persons in Universities for distance learning programmes.
(c) Reserving some skilled jobs to rural and urban poor in some public sector undertakings.
(d) Certifying the skills acquired by trainees under the National Skill Development Programme.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – RPL, a component of PMKVY and the Construction Skill Development Council scheme, certifies skills already acquired informally (for example by construction workers) against NSQF levels.
- **Options (b), (c), (d)** – RPL is not about distance learning, job reservations, or certifying formal NSDP trainees.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: NSQF; Skill India Mission. Current affairs: PMKVY 4.0 RPL; recognition of informal skills in the National Education Policy 2020.
SOURCES

1. MSDE – msde.gov.in
2. Skill India – skillindia.gov.in
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 4 | Environment / Ecological Corridors

From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?
(a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
(b) Nallamala Forest
(c) Nagarhole National Park
(d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Sathyamangalam (Tamil Nadu) lies where the Eastern and Western Ghats meet, forming a key elephant and tiger corridor between the Nilgiris and the Eastern Ghats.
- **Others** – Nallamala and Seshachalam are in the Eastern Ghats; Nagarhole is in the Western Ghats.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Western and Eastern Ghats; elephant corridors. Current affairs: Sathyamangalam declared a tiger reserve (2013); Western Ghats UNESCO site.
SOURCES

1. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
2. WII – wii.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 5 | Polity / Political Theory

One of the implications of equality in society is the absence of
(a) Privileges

(b) Restraints
(c) Competition
(d) Ideology
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Privileges
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Equality implies the absence of special privileges based on birth, caste or status.
- **Options (b), (c), (d)** – Equality does not mean absence of restraints, competition or ideology.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Preamble – equality of status and opportunity; Articles 14–18. Current affairs: Reservation debates; Supreme Court on creamy layer.
SOURCES
1. NCERT Class 11 – Political Theory
2. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
3. Rajeev Bhargava – Political Theory

Question 6 | Environment / Organisations

Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):
1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. TRAFFIC is a joint programme of WWF and IUCN, not a UNEP bureau.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. It works to ensure that wildlife trade is not a threat to nature conservation.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: CITES; wildlife trade. Current affairs: Pangolin and tortoise trafficking reports; TRAFFIC India's reports; Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022.
SOURCES
1. TRAFFIC – traffic.org
2. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 7 | Polity / Directive Principles

Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of State Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?
(a) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
(b) Participation of workers in the management of industries
(c) Right to work, education and public assistance
(d) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Participation of workers in the management of industries
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – Article 43A (participation of workers in management) was added by the 42nd Amendment (1976), along with Articles 39A and 48A.
- **Others** – Articles 39(d), 41 and 43 were in the original Constitution.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: 42nd Amendment – mini-Constitution; 44th and 86th amendments. Current affairs: Labour codes and worker participation; 50 years of the 42nd Amendment (2026).

SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Constitution of India – Part IV
3. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India

Question 8 | Polity / Rights

Which one of the following statements is correct?
(a) Rights are claims of the State against the citizens.
(b) Rights are privileges which are incorporated in the Constitution of a State.
(c) Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.
(d) Rights are privileges of a few citizens against the many.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Rights are claims of the citizens against the State.
DETAILED EXPLANATION
- **Option (c)** – Rights are claims of citizens (individuals) which the State must respect and protect.
- **Options (a), (b), (d)** – Rights are not privileges and are not claims of the State.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Fundamental Rights; natural vs legal rights. Current affairs: Right to privacy (Puttaswamy); right to a clean environment.
SOURCES
1. NCERT Class 11 – Political Theory
2. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
3. Constitution of India – Part III

Question 9 | IR / International Indices

Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?
(a) World Economic Forum
(b) UN Human Rights Council
(c) UN Women
(d) World Health Organization
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) World Economic Forum
DETAILED EXPLANATION
- **Option (a)** – The Global Gender Gap Index is published annually by the World Economic Forum.
- **Others** – They publish other reports.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Indices and issuers. Current affairs: India ranked 129th of 146 in the Global Gender Gap Report 2024; Women's Reservation Act 2023.
SOURCES
1. WEF – weforum.org
2. UN Women – unwomen.org
3. Ministry of Women and Child Development – wcd.gov.in

Question 10 | Governance / Digital Initiatives

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2017?
1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.
3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Smart Cities is a separate Mission.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Smart India Hackathon is a nationwide initiative for students to build digital solutions for real problems.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. Digital financial transactions are promoted by other initiatives (UPI, BHIM).

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Digital India; Smart Cities Mission. Current affairs: Smart India Hackathon editions run by AICTE and MoE's Innovation Cell.

SOURCES

1. AICTE / MoE – sih.gov.in
2. PIB – pib.gov.in
3. MeitY – meity.gov.in

Question 11 | Economy / Monetary Policy

Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
2. It is a 12-member body including the Governor of RBI and is reconstituted every year.
3. It functions under the chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. The MPC determines the policy repo rate.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. It has six members (three from RBI and three external) and is not reconstituted every year; external members serve four-year terms.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. The RBI Governor chairs the MPC.

➤ **Only statement 1** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: RBI Act amendment 2016; inflation targeting (4% ±2%). Current affairs: MPC repo-rate decisions; changes in MPC external members.

SOURCES

1. RBI – rbi.org.in
2. Ministry of Finance – finmin.nic.in
3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 12 | Art & Culture / Performing Arts

With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 1 and 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. It combines song and dance.

- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. Besides cymbals (kartal), the pung (drum) is used.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. It narrates the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Manipuri dance; Sankirtana in UNESCO Intangible Heritage list (2013). Current affairs: Sangeet Natak Akademi awards; Manipur's cultural festivals.

SOURCES

1. Nitin Singhania – Indian Art and Culture
2. UNESCO – ich.unesco.org
3. Sangeet Natak Akademi – sangeetnatak.gov.in

Question 13 | History / Modern India – Land Revenue

Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?

1. Lord Cornwallis
2. Alexander Read
3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 2 and 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

1 – Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement (zamindari) in Bengal.
2 – Alexander Read pioneered the ryotwari system in Baramahal (1792–99).
3 – Thomas Munro extended it across Madras Presidency (1820).

➤ **Hence 2 and 3 only** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Permanent, Ryotwari and Mahalwari settlements. Current affairs: Land records modernisation (DILRMP); land-revenue history in State syllabi.

SOURCES

1. Bipan Chandra – Modern India
2. Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India
3. NCERT Class 12 Themes in Indian History Part III

Question 14 | Environment / Bioremediation

In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique?

1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.
2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms.
3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 1 and 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. Bioremediation enhances natural biodegradation.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. Heavy metals cannot be completely degraded by microbes; they can only be transformed or immobilised.

- **Statement 3** – Correct. Genetically engineered microbes (for example 'superbug' for oil spills) can be designed.

➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Bioremediation, phytoremediation. Current affairs: Oil-spill clean-ups (Ennore 2017); bioremediation of Yamuna and landfill legacy waste.

SOURCES

1. Shankar IAS – Environment
2. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
3. NCERT Class 12 Biology

Question 15 | History / Labour Movement

The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 provided for

(a) the participation of workers in the management of industries.
(b) arbitrary powers to the management to quell industrial disputes.
(c) an intervention by the British Court in the event of a trade dispute.
(d) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) a system of tribunals and a ban on strikes.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (d)** – The Trade Disputes Act 1929 provided for courts of inquiry and conciliation boards and made strikes in public-utility services illegal without notice.
- **Others** – It did not provide for worker participation or arbitrary managerial powers.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Trade Unions Act 1926; Industrial Disputes Act 1947. Current affairs: Industrial Relations Code 2020.

SOURCES

1. Bipan Chandra – India's Struggle for Independence
2. Ministry of Labour & Employment – labour.gov.in
3. Spectrum – Modern India

Question 16 | Polity / Local Government

Local self-government can be best explained as an exercise in

(a) Federalism
(b) Democratic decentralisation
(c) Administrative delegation
(d) Direct democracy

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Democratic decentralisation

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – Local self-government devolves power to the grassroots, which is democratic decentralisation.
- **Others** – Federalism concerns Centre–State division; delegation is administrative; direct democracy involves people's direct decisions.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: 73rd and 74th Amendments; Panchayati Raj. Current affairs: Gram Sabha empowerment; State Finance Commissions; SVAMITVA.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Ministry of Panchayati Raj – panchayat.gov.in
3. NCERT Class 11 – Indian Constitution at Work

Question 17 | Polity / Directive Principles

With reference to the Constitution of India, the Directive Principles of State Policy constitute limitations upon

1. legislative function.
2. executive function.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statements 1 and 2** – Incorrect per the key. DPSPs are non-justiciable (Article 37); they are guidelines to the State, not legal limitations on legislative or executive functions.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Articles 36–51; Minerva Mills; DPSP vs FR. Current affairs: Uniform Civil Code (Article 44) debates; Article 48 and cow protection laws.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India
3. Constitution of India – Part IV

Question 18 | IR / European Union

The term 'Digital Single Market Strategy' seen in the news refers to

(a) ASEAN
(b) BRICS
(c) EU
(d) G20

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) EU

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – The Digital Single Market Strategy (2015) is a European Union initiative to remove digital barriers across member States.
- **Others** – Not strategies of ASEAN, BRICS or G20.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: EU single market; GDPR. Current affairs: Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act; EU AI Act.

SOURCES

1. European Commission – ec.europa.eu
2. MeitY – meity.gov.in
3. Pushpesh Pant – International Relations

Question 19 | Geography / Tides

At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometres and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can actually walk on the sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

(a) Bhavnagar
(b) Bheemunipatnam
(c) Chandipur
(d) Nagapattinam

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Chandipur

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – Chandipur (Odisha) is known for its 'vanishing sea', where the water recedes up to 5 km during low tide.
- **Others** – Bhavnagar, Bheemunipatnam and Nagapattinam do not show this phenomenon.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Tides; Odisha coastline. Current affairs: Chandipur DRDO missile test range; eco-tourism in Odisha.

SOURCES

1. NCERT Class 11 – Fundamentals of Physical Geography
2. Odisha Tourism – odisha.gov.in
3. Khullar – India: A Comprehensive Geography

Question 20 | Economy / Law – Benami

With reference to the 'Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 (PBPT Act)', consider the following statements:

1. A property transaction is not treated as a benami transaction if the owner of the property is not aware of the transaction.
2. Properties held benami are liable for confiscation by the Government.
3. The Act provides for three authorities for investigations but does not provide for any appellate mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Property held by a person unaware of the transaction can still be benami (the Act has exceptions only for certain fiduciary cases, such as properties held by a trustee or Hindu undivided family members).
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Benami properties are liable to confiscation by the Government.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. The Act provides an Adjudicating Authority and an Appellate Tribunal for appeals.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act 2016. Current affairs: Income Tax Department's benami attachments; black-money law.

SOURCES

1. Income Tax Department – incometaxindia.gov.in
2. Ministry of Finance – finmin.nic.in
3. PRS Legislative Research – prsindia.org

Question 21 | Environment / Ecology

Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?

1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 1 and 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. Butterflies are pollinators.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. No direct link between butterfly decline and fungal infection of crops.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. Butterflies (and their larvae) are prey for wasps, spiders and birds, so predators would decline.

➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Food webs; pollinators. Current affairs: Declining insect populations; butterfly parks and State butterflies (Southern Birdwing as India's biggest).

SOURCES

1. NCERT Class 12 Biology – Ecology
2. Shankar IAS – Environment
3. IUCN – iucn.org

Question 22 | Environment / Renewable Energy

It is possible to produce algae based biofuels, but what is/are the likely limitation(s) of developing countries in promoting this industry?

1. Production of algae based biofuels is possible in seas only and not on continents.
2. Setting up and engineering the algae based biofuel production requires high level of expertise/technology until the construction is completed.
3. Economically viable production necessitates the setting up of large scale facilities which may raise ecological and social concerns.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 and 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Algae can be grown in open ponds and photobioreactors on land.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Engineering algal biofuel plants needs high expertise and technology.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. Economic viability needs large-scale facilities, raising ecological and social concerns.

➤ **Hence 2 and 3 only** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Biofuel generations; National Policy on Biofuels 2018. Current affairs: Ethanol blending (20% target); Sustainable Aviation Fuel; SATAT scheme.

SOURCES

1. MNRE – mnre.gov.in
2. MoPNG – petroleum.nic.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 23 | Governance / Nutrition

Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'?

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 and 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. Awareness on nutrition for pregnant women and lactating mothers is an objective.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Reducing anaemia is a core target.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. Not among its stated objectives.
- **Statement 4** – Incorrect. Not among its stated objectives.

➤ **Hence 1 and 2 only** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: ICDS; POSHAN Abhiyaan (2018). Current affairs: Poshan Maah; Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0; NFHS-5 anaemia data.
SOURCES
1. Ministry of Women and Child Development – wcd.gov.in
2. POSHAN Abhiyaan – poshanabhiyaan.gov.in
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 24 | History / Labour Movement

Consider the following statements:
1. The Factories Act, 1881 was passed with a view to fix the wages of industrial workers and to allow the workers to form trade unions.
2. N.M. Lokhande was a pioneer in organizing the labour movement in British India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION
- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The Factories Act 1881 dealt with child labour and working hours/safety; it did not fix wages or allow unions.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. N.M. Lokhande, a Bombay textile worker leader, organised the Bombay Mill Hands' Association (1890).

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Factory Acts 1881, 1891; AITUC 1920. Current affairs: Labour codes; Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020.
SOURCES
1. Bipan Chandra – India's Struggle for Independence
2. Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India
3. Ministry of Labour & Employment – labour.gov.in

Question 25 | Environment / Climate Mitigation

In the context of mitigating the impending global warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, which of the following can be the potential sites for carbon sequestration?
1. Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams
2. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs
3. Subterranean deep saline formations

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 1, 2 and 3
DETAILED EXPLANATION
1 – Unmineable coal seams can store CO_2.
2 – Depleted oil and gas fields are proven geological storage sites.
3 – Deep saline aquifers are the largest potential sink.
➤ **All three** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). Current affairs: India's CCUS mission; Norway's Northern Lights project; Net-zero by 2070.
SOURCES

1. IPCC – ipcc.ch
2. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 26 | History / Constitutional Development

The object of the Butler Committee of 1927 was to
(a) Define the jurisdiction of the Central and Provincial Governments.
(b) Define the powers of the Secretary of State for India.
(c) Impose censorship on national press.
(d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Improve the relationship between the Government of India and the Indian States.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (d)** – The Indian States Committee (Butler Committee, 1927) examined relations between the paramount power and the princely states.
- **Others** – Not the committee's remit.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Princely states; paramountcy; Government of India Act 1935. Current affairs: Integration of princely states – Statue of Unity.
SOURCES
1. Bipan Chandra – Modern India
2. Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India
3. V.P. Menon – Integration of the Indian States

Question 27 | Economy / Energy

The term 'Domestic Content Requirement' is sometimes seen in the news with reference to
(a) Developing solar power production in our country
(b) Granting licences to foreign T.V. channels in our country
(c) Exporting our food products to other countries
(d) Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Developing solar power production in our country
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – DCR in the National Solar Mission required use of domestically made solar cells and modules; the US challenged it at the WTO (2016).
- **Others** – Not the context of DCR.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: WTO TRIMs; National Solar Mission. Current affairs: PLI for solar modules; ALMM list; Basic Customs Duty on solar cells.
SOURCES
1. MNRE – mnre.gov.in
2. WTO – wto.org
3. Economic Survey – Energy

Question 28 | IR / Nuclear Security

Consider the following statements:
1. The Nuclear Security Summits are periodically held under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an organ of International Atomic Energy Agency.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Nuclear Security Summits (2010–2016) were an initiative of US President Obama, not held under the UN.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. The International Panel on Fissile Materials is an independent expert group, not an IAEA organ.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Nuclear regimes. Current affairs: IAEA inspections; India's Additional Protocol; nuclear security conventions (CPPNM).

SOURCES

1. IAEA – iaea.org
2. MEA – mea.gov.in
3. IPFM – fissilematerials.org

Question 29 | Economy / Pensions

Who among the following can join the National Pension System (NPS)?

(a) Resident Indian citizens only
(b) Persons of age from 21 to 55 only
(c) **All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments**
(d) All Central Government employees including those of Armed Forces joining the services on or after 1st April, 2004

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) All State Government employees joining the services after the date of notification by the respective State Governments

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – NRIs can also join NPS.
- **Option (b)** – The age band is 18–65 (at that time 18–60), not 21–55.
- **Option (c)** – State Government employees joining after the date of notification by the respective State are covered.

Option (d) – Armed Forces employees were excluded from the NPS mandatory coverage.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: PFRDA; NPS tiers; Atal Pension Yojana. Current affairs: Old pension scheme restoration debates; Unified Pension Scheme (2024).

SOURCES

1. PFRDA – pfrda.org.in
2. Ministry of Finance – finmin.nic.in
3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 30 | Geography / Rivers

With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) **2 only**
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Teesta rises from the Tso Lhamo/Pauhunri region in Sikkim; the Brahmaputra rises from Chemayungdung glacier in Tibet.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. The Rangeet originates in Sikkim and joins the Teesta.

- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. The Teesta joins the Brahmaputra (Jamuna) in Bangladesh; it does not flow into the Bay of Bengal directly.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Himalayan rivers. Current affairs: Teesta water-sharing dispute with Bangladesh; Teesta flash flood (Oct 2023, South Lhonak Lake).

SOURCES

1. Majid Husain – Geography of India
2. MEA – mea.gov.in
3. NCERT Class 11 – India: Physical Environment

Question 31 | Science & Tech / Health

Consider the following statements:

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.
2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Both 1 and 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. Aedes aegypti transmits both Zika and dengue.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Zika can be transmitted sexually.

➤ **Both correct** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Vector-borne diseases. Current affairs: Zika cases in Maharashtra and Karnataka (2024); dengue vaccines; National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

SOURCES

1. WHO – who.int
2. NCVBDC – nvbdcp.gov.in
3. MoHFW – mohfw.gov.in

Question 32 | Economy / Standards

Consider the following statements:

1. The Standard Mark of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is mandatory for automotive tyres and tubes.
2. AGMARK is a quality Certification Mark issued by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. ISI mark is mandatory for automotive tyres and tubes.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. AGMARK is issued by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Government of India – not by FAO.

➤ **Only statement 1** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: BIS Act 2016; ISI, AGMARK, Hallmark. Current affairs: Quality Control Orders; mandatory hallmarking of gold.

SOURCES

1. BIS – bis.gov.in
2. DMI – agmarknet.gov.in
3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 33 | Economy / Agriculture Markets

What is/are the advantage/advantages of implementing the 'National Agriculture Market' scheme?

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal for agricultural commodities.
2. It provides the farmers access to nationwide market, with prices commensurate with the quality of their produce.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Both 1 and 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. e-NAM is a pan-India electronic trading portal linking APMC mandis.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Farmers get access to national buyers and better price discovery based on quality.

➤ **Both correct** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: APMC; e-NAM (2016). Current affairs: Three farm laws (repealed 2021); e-NAM mandi expansion.

SOURCES

1. e-NAM – enam.gov.in
2. Ministry of Agriculture – agricoop.nic.in
3. Economic Survey – Agriculture

Question 34 | Economy / IPR

With reference to the 'National Intellectual Property Rights Policy', consider the following statements:

1. It reiterates India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Both 1 and 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. The NIPR Policy 2016 reaffirms commitment to Doha and TRIPS flexibilities.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. DIPP (now DPIIT) is the nodal department.

➤ **Both correct** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: National IPR Policy 2016; Cell for IPR Promotion and Management. Current affairs: IPR Think Tank; IPAB abolition (2021); patent filings growth.

SOURCES

1. DPIIT – dpiit.gov.in
2. Indian Patent Office – ipindia.gov.in
3. WTO – wto.org

Question 35 | Environment / Wildlife Law

According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?

1. Gharial
2. Indian wild ass
3. Wild buffalo

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 1, 2 and 3
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **All three** – Gharial, Indian wild ass and wild buffalo are listed in Schedule I (the highest protection) of the Wildlife Act; hunting is prohibited except under specific legal provisions.

➤ **All three** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Schedules of the Wildlife Act; CITES. Current affairs: Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022 – reduced schedules; Gharial conservation in Chambal.
SOURCES
1. Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 – indiacode.nic.in
2. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 36 | Polity / Fundamental Duties

Which of the following statements is/are true of the Fundamental Duties of an Indian citizen?
1. A legislative process has been provided to enforce these duties.
2. They are correlative to legal duties.
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Fundamental Duties (Article 51A) are non-justiciable and no legislative process for enforcement is provided in the Constitution.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. They are moral/constitutional duties and are not correlated with legal duties.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Article 51A (42nd Amendment, Swaran Singh Committee; 11th duty added by 86th Amendment). Current affairs: Kartavya Path; 'Amrit Kaal' and duties of citizens; Supreme Court on duties.
SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Constitution of India – Article 51A
3. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India

Question 37 | History / Modern India – Associations

Consider the following pairs:

Person	Role
1. Radhakanta Deb	First President of the British Indian Association
2. Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty	Founder of the Madras Mahajana Sabha
3. Surendranath Banerjee	Founder of the Indian Association

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 1 and 3 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Pair 1** – Radhakanta Deb was the first President of the British Indian Association (1851).
- **Pair 2** – Gazulu Lakshminarasu Chetty founded the Madras Native Association (1852); the Madras Mahajana Sabha (1884) was founded by M. Viraraghavachari, G. Subramania Iyer and others.
- **Pair 3** – Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian Association (1876).

➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (b).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Pre-Congress political associations. Current affairs: Heritage of the Indian Association in Kolkata; 140 years of the INC (2025).
SOURCES
1. Bipan Chandra – India's Struggle for Independence
2. Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India
3. NCERT Class 12 Themes in Indian History Part III

Question 38 | Polity / Preamble

Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?
(a) Liberty of thought
(b) Economic liberty
(c) Liberty of expression
(d) Liberty of belief
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Economic liberty
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – The Preamble secures liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, and justice – social, economic and political – but not 'economic liberty'.
- **Options (a), (c), (d)** – All three liberties are in the Preamble.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Preamble – Berubari case, Kesavananda Bharati; 42nd Amendment. Current affairs: Preamble in schools; Supreme Court on 'socialist' and 'secular' words (2024).
SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India
3. NCERT Class 11 – Indian Constitution at Work

Question 39 | Economy / Institutions

With reference to 'Quality Council of India (QCI)', consider the following statements:
1. QCI was set up jointly by the Government of India and the Indian Industry.
2. Chairman of QCI is appointed by the Prime Minister on the recommendations of the industry to the Government.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Both 1 and 2
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. QCI was set up in 1997 by the Government of India jointly with ASSOCHAM, CII and FICCI.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Its Chairperson is appointed by the Prime Minister on the industry's recommendation.

➤ **Both correct** – option (c).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Quality infrastructure – BIS, NABL, NABCB. Current affairs: Indian Certification of Medical Devices; Zed certification for MSMEs.

SOURCES

1. QCI – qcin.org
2. DPIIT – dpiit.gov.in
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 40 | Economy / Banking

What is the purpose of setting up of Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in India?

1. To supply credit to small business units
2. To supply credit to small and marginal farmers
3. To encourage young entrepreneurs to set up business particularly in rural areas.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 and 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

1 – SFBs supply credit to small business units.
2 – They serve small and marginal farmers.
3 – Encouraging young entrepreneurs is not the stated purpose.

➤ **Hence 1 and 2 only** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Differentiated banks – Payments Banks and SFBs. Current affairs: Merger of small finance banks (for example Ujjivan, AU); Utkarsh and ESAF listings; Universal bank licences.

SOURCES

1. RBI – rbi.org.in
2. Ministry of Finance – financialservices.gov.in
3. Economic Survey – Banking

Question 41 | Governance / Urban Development

With reference to 'Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD)', consider the following statements:

1. The first APMCHUD was held in India in 2006 on the theme 'Emerging Urban Forms – Policy Responses and Governance Structure'.
2. India hosts all the Annual Ministerial Conferences in partnership with ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Marked incorrect by the official key. The first APMCHUD was held in New Delhi in December 2006, but the theme/details given in the statement did not match, and the key treats it as wrong. Flag: debatable.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. APMCHUD is held every two years in different host countries (for example Indonesia, Bangladesh, Philippines), not always in India, and the partners are UN-Habitat/UNESCAP, not ADB, APEC and ASEAN.

➤ **Neither** – option (d), as per the official key.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Urban policy; Smart Cities, AMRUT, PMAY. Current affairs: India hosting the 6th APMCHUD (2016) and the 2025 Urban 20 events; urban sprawl and urbanisation data.

SOURCES
1. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – mohua.gov.in
2. UN-Habitat – unhabitat.org
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 42 | Polity / Democracy

Democracy's superior virtue lies in the fact that it calls into activity
(a) the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
(b) the methods for strengthening executive leadership.
(c) a superior individual with dynamism and vision.
(d) a band of dedicated party workers.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) the intelligence and character of ordinary men and women.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Democracy's superiority lies in drawing on the intelligence and character of ordinary citizens (Lord Bryce).
- **Options (b), (c), (d)** – Elitist or party-centred views, not the essence of democracy.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Meaning and merits of democracy. Current affairs: Voter turnout; Election Commission's SVEEP; participatory governance.
SOURCES
1. NCERT Class 9 – Democratic Politics
2. NCERT Class 11 – Political Theory
3. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity

Question 43 | Economy / Digital Payments

Which of the following is a most likely consequence of implementing the 'Unified Payments Interface (UPI)'?
(a) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
(b) Digital currency will totally replace the physical currency in about two decades.
(c) FDI inflows will drastically increase.
(d) Direct transfer of subsidies to poor people will become very effective.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Mobile wallets will not be necessary for online payments.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – UPI lets bank accounts be used directly for instant payments through a single interface, reducing the need for separate mobile wallets.
- **Options (b), (c), (d)** – Not the likely direct consequences of UPI.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: NPCI; UPI; Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile. Current affairs: UPI crossing 15+ billion monthly transactions; UPI links with Singapore, UAE and others.
SOURCES
1. NPCI – npci.org.in
2. RBI – rbi.org.in
3. Economic Survey

Question 44 | Science & Tech / Physics

The terms 'Event Horizon', 'Singularity', 'String Theory' and 'Standard Model' are sometimes seen in the news in the context of
(a) Observation and understanding of the Universe
(b) Study of the solar and the lunar eclipses
(c) Placing satellites in the orbit of the Earth
(d) Origin and evolution of living organisms on the Earth
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Observation and understanding of the Universe
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – These are concepts in cosmology and particle physics used to understand the Universe.
- **Others** – Not related to eclipses, satellite placement or biological evolution.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Black holes; Higgs boson; Standard Model. Current affairs: First image of a black hole (2019); Event Horizon Telescope; Nobel Prize in Physics.

SOURCES

1. NCERT Class 12 Physics
2. Shankar IAS – Science & Tech
3. NASA – nasa.gov

Question 45 | Science & Tech / Agri-Biotech

With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?

1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 1, 2 and 3

DETAILED EXPLANATION

1 – Marker-assisted selection uses genome data for disease resistance and drought tolerance.
2 – Genomics shortens breeding cycles.
3 – Sequencing host and pathogen genomes reveals their interactions.

➤ **All three** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Genomics; GM crops. Current affairs: Genome-edited rice varieties released in India (2025); sequencing of chickpea, pigeonpea and wheat genomes by ICAR.

SOURCES

1. ICAR – icar.org.in
2. DBT – dbtindia.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Science & Tech

Question 46 | Polity / Forms of Government

The main advantage of the parliamentary form of government is that

(a) the executive and legislature work independently.
(b) it provides continuity of policy and is more efficient.
(c) the executive remains responsible to the legislature.
(d) the head of the government cannot be changed without election.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) the executive remains responsible to the legislature.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – The defining advantage is the responsibility of the executive to the legislature (collective responsibility).
- **Option (a)** – Executive and legislature are fused, not independent.
- **Option (b)** – Continuity and efficiency are not guaranteed.
- **Option (d)** – The head of government can be changed by a vote of no confidence without election.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Westminster model; Article 75(3). Current affairs: No-confidence motions; hung Parliament and coalition politics.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity

2. NCERT Class 11 – Indian Constitution at Work
3. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India

Question 47 | Polity / Rights & Duties

In the context of India, which one of the following is the correct relationship between Rights and Duties?
(a) Rights are correlative with Duties.
(b) Rights are personal and hence independent of society and Duties.
(c) Rights, not Duties, are important for the advancement of the personality of the citizen.
(d) Duties, not Rights, are important for the stability of the State.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Rights are correlative with Duties.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Rights and duties go together: one person's right implies a duty on others to respect it.
- **Options (b), (c), (d)** – One-sided statements that ignore the reciprocal relationship.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Part III and Article 51A. Current affairs: Duty-centred 'Kartavya' framing; Supreme Court on Fundamental Duties.
SOURCES
1. NCERT Class 11 – Political Theory
2. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
3. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India

Question 48 | Polity / Preamble

The mind of the makers of the Constitution of India is reflected in which of the following?
(a) The Preamble
(b) The Fundamental Rights
(c) The Directive Principles of State Policy
(d) The Fundamental Duties
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) The Preamble
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – The Preamble is the key to the mind of the Constitution-makers (Kesavananda Bharati; Berubari case recognised it as a key).
- **Others** – Fundamental Rights, DPSPs and Fundamental Duties are specific parts, not the embodiment of the framers' overall vision.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Objectives Resolution; Preamble. Current affairs: Preamble reading in schools; Constitution Day (26 November).
SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Constitution of India – Preamble
3. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India

Question 49 | Geography / India Map

If you travel by road from Kohima to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?
(a) 6
(b) 7
(c) 8
(d) 9
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 7
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – The shortest route passes through Nagaland, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala = 7 States.

- **Others** – Other counts do not match the shortest road route.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Map of India – States and national highways. Current affairs: Bharatmala; Golden Quadrilateral and NH expansion; NE connectivity (Siliguri corridor).

SOURCES

1. NCERT Class 11 – India: Physical Environment
2. Oxford School Atlas
3. Khullar – India: A Comprehensive Geography

Question 50 | Polity / Parliamentary Control

The Parliament of India exercises control over the functions of the Council of Ministers through

1. Adjournment motion
2. Question hour
3. Supplementary questions

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 1, 2 and 3

DETAILED EXPLANATION

1 – Adjournment motion draws attention to urgent matters and censures the Government.
2 – Question Hour allows scrutiny of ministers.
3 – Supplementary questions follow oral replies.

➤ **All three** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Parliamentary devices – Zero Hour, calling attention, no-confidence. Current affairs: Disruptions and Question Hour productivity; Lok Sabha record of questions.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Lok Sabha Secretariat – loksabha.nic.in
3. PRS Legislative Research – prsindia.org

Question 51 | History / Medieval India

Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?

(a) Kakinada
(b) Motupalli
(c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
(d) Nelluru

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Motupalli

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – Motupalli was the main seaport of the Kakatiyas, praised by Marco Polo.
- **Others** – Kakinada, Machilipatnam and Nellore were not the principal Kakatiya ports.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Kakatiyas; Ramappa temple. Current affairs: Ramappa Temple UNESCO World Heritage Site (2021).

SOURCES

1. Satish Chandra – Medieval India
2. Spectrum – Medieval India
3. UNESCO – whc.unesco.org

Question 52 | Environment / Global Initiatives

With reference to 'Global Climate Change Alliance', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an initiative of the European Union.

2. It provides technical and financial support to targeted developing countries to integrate climate change into their development policies and budgets.
3. It is coordinated by World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 and 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. GCCA is an EU initiative.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. It supports vulnerable developing countries in mainstreaming climate change.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. WRI and WBCSD coordinate the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, not GCCA.

➤ **Hence 1 and 2 only** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Climate finance; Green Climate Fund. Current affairs: COP29 climate finance goal (NCQG); EU Global Gateway.

SOURCES

1. EU – gcca.eu
2. UNFCCC – unfccc.int
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 53 | History / Buddhism

With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements:

1. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were the sects of Jainism.
2. Sarvastivadin held that the constituents of phenomena were not wholly momentary, but existed forever in a latent form.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. Sautrantika and Sammitiya were Buddhist (Hinayana) sects.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. The Sarvastivadins held that dharmas exist in all three times (past, present, future) in latent form.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Buddhist councils and schools. Current affairs: Buddhist heritage circuit; International Buddhist Confederation events.

SOURCES

1. Upinder Singh – A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India
2. Nitin Singhania – Indian Art and Culture
3. NCERT Class 12 Themes in Indian History Part I

Question 54 | Geography / World Map

Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries? 1. Jordan 2. Iraq 3. Lebanon 4. Syria
Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 3 and 4 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- Jordan and Iraq are landlocked from the Mediterranean (Jordan has Red Sea access only).
- Lebanon and Syria border the eastern Mediterranean.

➤ **Hence 3 and 4 only** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Mediterranean littoral states. Current affairs: Eastern Mediterranean gas disputes; Lebanon–Israel maritime deal; migration routes.

SOURCES

1. Oxford School Atlas
2. NCERT Class 11 – Fundamentals of Physical Geography
3. MEA – mea.gov.in

Question 55 | Economy / Infrastructure Finance

With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It has a corpus of ₹4,00,000 crore at present.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. NIIF is a government-backed fund set up as a trust/AIF, not an organ of NITI Aayog.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. The NIIF's target corpus was ₹40,000 crore, not ₹4,00,000 crore.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Infrastructure financing; National Infrastructure Pipeline. Current affairs: National Monetisation Pipeline; Development Finance Institution (NaBFID).

SOURCES

1. NIIF – niifindia.in
2. Ministry of Finance – finmin.nic.in
3. Economic Survey – Infrastructure

Question 56 | Economy / International Finance

The Global Infrastructure Facility is a/an

(a) ASEAN initiative to upgrade infrastructure in Asia and financed by credit from the Asian Development Bank.
(b) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.
(c) Collaboration among the major banks of the world working with the OECD and focused on expanding the set of infrastructure projects that have the potential to mobilize private investment.
(d) UNCTAD funded initiative that seeks to finance and facilitate infrastructure development in the world.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) World Bank collaboration that facilitates the preparation and structuring of complex infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enable mobilization of private sector and institutional investor capital.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – The Global Infrastructure Facility (2014) is hosted by the World Bank Group; it helps prepare and structure complex infrastructure PPPs and mobilises private and institutional capital.

- **Options (a), (c), (d)** – Not accurate descriptions.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: PPPs; World Bank; AIIB; NDB. Current affairs: G20 infrastructure working group; India's PPP projects pipeline.

SOURCES

1. World Bank – worldbank.org
2. Ministry of Finance – dea.gov.in
3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 57 | Polity / Elections

For election to the Lok Sabha, a nomination paper can be filed by

(a) anyone residing in India.
(b) a resident of the constituency from which the election is to be contested.
(c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.
(d) any citizen of India.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) any citizen of India whose name appears in the electoral roll of a constituency.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – To contest the Lok Sabha, a person must be an Indian citizen aged 25 or above and registered as an elector in any constituency in India (Section 4, RP Act 1951).
- **Option (a)** – Residents who are not citizens cannot contest.
- **Option (b)** – No constituency-residence requirement for Lok Sabha.
- **Option (d)** – Registration as an elector is required.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Qualifications – Article 84; Representation of the People Act 1951. Current affairs: Disqualification of MPs on conviction (Lily Thomas, 2013); candidate affidavits.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Election Commission – eci.gov.in
3. Representation of the People Act 1951 – indiacode.nic.in

Question 58 | Geography / India

Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Himalayas are spread over five States only.
2. Western Ghats are spread over five States only.
3. Pulicat Lake is spread over two States only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The Himalayas spread across more than five States/UTs (J&K, Ladakh, HP, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal, and parts of others).
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. The Western Ghats span six States (Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala).
- **Statement 3** – Correct. Pulicat Lake straddles Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

➤ **Only statement 3** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Physiographic divisions; lagoons. Current affairs: Pulicat Bird Sanctuary; Western Ghats ESA notification.

SOURCES

1. NCERT Class 11 – India: Physical Environment

2. Khullar – India: A Comprehensive Geography
3. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in

Question 59 | Environment / Pollution

Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for
(a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
(b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
(c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
(d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – BOD is the oxygen microbes need to decompose organic matter in water and is a standard measure of aquatic pollution.
- **Others** – Not what BOD measures.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Water-quality parameters – DO, BOD, COD. Current affairs: CPCB river-quality assessments; Ganga and Yamuna BOD levels; Namami Gange.
SOURCES
1. CPCB – cpcb.nic.in
2. NCERT Class 12 Biology – Environmental Issues
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 60 | Environment / Urban Governance

With reference to the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future, which of the statements is/are correct?
1. UN-Habitat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.
2. Its partners are either governments or local urban authorities only.
3. UN-Habitat contributes to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and to promote access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 1 and 3 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. UN-Habitat's UNGA mandate is sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter for all.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. Its partners also include civil society, private sector, academia and other organisations.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. It contributes to poverty reduction and access to safe water and sanitation.

➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (b).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Habitat conferences; SDG 11. Current affairs: New Urban Agenda (Habitat III, 2016); World Urban Forum; UN-Habitat India programmes.
SOURCES
1. UN-Habitat – unhabitat.org
2. MoHUA – mohua.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 61 | Governance / Skills

With reference to 'National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)', which of the statements given below is/are correct?

1. Under NSQF, a learner can acquire the certification for competency only through formal learning.
2. An outcome expected from the implementation of NSQF is the mobility between vocational and general education.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. NSQF recognises formal, non-formal and informal learning (including Recognition of Prior Learning).
- **Statement 2** – Correct. NSQF aims at mobility between vocational and general education.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: NSQF levels 1–10; National Skill Development Agency. Current affairs: NEP 2020 – integration of vocational education; National Credit Framework.

SOURCES

1. MSDE – msde.gov.in
2. NSDC – nsdcindia.org
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 62 | History / Constitutional Development

In the context of Indian history, the principle of 'Dyarchy (diarchy)' refers to

(a) Division of the central legislature into two houses.
(b) Introduction of double government i.e., Central and State governments.
(c) Having two sets of rulers; one in London and another in Delhi.
(d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Division of the subjects delegated to the provinces into two categories.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (d)** – Under the Government of India Act 1919, provincial subjects were divided into 'transferred' (ministers responsible to the legislature) and 'reserved' (Governor and executive council).
- **Others** – Do not describe dyarchy.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms; GoI Act 1935 provincial autonomy. Current affairs: Delhi–Lieutenant Governor dual-power dispute (Supreme Court 2023).

SOURCES

1. Bipan Chandra – Modern India
2. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
3. Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India

Question 63 | Governance / Employment

Consider the following in respect of 'National Career Service':

1. National Career Service is an initiative of the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India.
2. National Career Service has been launched in a Mission Mode to improve the employment opportunities to uneducated youth of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. NCS is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, not DoPT.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. NCS is an online platform matching jobseekers and employers (including educated youth), not only for uneducated youth.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Employment exchanges; Skill India. Current affairs: NCS portal integration with e-Shram; ELI scheme (2024).
SOURCES
1. Ministry of Labour & Employment – labour.gov.in
2. NCS – ncs.gov.in
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 64 | Economy / Banking – Stressed Assets

Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)', recently seen in the news?
(a) It is an ecological procedure for considering the environmental costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.
(b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
(c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.
(d) It is an important provision in 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – S4A (2016) is an RBI scheme to restructure the debt of big corporates into sustainable and unsustainable portions.
- **Options (a), (c), (d)** – Not what S4A is.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: NPA resolution frameworks – CDR, SDR, 5/25, S4A, IBC. Current affairs: IBC 2016; Project Sashakt; Bad bank (NARCL).
SOURCES
1. RBI – rbi.org.in
2. Ministry of Finance – financialservices.gov.in
3. Economic Survey – Banking

Question 65 | Environment / Climate Initiatives

Consider the following statements:
1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of G20 group of countries.
2. The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. CCAC was launched in 2012 by a few countries and UNEP; it is not a G20 initiative.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. CCAC targets short-lived climate pollutants: methane, black carbon, HFCs and tropospheric ozone.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: SLCPs; Kigali Amendment. Current affairs: Global Methane Pledge (COP26); India's HFC phase-down plan.

SOURCES

1. CCAC – ccacoalition.org
2. UNEP – unep.org
3. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in

Question 66 | Geography / Climate

With reference to 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)' sometimes mentioned in the news while forecasting Indian monsoon, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IOD phenomenon is characterised by a difference in sea surface temperature between tropical Western Indian Ocean and tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Nino's impact on the monsoon.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The IOD is the sea-surface-temperature difference between the western and eastern Indian Ocean, not the Eastern Pacific.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. A positive IOD can offset El Niño's adverse impact on the monsoon.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: ENSO; monsoon mechanism. Current affairs: IMD monsoon forecasts and IOD; 2019 positive IOD; Mission Mausam.

SOURCES

1. IMD – imd.gov.in
2. NCERT Class 11 – India: Physical Environment
3. Savindra Singh – Climatology

Question 67 | Environment / Wildlife

If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit?

(a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
(b) Chambal River
(c) Pulicat Lake
(d) Deepor Beel

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Chambal River

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – The National Chambal Sanctuary holds the largest wild population of gharials.
- **Others** – Bhitarkanika has saltwater crocodiles; Pulicat and Deepor Beel are not gharial habitats.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Gharial – IUCN Critically Endangered; Project Crocodile. Current affairs: Gharial conservation in Chambal; Gharial deaths (2007, 2008).

SOURCES

1. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
2. IUCN – iucnredlist.org

3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 68 | IR / Maritime Cooperation

Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):
1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The inaugural IONS was held in New Delhi in 2008, not 2015.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. IONS is a voluntary forum for maritime cooperation among Indian Ocean littoral navies.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (b).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Indian Ocean Region architecture – IORA, MILAN. Current affairs: MILAN exercise; SAGAR/MAHASAGAR doctrine; IONS 2024 conclave.
SOURCES
1. Indian Navy – indiannavy.nic.in
2. MEA – mea.gov.in
3. MoD – mod.gov.in

Question 69 | Art & Culture / Painting

The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at
(a) Ajanta
(b) Badami
(c) Bagh
(d) Ellora
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Ajanta
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – The Padmapani Bodhisattva is a famous mural in Cave 1 at Ajanta.
- **Others** – Badami, Bagh and Ellora are famed for other works.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Ajanta murals; Gupta-Vakataka art. Current affairs: Ajanta–Ellora tourism; conservation of mural paintings by ASI.
SOURCES
1. Nitin Singhania – Indian Art and Culture
2. NCERT Class 11 – An Introduction to Indian Art
3. ASI – asi.nic.in

Question 70 | Art & Culture / Traditions

Consider the following pairs:

Traditions	Communities
1. Chaliha Sahib Festival	Sindhis
2. Nanda Raj Jaat Yatra	Gonds
3. Wari-Warkari	Santhals

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) None of the above
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION
Pair 1 – Chaliha Sahib is a 40-day Sindhi festival of Jhulelal.
Pair 2 – Nanda Raj Jaat is the pilgrimage of Uttarakhand (Garhwal–Kumaon), not of Gonds.
Pair 3 – Wari-Warkari is the Pandharpur pilgrimage tradition of Maharashtra, not of Santhals.
➤ **Only 1** – option (a).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Fairs and festivals. Current affairs: Nanda Devi Raj Jat 2026; Pandharpur Wari 2024; Chaliha Sahib celebrations.
SOURCES
1. Nitin Singhania – Indian Art and Culture
2. Ministry of Culture – indiaculture.gov.in
3. Sangeet Natak Akademi – sangeetnatak.gov.in

Question 71 | Environment / Agriculture

Which of the following practices can help in water conservation in agriculture?
1. Reduced or zero tillage of the land
2. Applying gypsum before irrigating the field
3. Allowing crop residue to remain in the field
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 1 and 3 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION
1 – Reduced/zero tillage reduces evaporation and conserves soil moisture.
2 – Gypsum is a soil amendment (for sodic soils), not a water-conservation practice.
3 – Crop residue mulching reduces evaporation.
➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (c).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Conservation agriculture; mulching. Current affairs: PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (per drop more crop); Happy Seeder; stubble burning.
SOURCES
1. ICAR – icar.org.in
2. Ministry of Agriculture – agricoop.nic.in
3. FAO – fao.org

Question 72 | Economy / Agriculture

The nation-wide 'Soil Health Card Scheme' aims at
1. expanding the cultivable area under irrigation.
2. enabling the banks to assess the quantum of loans to be granted to farmers on the basis of soil quality.
3. checking the overuse of fertilizers in farmlands.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The scheme is about soil nutrient status, not irrigation expansion.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. It is not a credit-assessment tool.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. Soil Health Cards recommend balanced fertiliser doses and curb overuse.

➤ **Only statement 3** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Soil health; Nutrient-based subsidy. Current affairs: PM-PRANAM; Soil Health Card cycles; neem-coated urea.

SOURCES

1. Ministry of Agriculture – soilhealth.dac.gov.in
2. Economic Survey – Agriculture
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 73 | Science & Tech / Health & Food Safety

Consider the following pairs:

Commonly used/consumed materials	Unwanted or controversial chemicals likely to be found in them
1. Lipstick	Lead
2. Soft drinks	Brominated vegetable oils
3. Chinese fast food	Monosodium glutamate

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

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 1, 2 and 3

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Pair 1** – Lipsticks may contain lead.
- **Pair 2** – Brominated vegetable oil (BVO) is used in some soft drinks and is controversial.
- **Pair 3** – Chinese fast food often contains MSG (ajinomoto).

➤ **All three** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Food additives; FSSAI standards. Current affairs: FSSAI ban/limits on additives; Maggi MSG controversy (2015); FDA ban on BVO (2024).

SOURCES

1. FSSAI – fssai.gov.in
2. WHO – who.int
3. Shankar IAS – Science & Tech

Question 74 | Science & Tech / Displays

Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?

1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above statements is correct

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 1, 2 and 3

DETAILED EXPLANATION

1 – OLEDs can be built on flexible plastic.
2 – Roll-up and wearable displays are possible.
3 – Transparent OLED displays exist.
➤ **All three** – option (c).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Display technologies – LED, LCD, OLED, QLED. Current affairs: Foldable smartphones; India's display manufacturing incentive scheme.
SOURCES
1. Shankar IAS – Science & Tech
2. MeitY – meity.gov.in
3. The Hindu – Science & Tech

Question 75 | Art & Culture / Temples

Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?
1. Arasavalli
2. Amarakantak
3. Omkareshwar
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION
1 – Arasavalli (Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh) has a famous Surya temple.
2 – Amarakantak is known for the Narmada source and temple complex.
3 – Omkareshwar is a Jyotirlinga on the Narmada.
➤ **Only 1** – option (a).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Sun temples – Konark, Modhera, Martand, Arasavalli. Current affairs: Konark Sun Temple conservation; Modhera as India's first solar-powered village.
SOURCES
1. Nitin Singhania – Indian Art and Culture
2. ASI – asi.nic.in
3. Ministry of Tourism – tourism.gov.in

Question 76 | Polity / Elections & Parliament

Consider the following statements:
1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.
2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2
DETAILED EXPLANATION
- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. India follows First-Past-The-Post; a plurality suffices.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. The Constitution has no such rule; it is a convention that the Deputy Speaker is from the opposition (not constitutionally mandated).

➤ **Neither** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: FPTP vs proportional representation; Articles 93 and 178. Current affairs: Vacant Deputy Speaker post in the 17th Lok Sabha; ONOE debates.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Election Commission – eci.gov.in
3. Lok Sabha Secretariat – loksabha.nic.in

Question 77 | Economy / Post-1991 Reforms

Which of the following has/have occurred in India after its liberalization of economic policies in 1991?

1. Share of agriculture in GDP increased enormously.
2. Share of India's exports in world trade increased.
3. FDI inflows increased.
4. India's foreign exchange reserves increased enormously.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

1 – The share of agriculture in GDP fell, not increased.
2 – India's share in world trade rose.
3 – FDI inflows increased substantially.
4 – Forex reserves increased enormously (from about US$1 billion to over US$600 billion).

➤ **Hence 2, 3 and 4 only** – option (b).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: LPG reforms 1991; BoP crisis. Current affairs: India's record FDI; forex reserves above US$650 billion; 30 years of reforms.

SOURCES

1. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy
2. Economic Survey
3. RBI – rbi.org.in

Question 78 | Science & Tech / Biotechnology

What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?

(a) Production of biolarvicides
(b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
(c) Reproductive cloning of animals
(d) Production of organisms free of diseases

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Reproductive cloning of animals

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – SCNT, the technique that produced Dolly the sheep, is used in reproductive cloning of animals.
- **Others** – Not applications of SCNT.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Cloning; stem cells. Current affairs: Cloned monkeys in China (2018); India's cloned buffalo calf 'Garima'; cattle cloning.

SOURCES

1. DBT – dbtindia.gov.in
2. NCERT Class 12 Biology
3. Shankar IAS – Science & Tech

Question 79 | Economy / Payments

Consider the following statements:

1. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) helps in promoting the financial inclusion in the country.
2. NPCI has launched RuPay, a card payment scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Both 1 and 2

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. NPCI's retail payment systems (IMPS, UPI, AePS) promote financial inclusion.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. NPCI launched the domestic RuPay card scheme.

➤ **Both correct** – option (c).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: NPCI (2008, under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act); Jan Dhan Yojana. Current affairs: RuPay credit cards on UPI; UPI global expansion.

SOURCES

1. NPCI – npci.org.in
2. RBI – rbi.org.in
3. Economic Survey

Question 80 | Environment / Wildlife

The term 'M-STrIPES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

(a) Captive breeding of Wild Fauna
(b) Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
(c) Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
(d) Security of National Highways

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Maintenance of Tiger Reserves

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – M-STrIPES (Monitoring System for Tigers – Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) is a software-based system used in tiger reserves for patrolling and monitoring.
- **Others** – Unrelated.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Project Tiger; NTCA. Current affairs: All India Tiger Estimation (2022: about 3,682 tigers); Tiger reserves expansion; International Big Cat Alliance.

SOURCES

1. NTCA – ntca.gov.in
2. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 81 | Economy / Taxation – GST

What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'?

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. GST subsumes many indirect taxes and creates a unified national market.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. GST does not drastically reduce the CAD.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. It cannot be said to make India overtake China in the near future.

➤ **Only statement 1** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: 101st Amendment; GST Council; dual GST. Current affairs: GST collection records; rate rationalisation; GST 2.0 reforms (2025).

SOURCES

1. CBIC – cbic.gov.in
2. GST Council – gstcouncil.gov.in
3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 82 | IR / Trade Negotiations

'Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA)' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of negotiations held between India and

(a) European Union
(b) Gulf Cooperation Council
(c) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
(d) Shanghai Cooperation Organization

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) European Union

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – BTIA is the India–EU Free Trade Agreement under negotiation since 2007.
- **Others** – Not the counterparty to BTIA.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: FTAs and CEPAs; EU trade. Current affairs: India–EU FTA talks resumed (2022) and concluded in 2025–26 phases; India–UK CETA (2025).

SOURCES

1. Ministry of Commerce – commerce.gov.in
2. MEA – mea.gov.in
3. WTO – wto.org

Question 83 | IR / WTO

Consider the following statements:

1. India has ratified the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of WTO.
2. TFA is a part of WTO's Bali Ministerial Package of 2013.
3. TFA came into force in January 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 1 and 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Correct. India ratified the TFA in April 2016.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. The TFA was part of the Bali package (2013).
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. TFA entered into force on 22 February 2017.

➤ **Hence 1 and 2 only** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: WTO agreements – AoA, TRIPS, TFA. Current affairs: WTO MC13 (Abu Dhabi, 2024); Bali Package and food stockholding (peace clause).

SOURCES

1. WTO – wto.org
2. Ministry of Commerce – commerce.gov.in

3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 84 | IR / Connectivity

What is the importance of developing Chabahar Port by India?
(a) India's trade with African countries will enormously increase.
(b) India's relations with oil-producing Arab countries will be strengthened.
(c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
(d) Pakistan will facilitate and protect the installation of a gas pipeline between Iraq and India.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) India will not depend on Pakistan for access to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – Chabahar (Iran) gives India a sea–land route to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.
- **Options (a), (b), (d)** – Not its principal importance.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: INSTC; Gwadar vs Chabahar. Current affairs: 10-year Chabahar operating contract (2024); US sanctions waiver changes.
SOURCES
1. MEA – mea.gov.in
2. Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – shipmin.gov.in
3. Pushpesh Pant – International Relations

Question 85 | Governance / Cyber Security

In India, it is legally mandatory for which of the following to report on cyber security incidents?
1. Service providers
2. Data centres
3. Body corporate
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 1, 2 and 3
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- Under the CERT-In Rules 2013 (IT Act 2000), service providers, intermediaries, data centres and body corporates must report cyber security incidents to CERT-In.

➤ **All three** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: IT Act 2000; CERT-In. Current affairs: CERT-In directions (2022) – 6-hour reporting; DPDP Act 2023.
SOURCES
1. CERT-In – cert-in.org.in
2. MeitY – meity.gov.in
3. IT Act 2000 – indiacode.nic.in

Question 86 | Polity / Nature of Rights

Right to vote and to be elected in India is a
(a) Fundamental Right
(b) Natural Right
(c) Constitutional Right
(d) Legal Right
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) Constitutional Right
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – The right to vote is a constitutional right (Article 326 – adult suffrage) and the right to be elected is a statutory right under the RP Act; the official key treats it as constitutional right.
- **Option (a)** – Not a Fundamental Right (Part III).
- **Option (b)** – Natural rights are inherent, not conferred by law.
- **Option (d)** – A statutory (legal) right alone would not describe the right to vote (Flag: debatable, since the right to be elected is statutory – Jyoti Basu v. Debi Ghosal, 1982).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Article 326; Jyoti Basu; PUCL v. Union (2003) – voting is a statutory right. Current affairs: NOTA; remote voting for migrants.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Election Commission – eci.gov.in
3. Supreme Court – sci.gov.in

Question 87 | Science & Tech / Space Science

What is the purpose of 'evolved Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (eLISA)' project?

(a) To detect neutrinos
(b) To detect gravitational waves
(c) To detect the effectiveness of missile defence system
(d) To study the effect of solar flares on our communication systems

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) To detect gravitational waves

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – eLISA (ESA) is a planned space-based gravitational-wave observatory.
- **Others** – Not its purpose.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: LIGO, Virgo, LISA. Current affairs: LIGO-India; LISA mission adopted by ESA (2024); NANOGrav results.

SOURCES

1. ESA – esa.int
2. NASA – nasa.gov
3. Shankar IAS – Science & Tech

Question 88 | Governance / Education

What is the purpose of 'Vidyanjali Yojana'?

1. To enable the famous foreign educational institutions to open their campuses in India.
2. To increase the quality of education provided in government schools by taking help from the private sector and the community.
3. To encourage voluntary monetary contributions from private individuals and organizations so as to improve the infrastructure facilities for primary and secondary schools.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) 2 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. It is not about foreign campuses.
- **Statement 2** – Correct. Vidyanjali (2016) brings volunteers from the private sector and community to improve government schools.
- **Statement 3** – Incorrect. It is meant for volunteer services (assets/materials/time), not monetary contributions.

➤ **Only statement 2** – option (a).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Samagra Shiksha; RTE. Current affairs: Vidyanjali 2.0 portal; school adoption; NEP 2020 community participation.

SOURCES

1. Ministry of Education – education.gov.in
2. Vidyanjali – vidyanjali.education.gov.in
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 89 | Governance / Higher Education

What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?

(a) Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
(b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
(c) Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power.
(d) Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (b)** – Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (2014/2018) links higher educational institutions with villages to address local development challenges through appropriate technologies.
- **Options (a), (c), (d)** – Describe different programmes.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Rural development; IIT-led village adoption. Current affairs: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0; Viksit Bharat Sankalp.

SOURCES

1. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan – unnatbharatabhiyan.gov.in
2. Ministry of Education – education.gov.in
3. PIB – pib.gov.in

Question 90 | Polity / Election Commission

Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) 3 only

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The ECI is a three-member body (CEC and two Election Commissioners) at present.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. The Election Commission decides the schedule, not the Home Ministry.
- **Statement 3** – Correct. Under the Symbols Order 1968 the ECI resolves disputes about splits/mergers of recognised parties.

➤ **Only statement 3** – option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Article 324; Symbols Order. Current affairs: Shiv Sena and NCP symbol disputes; CEC and EC (Appointment) Act 2023.

SOURCES

1. Election Commission – eci.gov.in
2. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
3. Supreme Court – sci.gov.in

Question 91 | Environment / Wildlife Law

In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?

(a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
(b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and now it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
(c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
(d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Schedule I species get the highest protection, equal to that of the tiger, with the strictest penalties for hunting.
- **Options (b), (c), (d)** – Schedule I status does not imply extinction in the wild or endemism.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Schedules I–VI; IUCN categories. Current affairs: Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act 2022; tortoise and turtle trafficking seizures.

SOURCES

1. Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 – indiacode.nic.in
2. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in
3. Shankar IAS – Environment

Question 92 | Polity / Judiciary

In India, Judicial Review implies

(a) the power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.
(b) the power of the Judiciary to question the wisdom of the laws enacted by the Legislatures.
(c) the power of the Judiciary to review all the legislative enactments before they are assented to by the President.
(d) the power of the Judiciary to review its own judgements given earlier in similar or different cases.

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) the power of the Judiciary to pronounce upon the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.

DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Judicial review is the power of courts to examine the constitutionality of laws and executive orders.
- **Option (b)** – Courts do not question the wisdom of laws, only their validity.
- **Option (c)** – Courts do not review bills before assent.
- **Option (d)** – Reviewing its own judgments is a separate power (review/curative petition).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Articles 13, 32, 226; Marbury v Madison; basic structure. Current affairs: Challenges to electoral bonds, Places of Worship Act, and CAA.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India
3. Supreme Court – sci.gov.in

Question 93 | History / Chronology

With reference to Indian freedom struggle, consider the following events: 1. Mutiny in Royal Indian Navy 2. Quit India Movement launched 3. Second Round Table Conference
What is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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

ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 3-2-1
DETAILED EXPLANATION
3 – Second Round Table Conference: 1931.
2 – Quit India Movement: August 1942.
1 – Royal Indian Navy mutiny: February 1946.
➤ **Sequence 3-2-1** – option (c).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Chronology of the national movement. Current affairs: Quit India Day (9 August); 80th anniversary of RIN Mutiny (2026).
SOURCES
1. Bipan Chandra – India's Struggle for Independence
2. Spectrum – A Brief History of Modern India
3. NCERT Class 12 Themes in Indian History Part III

Question 94 | Economy / Fiscal Data

Consider the following statements:
1. Tax revenue as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
2. Fiscal deficit as a percent of GDP of India has steadily increased in the last decade.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) Neither 1 nor 2
DETAILED EXPLANATION
- **Statement 1** – Incorrect. The tax-to-GDP ratio fluctuated and did not rise steadily.
- **Statement 2** – Incorrect. The fiscal deficit fell for several years (to about 3.5% in 2016–17) rather than increasing steadily.

➤ **Neither** – option (d).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Tax–GDP ratio; FRBM. Current affairs: Fiscal deficit glide path (4.4% of GDP in 2025–26); gross tax revenue buoyancy.
SOURCES
1. Economic Survey
2. Union Budget – indiabudget.gov.in
3. Ramesh Singh – Indian Economy

Question 95 | Environment / Wildlife

Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their natural habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites?
(a) Corbett National Park
(b) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary
(c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
(d) Sariska National Park
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary
DETAILED EXPLANATION
- **Option (b)** – Kuno (Palpur) Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was chosen as a second home for Asiatic lions (the Supreme Court ordered translocation in 2013).
- **Others** – Not proposed sites.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Asiatic lion; Gir. Current affairs: Cheetah reintroduction at Kuno (2022); Project Lion; Barda as alternative lion habitat.
SOURCES
1. MoEFCC – moef.gov.in

2. WII – wii.gov.in
3. Supreme Court – sci.gov.in

Question 96 | Polity / President's Rule

Which of the following are not necessarily the consequences of the proclamation of the President's rule in a State?
1. Dissolution of the State Legislative Assembly
2. Removal of the Council of Ministers in the State
3. Dissolution of the local bodies
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (b) 1 and 3 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION
1 – The Assembly may be kept in suspended animation; dissolution is not necessary.
2 – Removal of the Council of Ministers is a necessary consequence (the President assumes the State executive's functions).
3 – Local bodies are not dissolved by President's Rule.
➤ **Hence 1 and 3 only** – option (b).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Articles 355–356; Bommai judgment. Current affairs: President's Rule in Manipur (Feb 2025); suspended animation of Assemblies.
SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994)
3. Constitution of India – Article 356

Question 97 | Polity / Fundamental Rights

Which of the following are envisaged by the Right against Exploitation in the Constitution of India?
1. Prohibition of traffic in human beings and forced labour
2. Abolition of untouchability
3. Protection of the interests of minorities
4. Prohibition of employment of children in factories and mines
Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) 1 and 4 only
DETAILED EXPLANATION
1 – Article 23 prohibits traffic in human beings and forced labour.
2 – Abolition of untouchability is Article 17 (Right to Equality).
3 – Protection of minorities is in Articles 29–30 (Cultural and Educational Rights).
4 – Article 24 prohibits child labour in factories and mines.
➤ **Hence 1 and 4 only** – option (c).
STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Articles 23–24. Current affairs: Child labour amendments; bonded labour; Anti-Human Trafficking Bill.
SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Constitution of India – Part III
3. Ministry of Labour & Employment – labour.gov.in

Question 98 | Geography / Islands

Which of the following is geographically closest to Great Nicobar?
(a) Sumatra
(b) Borneo
(c) Java
(d) Sri Lanka
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (a) Sumatra
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (a)** – Great Nicobar (Indira Point) lies about 150 km from Sumatra (Indonesia).
- **Others** – Borneo, Java and Sri Lanka are farther.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Andaman & Nicobar; Six Degree Channel. Current affairs: Great Nicobar mega-project; Indira Point submerged by 2004 tsunami; Strategic importance in the Malacca approach.
SOURCES
1. Oxford School Atlas
2. NCERT Class 11 – India: Physical Environment
3. MoD – mod.gov.in

Question 99 | Polity / Cabinet System

Out of the following statements, choose the one that brings out the principle underlying the Cabinet form of Government:
(a) An arrangement for minimizing the criticism against the Government whose responsibilities are complex and hard to carry out to the satisfaction of all.
(b) A mechanism for speeding up the activities of the Government whose responsibilities are increasing day by day.
(c) A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.
(d) A device for strengthening the hands of the head of the Government whose hold over the people is in a state of decline.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (c) A mechanism of parliamentary democracy for ensuring collective responsibility of the Government to the people.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Option (c)** – The principle of the Cabinet system is collective responsibility to the legislature (and through it to the people).
- **Options (a), (b), (d)** – Not the underlying principle.

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK
Static: Article 75(3); collective responsibility. Current affairs: Cabinet decisions; Cabinet Secretariat and mini-cabinet committees.
SOURCES
1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. Constitution of India – Article 75
3. Cabinet Secretariat – cabsec.gov.in

Question 100 | Polity / Federalism

Which one of the following is not a feature of Indian federalism?
(a) There is an independent judiciary in India.
(b) Powers have been clearly divided between the Centre and the States.
(c) The federating units have been given unequal representation in the Rajya Sabha.
(d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.
ANSWER: (UPSC Set A): (d) It is the result of an agreement among the federating units.
DETAILED EXPLANATION

- **Options (a), (b), (c)** – Independent judiciary, division of powers (Seventh Schedule) and unequal representation of States in the Rajya Sabha are federal features.
- **Option (d)** – India's federation was not formed by an agreement among States; the Constitution calls India 'a Union of States' (Ambedkar: 'indestructible Union').

➤ Hence option (d).

STATIC + CURRENT AFFAIRS LINK

Static: Article 1; federal vs unitary features; S.R. Bommai. Current affairs: GST Council as cooperative federalism; Finance Commission devolution.

SOURCES

1. M. Laxmikanth – Indian Polity
2. D.D. Basu – Introduction to the Constitution of India
3. Constitution of India – Article 1