



SHANKAR
IAS ACADEMY™

Best Academy for Civil Services Exam Coaching

PREFIT MARATHON - 2024

INSTRUCTIONS - The schedule plan provided is provisional in nature and subject to modifications. If such changes are made, you will be notified of the same in advance through telegram.

- Prefit Marathon tests will be followed by a detailed live discussion on the same day and recorded videos will also be provided.

- Prefit Marathon tests will be active from 9 AM- 9 PM for online students. For offline students test timing will be

Sectional test: 2:30pm -3:30pm followed by Live discussion by 3:45pm

Full test & Revision test: 2:30pm – 4:30pm followed by live discussion by 4:45pm

- The test will be held six days a week.

- Prefit Marathon is a launching pad for you to kick start your prelims preparation and will supplement if and any test series you may join or have already joined.

TEST NO	DATES	CURRENT AFFAIRS	SUBJECT	
GEOGRAPHY				
TEST 1	21.07.2024	23-Jul	Earth	Origin & Evolution - Theories , star formation, Solar system, Origin of life.
			Interior of the Earth	Information Sources - Direct and indirect source, Important sources - Earthquake and Volcanoes, Structure of Earth
			Distribution of Continents & Oceans	Continental Drift - Evidences and force for drifting, Post Drift studies, Sea floor spreading, Plate Tectonics - Important plates, boundaries & plate movements , Indian plate and its movements.
			Earth	Latitude and Longitude including important Parallels and Meridians, Motions of the Earth - Rotation, Revolution and their effects. Inclination of the Earth's Axis and its effects, Local and Standard Time and the International Date Line, Calendar, Eclipses - Solar, Lunar.
			Landforms and their Evolution	Rocks - types (Igneous, sedimentary, Metamorphic), Rock cycle. Geomorphic process - endogenic and exogenic processes and its types. Landforms - Erosional and depositional landforms by geomorphic agents (running water, ground water, glaciers, waves and currents, winds)
			Oceans	Hydrological cycle, Relief of the Ocean floor - Major and Minor relief features, Temperature of the Ocean Water - Factors affecting it and distribution , Salinity - factors and distribution.
			Movements of ocean Water	Types - Horizontal and vertical movements, Waves & Tides - meaning, factors influencing it & effects, Ocean current - meaning Classification, Major and minor ocean currents and effects.

TEST 2	22.07.2024	Jul-23	Atmosphere	Structure and Composition.
			Solar Radiation, Heat Balance and Temperature	Insolation and factors affecting it, Heating and cooling of atmosphere , Heat Budget , Temperature - Meaning, factors determining it and their distribution.
			Atmospheric Circulation and Weather Systems	Atmospheric Pressure and their distribution, Wind - Meaning and factors affecting it, General circulation of atmosphere - Planetary, Seasonal and Local winds, Cyclones and Extra Tropical Cyclones, Important Climatic Phenomena and its effect - El Nino, La Nina, IOD, Polar Vortex, MJO, AMOC etc...
			Water in the Atmosphere	Various forms, Humidity - Meaning and Types, Condensation, Precipitation - types and their characteristics, Clouds - Types and their characteristics, Rainfall- classification and their distribution.
			World Climate	Koepfen Classification, Important Climatic types and their characteristics - Hot, Wet Equatorial Climate ,Tropical Monsoon and Tropical Marine Climates , Savanna or Sudan Climate, Hot Desert and Mid-Latitude Desert Climates, Warm Temperate Western Margin (Mediterranean) Climate, Temperate Continental (Steppe) Climate, Warm Temperate Eastern Margin (China Type) Climate,Cool Temperate Western Margin (British Type) Climate, Cool Temperate Continental (Siberian) Climate, Cool Temperate Eastern Margin (Laurentian) Climate, Arctic/ Polar climate.

TEST 3	23.07.2024	Jul-23	Location and Structure	Latitudinal and Longitudinal Extent, Important parallels and Meridians passing through India, Major Geological divisions and their characteristics- The Peninsular Block, The Himalayas and other Peninsular Mountains, Indo-Ganga-Brahmaputra Plain.
			Physiography	Important Physiographic Divisions and their characteristics - The Northern and North-eastern Mountains, The Northern Plains, The peninsular plateau, The Indian Desert, The Coastal plains, The Islands.
			Drainage systems	Types of Drainage system and their characteristics, Classification - Himalayan and Peninsular drainage system, Major Rivers in India and their characteristics, Minor Rivers.
			Climate	Factors determining the climate of India, Mechanism of Weather in the Winter Season, Mechanism of Weather in the Summer Season, Mechanism of South west monsoon, Mechanism of retreating monsoon, The rhythm of seasons, Famous Local Storms of Hot Weather Season, Characteristics of Monsoonal Rainfall, Traditional Indian seasons, Distribution of Rainfall, Climatic Regions of India
			Soil	Soil Characteristics, Factors Responsible for Soil Formation, Stages of Soil Formation, Soil Forming Processes, Soil Profiles and Horizons, Soil Classification, Soil Erosion and Conservation.
			Natural vegetations and WildLife	Natural Vegetation - Forest and grasslands, their types, distribution, characteristics, important Flora and Fauna and their characteristics.

TEST 4	24.07.2024	Aug-23	Population	Distribution, Density and Growth, Population composition - Sex composition, Age structure, Rural urban composition and Occupational structure, Human Development, Migration - Types, causes and consequences.
			Primary Activities	Important activities - Hunting and gathering, pastoralism, Agriculture, Mixed farming, Market gardening and Horticulture, Dairy farming and Cooperative farming, Mining - factors affecting it and methods of mining.
			Secondary Activities	Manufacturing- characteristics, classification of industries, Important industries - Iron and Steel, cotton.
			Tertiary Activities	Important activities - Trade and commerce, Transport and communication, Services. Others - Quaternary and Quinary activities, Transport - Road, Railways, Water transport, Air transport and Pipelines.
			Human Settlement	Classification of settlements, types and patterns, Urban settlement - Classification, factors, types and problems.
			Agriculture and water resources	Land Use categories, Land use changes in India, Cropping season in India, Types of Farming - irrigated and Rainfed, Cropping season, Important crops - Food grains (cereals, pulses, maize etc.), oilseeds, fibre crops and other crops, Agricultural Development in India. Water resources - Surface , Ground water resources and lagoons and backwaters, water demand and utilisation, water conservation and management, watershed management.
TEST 5	25.07.2024	JULY AND AUG	GEOGRAPHY REVISION TEST	

POLITY						
TEST 1	26.07.2024	Sep-23	Historical background, making of constitution, Salient features	Features of important acts from 1773 to 1947, Constituent Assembly and making of constitution, Various salient features of Indian constitution, Important Schedules in Indian Constitution.		
			Preamble	Meaning, Background, Significance, Amendments .		
			Union and its territory	Various Constitutional Provisions related to Union and its territory, Evolution of state and Union territories.		
			Citizenship	Constitutional Provisions, Statutory Laws and Ways for acquiring and losing Citizenship, Recent Citizenship Amendment act, Non Resident Indians and Overseas Citizens of India.		
			Amendment of the Constituion,	Types of Amendments, Important Constitutional Amendment - 1st, 25th, 39th, 42nd, 44th, 69th, 73rd, 74th, 81st, 85th, 91st. Recent Constitutional amendments.		
			System of Government	Parliamentary and Presidential system , Federal and Unitary features.		
CSAT 1	27.07.2024		FULL SYLLABUS			
TEST 2	28.07.2024	Sep-23	Fundamental rights(FR)	Writs, Constitutional Remedies, Rights outside part 3, Relate each Fundamental Right in Current affairs like privacy, right to marry.		
			Directive Principles of State Policy(DPSP) and Fundamental Duties(FD)	Purpose, list, important amendment, non-justiciability, comparison of Preamble vs FR vs DPSP vs FD		
			UNION GOVERNMENT			
			President	Constitutional Provisions, Presidential elections, Qualification and Impeachment of President, Executive Powers and functions of the President, Ordinance Powers. Consitutional Position of President in Indian Parliamentary system.		
			Vice president	Constitutional Provisions, Qualifications, Powers and functions, Role etc..		
			Prime Minister and council of ministers	Appointment of Prime Minister and CoM, Role and Functions of Prime Minister, Constitutional Provisions, 91st Consitutional Amendment act, Council of Ministers vs Cabinet, Individual and Collective Responsibility.		
			Attorney general of india	Constitutional Provisions, Qualifications, Appointment, Removal, Powers and functions, Rights of Attorney general of India.		
Cabinet secretary	Powers and functions of Cabinet secretary					

TEST 3	29.07.2024	Sep-23	Parliament	Constitutional Provisions, Structure of Parliament, Presiding Officers in parliament, Parliamentary devices, Powers and functions of parliament, Parliamentary Privileges, Breach of Privilege, Legislative procedures in parliament, Budget making in parliament, Special Powers of Rajya Sabha.
			State legislature	Structure and Composition, Powers and functions of State Legislative Assembly, State Legislative Council, Legislative Procedure in State Legislative assembly.
			Parliamentary committees	Standing and Ad hoc committees, Financial committees - their composition, functions.
TEST 4	30.07.2023	Oct-23	STATE GOVERNMENT	
			Governor	Various Constitutional Provisions, Qualification and appointment of Governor, Powers and functions of Governor, discretionary powers, Ordinance and Pardoning powers.
			Chief minister and Council of Ministers	Constitutional Provisions, CM - Qualification, appointment, Role and functions, relation with Governor and Council of Ministers, CoM - Appointment, functions, Comparison with cabinet, 91st constitutional Amendment Act.
			Advocate general of state	Constitutional Provisions, Appointment, Removal, Powers and functions, Rights of Advocate general of state.
			Chief secretary	Powers and Functions of Chief Secretary.
			Local Self Government and Union Territory	
			Panchayats	Evolution - Background and important committees, 73rd Amendment act 1992, Compulsory and voluntary provisions, important constitutional provisions, 11th Schedule, State Election Commission and State Finance Commission, PESA Act.
Municipality	Background, Various Constitutional provisions, 74th Constitutional Amendment act 1992, 12th Schedule, Types of Municipalities and their provisions.			

TEST 5	31.07.2024	Oct-23	Supreme court	Constitutional Provisions, Judges in Supreme court including CJI - Appointment, Qualification and Removal, Jurisdiction and powers of Supreme Court, Supreme court Advocates, Judicial Review, PIL
			High Courts and Subordinate Courts	Constitutional Provisions, Structure and Composition of High courts, High Court Judges - Qualification, Appointment and removal, Jurisdiction and Powers of High Court, Subordinate courts, Family Courts, Lok Adalat, Gram Nyayalaya, National Legal Services authority.
			Tribunals	Constitutional Provisions, Administrative and other Tribunals, Important tribunals - NGT, CAT etc..., Important Supreme court Judgements related to Tribunals .
			Centre state relations	Various dimensions of Centre state relations - Legislative, Executive and Financial relations, Trends in Centre State Relations, Important Committees related to it - Sarkaria, Punchhi commission etc...
			Inter-state relations	River water sharing disputes, Inter-state and Zonal councils
			Emergency Provisions	Emergency - Types and various constitutional provisions, impact of emergencies.
TEST 6	1.08.2024	Oct-23	Special status & Provision, Special areas	Special status under Article 371, Administration of 5th and 6th schedule areas.
			Political parties	National parties and state parties
			Elections	Focus on Elections to Parliament, State Legislature, President and vice President. Representation of people's act . Anti defection law, Electoral reforms.
			Constitutional bodies	Important Constitutional Bodies - Constitutional Provisions, Composition, Appointment, Qualification, Removal, Powers and functions.
			Non-Constitutional bodies	Important Bodies - Statutory Laws, Composition, powers and Functions.
TEST 7	2.08.2024	SEP AND OCT 20	POLITY REVISION TEST	
CSAT 2	3.08.2024		FULL SYLLABUS	

ANCIENT INDIA + ART AND CULTURE

TEST 1	4.08.2024	Nov-23	Stone Age	Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic - Occupation, Tools, Pottery, Settlements, Lifestyle, Prehistoric Art (Cave paintings). Chalcolithic - Early towns and settlements, Farming Cultures (Ahar, Malwa, Jorwe etc) , Pottery (Ochre colored), Dwelling and Burial practices
			Indus Valley Civilization- Bronze Age	Origin, Geographical Extent, Cities and towns, Urban planning, Important structures, Agriculture, Trade and economy, Political organisation, Religious practices- Nature and animal worship , Crafts and Pottery, Seals , Bronze and terracotta figurines, Decline and its causes.
			Early Vedic Age (1500- 900 BCE)	Advent of Aryans, Family and kinship - Tribal , Rig Veda, Social Practices, Tribal Polity and administration. Occupation and economy, Religion and Vedic Gods.
			Later Vedic Age (900 - 600 BCE)	Transition to Later Vedic Age , Developments in Political Organisation and Economy, Social Order (Rise of Gotra system, Ashramas, Caste), Differences between Rig Vedic and Later Vedic society, Use of Iron- PGW Iron Phase, Vedas and Upanishads, Religion and rituals. Heterodox Philosophical systems.
			Mahajanapadas / Age of Buddha (600-300 BCE)	(a) Rise of State polity, 2nd Urbanisation- Rise of new cities, Magadhan Empire - Administration & Economy , Republican States , Society and Religion , Iranian & Macedonian invasion. (b) Jainism and Buddhism- Birth of Mahavira / Buddha, Origin and Spread, Doctrines and Principles, Monastic establishments (Basadis/ Viharas), Jain & Buddhist Councils, Art and Architecture , Literature.

TEST 2	5.08.2024	Nov-23	Mauryan Empire	Rise of the Mauryan dynasty, Chandragupta Maurya, Administration, bureaucracy, taxation and polity, Chanakya's Arthashastra. Ashoka - Inscriptions (minor and major rock edicts) , Art and Architecture, Ashoka's Dhamma and patronage of Buddhism.
			Post Mauryan Age	Sungas and Kanwas. Central Asian Invasions - Indo Greeks, Shakas, Parthians, Kushans. Their Impact- Money Economy, expansion in trade, silk route. Influx of foreign elements in polity, army, crafts.
			Megaliths and Sangam Age	Megalithic culture- burials, pottery, tools, settlements. Sangam Age- Tamil Sangam literature , Chera, Chola and Pandyas, Evolution of early Tamil polity and society from Sangam Literature.
			Guptan Age	Rise of the Guptas, Expansion and Administration, Trade and economy, Societal practices and status of women, Religion, Art and Architecture, Developments in Science and technology. Religious Literature- Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas. Secular Works- Works of Court poets like Kalidasa, Bhasa etc Scientific works of Aryabhata, Varahamihra etc. Decline of Guptas.
			Post Guptas	Harshavardhana- Polity, Land Grants and its impact, Social conditions, Harsha and Buddhism, Hiuen Tsang visit and account of India. Literature- Works of Bhana & Harsha.

TEST 3	6.08.2024	Nov-23	Pallavas & Chalukyas in South	Pallavas and Chalukyas in South. Administration and economy. Chalukya art, Pallava art and Literary works.
			Chola Empire (9th- 12th century)	The rise of Cholas, Administration and taxation, Territorial Expansion, Society and Culture. Chola Art & Architecture.
			Ghaznavid and Turkish Invasions (1000-1200 CE)	Coming of Ghaznavids, Status of Rajput States and reasons for defeat, Ghurid invasion . Alberuni's Kitab-ul-Hind.
			Delhi Sultanate (1200-1400 CE)	Nature of the State, Administration of Delhi Sultanate, State Departments and various posts, Military reforms. Land revenue and taxation, local and village administration, Cities and towns. Trade and crafts, Agriculture, export & imports, Economic and social life. Religion and customs under the Sultanate, Scientific advancements. Art and Architecture of Delhi Sultanate, Construction and rise of new Cities. Accounts of foreign travellers like Ibn Batutta, Court poets and Historians like Amir Khusrau, Barauni etc. The Mamluks (1206-1290) – Qutb-ud-din Aibak, Iltutmish – Chagalani system, Raziya Sultana, Balban- Policies and administration, Mongol menace, Khaljis (1290-1320), The Tughlaqs(1320-1414), The Sayyid dynasty (1414- 1451), The Lodis(1451-1526).
			Vijayanagara and Bahmini Kingdom	Rise of Vijayanagara State, Harihara and Bukkaraya, Political Organisation - Nayaka System, Social life and Economy, Krishna Devaraya- administration and foreign policy,Literary works , Architechure of Vijayanagara- Structures of Hampi. Visit of Foreign travellers- Nicolo Conti, Abdul Razack, Nuniz, Barbosa. Bahmini Kingdom- Polity & Internal Conflicts, Administration and Economy. Conflict with Vijayanagara- Battle of Talikotta , Rise of Deccani culture, Architechure of Bahminis, Disintegration of Bahminis. Annexation by Mughal empire. Arrival of Portuguese, Impact on Indian Politics, trade and economy. Relationship with Indian rulers.

MEDIVAL INDIA

TEST 4	7.07.2024	Dec-23	Religious and Cultural Developments in India (1200- 1500 CE)	Rise of concept of Bhakti, Vaishnavites and Saiviites in South (Alvars and Nayanmars), Shankaracharya and Ramanuja, Bhakthi movements in North India and Maharashtra . Saguna and Nirguna schools, Bhakthi Saints and Poets, Bhakti Literature, Impact on Social life. Sufi movements- Basic concept, 12 orders or Silsilahs, Sufi saints- Nizamuddin Auliya, Moinuddin Chisti, Baba Farid. Sufi impact on Indian arts, culture and society.
			Mughal Empire	Important Rulers, Administration and Polity, Economic and Social Conditions , Literature, Foreign accounts of travellers on Mughal society and polity. Mughal Arts- Miniature Painting, Mughal Architecture and Monuments. Traditional crafts, Export and imports, Science and Technology. Disintegration of Mughal Empire (1707-1856), Deccan Conquests of Aurangazeb- Impact. Causes of disintegration.
			Rise of Marathas	Maratha expansion under Shivaji, Maratha army and administration, Chauth and Sardeshmukhi, Conflict with Mughals and other Deccan powers.

TEST 5	8.08.2024	Dec-23	Indian Art & Architecture	<p>IVC- Various sites associated with Architecture. Their significance and location. Sculptures, figurines & seals. Mauryan Architecture- Ashokan Pillars, Stupas, Cave Architecture- Chaitiyas & Viharas, Sculptures. Post Mauryan – Features of three schools of art- Gandhara, Mathura, Amaravati. Rock cut caves.</p> <p>Gupta period- Cave Architecture- Ajanta, Ellora, Bagh, Nasik etc Temple Architecture – Nagara Style.</p> <p>Temple Architecture in South India -Pallava style, Dravidian Style- Chola temples, Vesara Style, Nayaka school, Hoysala Style, Pala school of temples.</p> <p>Medieval / Islamic Architecture- Delhi Sultanate- Different characteristics and introduction of new features of various dynasties- The Mamluks, Khiljis, Lodhis.</p> <p>Mughal Architecture – Features and important structures.</p> <p>Provincial Styles- Bengal, Malwa, Rajputana.</p>
			Indian Paintings	<p>Prehistoric Paintings</p> <p>Cave paintings in Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic periods. Their location, colors, themes.</p> <p>Mural Paintings- Ajanta, Ellora, Sittanavasal etc. Miniature paintings – Mughal Era</p>
				<p>Regional Paintings</p> <p>Different Schools- Rajasthani, Pahari, Kishangarh, Bundi, Kangra, Basholi, Tanjore.</p> <p>Folk Paintings</p> <p>Madhubani, Pattachitra, Kalighat, Pattua, Kalamkari, Warli etc.</p>

		Indian Theatre	Ritual theatres of different traditions like Ankianat, Ramlila. Entertainment theatre forms- Tamasha, Nautanki, Swang etc.
		Indian Puppetry	String Puppets- Kathputli, Bommalatam. Shadow Puppets- RavanChayya, Togalu Gombayetta. Rod puppets-Putul Nautch, Yampuri.
		Fairs & Festivals	Important Tribal and Northeast festivals. Ex- Losar, Wangala, Bihu.
		Indian Literature	Ancient India – Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata, Puranas. Sanskrit Literature - Prose, Drama & Poetry - Works of court poets like Kalidasa, Sudraka, Bhasa of Ancient , Medieval India. Pali & Prakrit Literature Jain texts- Angas, Upangas. Buddhist – Canonical (Tripitakas) and non-canonical (Jatakas). Persian/ Arabic Literature - Works of court historians of Delhi Sultanate, Mughals, Bahminis. Ex-Ain-i-Akbari by Abul Fazl, Tarikh-i-Firozshahi by Barauni.

MODERN INDIA

TEST 6	9.08.2024	Dec-23	Before revolt	Advent of Europeans - Portuguese, French, Dutch, English and Danish - Anglo-French wars and carnatic wars Weak Mughal Rulers post Aurangazeb - Rise of Regional Kingdoms- Bengal, Hyderabad, Awadh Conquest and Establishment of British Empire - Battle of Plassey, Buxar - Mysore , Maratha, Sikh, Afghan wars - Innovative Administrative polices - Ringfence, subsidiary alliance and doctrine of lapse
			Revolt of 1857	Causes, spread , nature and consequences Important personalities and area of revolt
			Socio Religious Movements	Important associations and leader
			Modern Nationalism	Pre-INC organizations, Newspapers Factors for growth of Modern Nationalism

CSAT 3	10.07.2024		FULL SYLLABUS	
BREAK				
TEST 7	12.08.2024	Jan-24	INC- Moderate Phase	Foundation of INC Approach, Ideology, Important leaders and contributions- economic criticism of British Rule
			Extremist Phase (1905-1918)	Rise of extremism, Partition of Bengal Anti- Partition, Swadeshi Movement, Surat Split, Minto - Morley reforms
			Revolutionary Activism (1907-1917)	Bengal, Maharastra, Punjab, Abroad Imp leaders and activities
			World events and Nationalist response	World War I and response, Home Rule Movement, Lucknow Pact, Russian Revolution and impact Montague Chelmsford Reforms.
TEST 8	13.08.2024	Jan-24	Emergence of Gandhi	Experience in South Africa, Emergence of Satyagraha Technique, Experiments in India Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad
			Non cooperation Movement	Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala bagh massacre Khilafat movement NCM Participation of masses and withdrawal
			Phase in between NCM and CDM	Swarajists and No-changers Emergence of socialist, Marxist ideas Peasant , Trade and caste movements Revolutionary Activity- II
			Civil Disobedience Movement	Run up to CDM Simon Commission Nehru Report and response Lahore session and Poorna Swaraj Spread of CDM Govt Response- Gandhi- Irwin Pact Round Table Conferences (RTC) Communal Award- Poona Pact Gandhi Harijan Campaign

TEST 9	14.08.2024	Jan-24	Post CDM	GOI Act 1935 Council Entry and Congress Performance Congress Rule in Provinces
			1939- 1947	Nationalist Response to WW II Bose- Gandhi- Nehru Ideologies August offer, Individual Satyagraha, Cripps Mission Quit India Movement- Resolution and Mass participation Wavell Plan INA (1st phase and Bose arrival), trials Elections- Congress and League's performance Cabinet Mission Plan Atlee Statement, Mountbatten plan India Independence Act and Partition, India - Post Independence
			Post Independence India	Making of Indian Constituion, Partition, Unification of India, Land reforms, Various Policies post Independence
INDEPENDENCE DAY - HOLIDAY				
TEST 10	16.08.2024	NOV,DEC AND JAN	HISTORY REVISION TEST	
CSAT 4	17.08.2024	FULL SYLLABUS		
BREAK				

ENVIRONMENT

TEST 1	19.08.2024	Feb-24	Ecology	Ecology definition Environment definition Environment components (biotic and abiotic)
			Ecosystem	Ecosystem definition Functions of ecosystem
				Energy flow Food Web
				Ecological pyramid-pyramid of biomass, numbers, energy
				Bioaccumulation
				Bio magnification
				Bioremediation
				Biopiracy
				Biobleaching
				Bioterrorism
				Ecotone-characteristics Niche-types
				Carbon footprint
				Ecological footprint
				Eutrophication
			Algal blooms-red tide	
Biological oxygen demand				
Ecological succession- Primary, Secondary succession, Climax				
Biotic interaction-mutualism, communalism, etc				
Classification of ecosystems	Aquatic ecosystem: Lakes-ecology, characteristics Estuaries Mangroves-characteristics, root modification Coral reefs-types, threat Coral bleaching Wetlands-types, national wetland conservation program.Ramsar sites, montreux record			
	Terrestrial ecosystems: Forest ecosystem-types of forest Desert ecosystem Grasslands ecosystem Deforestation-causes			

TEST 2	20.08.2024	Feb-24	Biodiversity	Biodiversity-term Levels of biodiversity-Genetic diversity, Species diversity Ecosystem/community diversity
			Measurement of biodiversity	Species richness-alpha, beta, gamma Species evenness
			Modes of conservation	Ex-situ conservation-zoological parks, seed banks, etc In-situ conservation-wildlife sanctuary, national park, etc
			Fauna diversity	Vertebrates-fish, reptiles, birds, amphibians, mammals In-vertebrates-annelids, arthropods, protozoa, arachnids, etc
			Flora diversity	Algae, Fungi, Bacteria, Virus Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Angiosperms, Gymnosperms
			Animal adaptation	Hibernation, Aestivation, Nocturnal, Diurnal
			Plant adaptation	Hydrophatic, Xerophytic, Mesophytes
			National initiative	Wildlife sanctuary and National Parks
				Conservation reserves and community reserves Coastal protected areas Sacred groves of India
			Global initiative	Man and biosphere Biosphere reserves World network of biosphere reserves Biodiversity hotpots Biodiversity hope spots World Heritage sites
				IUCN-(red data book) endangered, critically endangered, etc

TEST 3	21.08.2024	Feb-24	Climate Change	Global warming Green house effect, Green house gases Global warming potential, Global emissions
				Acid rain, Ocean acidification Ozone depletion
			Mitigation strategies	Carbon sequestration, Carbon sink Carbon credit, Carbon offsetting, Carbon tax Geo-engineering
				Green building Green rating for integrated habitat assessment (GRIHA) UNFCC Agenda 21 REDD and REDD+ IPCC Green climate fund Global environment facility
TEST 4	22.08.2024	Mar-24	Strategies	Acts and Policies Paris climate deal Wildlife protection act 1972 Environmental protection act 1986,eco sensitive zones Biological diversity act 2002 Schedule tribes and other forest dwellers act 2006 Prevention of animal cruelty act National forest policy Coastal regulation zone Wetlands rule 2010 National green tribunal
				Regulatory Authorities, Various Act for Environment Conservation.
			Conventions	Convention on biological diversity (CBD) Ramsar convention on wetlands CITES TRAFFIC

			Environmental Pollution	<p>Pollutants-classifications, causes, sources Air pollution-major pollutants Smog-formation, effects Indoor Air pollution Fly ash-composition, utilisation National Air quality monitoring programme National ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) Water pollution-sources, effects, control measures Soil pollution-sources, causes, types, effects, control measures Noise pollution-impacts, control measures Radio active pollution-sources, types, effects, control measures E-waste management Solid waste management</p>
TEST 5	23.08.2024	EB AND MARC	ENVIRONMENT REVISION TEST	
CSAT 5	24.08.2024		FULL SYLLABUS	
BREAK				
ECONOMICS				
TEST 1	26.08.2024	Apr-24	Fundamentals of macro econom	Economic Organisation, Economic services, Private sector, Types of Goods, Circular flow of income, Macro economic variables.
			National income	Concept and Working, Methods of estimation : product, Expenditure and income, Measures of National Income : GDP, GNP, NDP, NNP , PCI, ICOR , GDP Deflator, National income at current and Constant prices, various estimation of National Income in India. Market price vs Basic price.
			Growth and Development	Definition, Concepts, Reports and indices (HDI, GII, MPI) and Inclusive growth.
			Public Finance	Meaning, Fiscal Policy- Meaning and tools , Contractionary and Expansionary Fiscal Policy, Current Fiscal situation, Reform measures.
			Budget	Definition, Various types of Budget, Key concepts, Receipts - Revenue and Capital receipts, Expenditure - Revenue and Capital Expenditure, Deficit - Meaning and their types, Deficit Financing, Various Funds - Consolidated fund of India, Contingency fund of India and Public account of India.

			Taxation	Meaning, Classification - Progressive, Proportional and regressive, Impacts and incidence of tax, Tax base, Tax Buoyancy and Elasticity, Effects of taxation, Various Methods of taxation, Types of taxes - Direct and indirect tax, GST and GST Council, Cess and Surcharge, Tax regime and Tax sharing mechanisms, Laffer Curve, Off Budget Liabilities
			Miscellaneous	Finance commission and their recommendations (14th and 15th), Fiscal Slippage and Consolidation, FRBM act and rules.
TEST 2	27.08.2024	Apr-24	Banks	Scheduled and Non Scheduled banks, Classification- Commercial banks, Cooperative Banks, Regional Rural Banks. Small Finance Banks and Payment Bank, Nationalisation of Banks, Various committees and their recommendations, Important Banking schemes - Lead bank scheme, Priority Sector Lending, Micro credit, Schemes for Financial Inclusion, Basel Norms , Non Performing Assets , NPA Crisis and Bad Banks, SARFAESI act 2002, IBC 2016.
			Money	Definition, Types, Money Stock measures, liquidity of money, high powered money, Minimum Reserve, Reserve money, Money multiplier. Currency management - Role of Government and RBI, CBDC.
			Inflation	Definition, Concepts, Causes - Demand pull and Cost push, Types- Creeping, walking, Running and Hyper Inflation, Inflation measurement - WPI, CPI - R, U and C, Effects of Inflation, Inflation control - Fiscal and monetary policy, phillips Curve, Stagflation, Deflation and Reflation, key terms - Inflationary gap, Inflation tax, Inflation spiral, inflation premium. Business cycle - Depression, Recovery, Boom and Recession, Double Dip Recession, Growth Recession.

TEST 3	28.08.2024	Apr-24	Money market	Money market and its composition, Various instruments in Money market.
			Capital market	Definition, Classification - Primary and Secondary market, Composition and functions, SEBI and its functions, Stock exchanges - Functions, key terms, Trading processes and various instruments, Depositories, Commodity and Spot exchanges, Developmental financial institutions, Financial intermediaries - types and their regulation, Non Banking Financial Companies NBFCs, Mutual funds, Angel investor, Investment trusts - REITs, InvITs. Corporate Bond Market in India
			Insurance in India	Definition, Insurance Reforms including Nationalisation, Public Sector Insurance Companies, IRDAI and its functions, DICGC, ECGC, NEIA. Reinsurance, Important Insurance Schemes.
			Balance Of Payment	Definition, Classification - Current and capital account (and their components), External debt, External Commercial Borrowings ECB, Foreign Investments - FDI and FPI, Depository receipts, Overall Balance, Forex Reserves and its components, Special Drawing Rights SDR, Trade Policy and Measures, Special Economic Zones, Bilateral, Regional and Multilateral Trade Agreements by India, New Foreign trade policy. WTO - Background and various rounds of negotiation. Indias External Performance - Trade Scenario, Important Trading partners and composition of Trade.Economic integration - meaning and their types.
			Foreign Exchange	Definition, Exchange Rate - determination and their types,NER and RER, NEER and REER, Depreciation and Appreciation, Devaluation and Revaluation, PPP, Convertibility - Capital and Current account Convertibility. FERA and FEMA.

			WTO	Background, Various Rounds of Negotiations, Structure and principles of WTO, Important Agreements - Agreement on Agriculture and Domestic support, TRIPS, TRIMS, GATS, TFA. Peace clause.
			International Economic Organisations	Brenton Woods Conference and institutions - World Bank Group and IMF, OECD, ADB , AIIB, NDB (Background, Structure, Composition and their functions).
TEST 4	29.08.2024	May-24	Indian Economy	Background, Evolution, Features- Economic Reforms - LPG, Various generations of reforms, Land Reforms.
			Planning	Definition, Need and Role of Government in planning, Types of planning, Different plan period in India and its outcomes, Planning Commission, National Development Council, Multi Level planning, Decentralised planning, Niti Aayog and schemes.
			Industry	Industrial Policies from 1948 ,PSUs - Maharatnas, Miniratnas, Navaratnas Disinvestments- National Investment Fund MSMEs, Policies- NIMZ, Make in India, IIP
			Service	Composition and growth - Development and recent policy initiatives
			Social sector	Initiatives and schemes by GovernmentTypes of Poverty, Indicators of unemployment.
			Infrastructure	Recent infrastructure policy initiatives and schemes
TEST 5	30.08.2024	APRIL AND MAY	ECONOMICS REVISION TEST	
CSAT 6	31.08.2024		FULL SYLLABUS	
BREAK				

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

TEST 1	2.09.2024	Jun-24	Space Technology	<p>Space Terms – Kuiper belt, Goldilocks Zone, Exo planet, Tidal locking, Meteors, Asteroid etc.,</p> <p>Astrophysics Phenomenon- Supernova explosion, neutrino, Gravitational Waves, Red Shift phenomenon etc.,</p> <p>Launch vehicles, Space systems owned and operated by India.</p> <p>Deep Space Missions - Mangalyaan, Chandrayaan, SPADEX, JUNO, JUICE, Voyager, etc.,</p> <p>Important science experiments owned by India and other international players around the world – eLISA, LIGO, Quantum satellite, ITER, NISAR, etc.,</p> <p>Innovations in space science.</p>
			Bio Technology + IPR	<p>Genetic Material - DNA & RNA and its differences</p> <p>Types of RNA - Messenger RNA (mRNA), Transfer RNA (tRNA), Ribosome translation RNA (rRNA)</p> <p>DNA replication – Transcription & Translation</p> <p>Genetic Engineering – Applications, Tools (Recombinant DNA) & its methods (Gene Silencing, Gene Knockdown, Grafting etc..,) Stem Cells – Induced pluripotent cells, Somatic Cell Nuclear</p> <p>Transfer Technology</p> <p>Tissue Culture</p> <p>Innovation in Medicine technology – CRISPR, bacteriophage etc.,</p>
			Nuclear + Particle Science (Nano Tech)	<p>Types of Nuclear reactors and its fuel International Thermonuclear Experiment Reactor (ITER) +3 Stages, Nuclear Power Programming.</p> <p>Thorium – Its Source and its advantages for India w.r.t Nuclear Energy,</p> <p>Medical uses(Cyber Knife) Applications of Nano Technology(by his/her interest- current affairs)</p>

TEST 2	3.09.2024	Jun-24	Electronics and Green Tech	Solar Energy -Photo Voltaic cell & Solar thermal cells(Functioning not needed), Govt. initiatives Wind energy, B.S.Norms, E.Vehicles Coal-Formation, it's by product E.g. Fly ash, Pollution from coal(NCERT) Bio Fuels-4 generation of Bio fuels Fuel Cells Hydrogen Cells Microbial Cells Bio Toilet
			Information Technology (IT)+Robotics(A.I)	Wi-Fi & Bluetooth,5 generations of networks, E-governance – BHIM, UPI , M Stripes etc., Emerging trends-IoT , Big Data, A.I,C.P.S, Block chain. V.Reality, A. Reality, Malwares., E-Governance-BHIM,UPI,M Stripes etc.,
			Defence	Important Missiles, Tech Components(SPI),Vehicles
			Health	Human Immune System (Difference of Antibodies, Antigens & Why Vaccination-C.Affairs) Diseases - its Source (Bacteria or Virus or fungi) , Mode of Transmission (Water, Air or Sexually Transmitted) & its Vectors (Mosquito or bat or Worms) Disease – Symptoms & its effects on humans
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION				
TEST 1	4.09.2024	Jun-24	International organisations	United Nations System, Specialised Agencies, Programmes and Funds, International Law, Conventions, Disarmament, others
			Regional Organisations	EU, ASEAN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, SCO, APEC, ANZUS, African Union, Mekong Ganga Cooperation, Gulf Cooperation council, OAS, ECOWAS, SADC, ANDEAN, CELAC, CARICOM, COMESA, MERCOSUR, etc
			Financial and Trade organisations	IMF, World Bank Group, ADB, NDB, AIIB, WTO, RCEP, OECD, OPEC, others

TEST 2	5.09.2024	Jul-24	Cultural, Ethnic, Linguistic and religious organisations	Arab League, OIC, Commonwealth of Nations, ...
			Ideological and Political Groupings	NAM, NATO, G8, G20, G24, BRICS, G77, ...
			NGO and their Purpose	Recently in News
			Important reports and organisations	Recently in News
TEST 3	6.09.2024	JUN AND JULY	SCIENCE AND TECH AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FULL TEST	
CSAT 7	7.09.2024		FULL SYLLABUS	
BREAK				
FULL TESTS				
TEST 1	12.09.2024		GEOGRAPHY FULL TEST	
TEST 2	16.09.2024		POLITY FULL TEST	
TEST 3	19.09.2024		CSAT	
TEST 4	23.09.2024		HISTORY FULL TEST	
TEST 5	26.09.2024		ENVIRONMENT FULL TEST	
TEST 6	30.09.2024		CSAT	
TEST 7	7.10.20254		ECONOMICS FULL TEST	
TEST 8	10.10.2024		SCIENCE AND TECH AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FULL TEST	
TEST 9	14.10.2024		FULL MOCK TEST (GS + CSAT)	



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UPSC PRELIMINARY 2024 – PREFIT REFLECTIONS

- Out of 100 Questions asked in UPSC Civil Service Preliminary Examination, 2024.
- 34 questions are reflected from the PREFIT TEST SERIES 2024.

UPSC PRELIMS 2024 – REFLECTED QUESTIONS

UPSC 2024 - SERIES D	PREFIT2023-2024 REFLEX
<p>1. How many Delimitation Commissions have been constituted by the Government of India till December 2023?</p> <p>(a) One (b) Two (c) Three (d) Four</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.15 Q.30</p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <p>Statement 1: Modifications are made in the orders of the delimitation commission by the Parliament</p> <p>Statement 2: The Delimitation Commission is constituted through the Act of the Parliament for readjusting the constituency after every census</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?</p> <p>(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Delimitation literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country or a province having a legislative body. Such a body is known as the Delimitation Commission or a Boundary Commission. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called into question before any court. These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India on this behalf. The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but no modifications are permissible therein by them. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>After every census, a readjustment is to be made in (a) allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and (b) division of each state into territorial constituencies. Parliament is empowered to determine the authority and the manner in which it is to be made. Accordingly, the Parliament has enacted the Delimitation Commissions 4 times under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002 for this purpose. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p>



2. The Constitution (71st Amendment) Act, 1992 amends the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution to include which of the following languages?

1. Konkani
2. Manipuri
3. Nepali
4. Maithili

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

TEST NO.09 – Q.NO.9

Language can be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution through

- (a) An ordinary law
(b) A constitutional amendment law
(c) An executive resolution
(d) A resolution passed by the Rajya Sabha

EXPLANATION:

A language can be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution only through a constitutional amendment law.

- The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution deals with the languages that are recognized by the Constitution. Originally, it had 14 languages but presently there are 22 languages.
- They are Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri (Dongri), Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Mathili (Maithili), Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.
- Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967;
- **Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were added by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992;** and
- Bodo, Dongri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003.
- Oriya was renamed as 'Odia' by the 96th Amendment Act of 2011.

So, Option (b) is correct.

6. Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?

- (a) Article 15
(b) Article 18
(c) Article 19
(d) Article 21

TEST NO.10 – Q.NO.4

Which of the following rights are part of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. Right to privacy**
2. Right to speedy trial
3. Right against bonded labour
4. Right to work
5. Right to livelihood
6. Right to reputation
7. Right of women to be treated with dignity

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 only
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7



EXPLANATION:

Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.

The following rights have been determined to be a part of Article 21 by the Supreme Court in its ruling in the Menaka case and in the cases that subsequently followed:

- Right to live with human dignity.
- Right to decent environment including pollution free water and air and protection against hazardous industries.
- Right to livelihood.
- Right to privacy.
- Right to shelter.
- Right to health.
- Right to free education up to 14 years of age.
- Right to free legal aid.
- Right against solitary confinement.
- Right to speedy trial.
- Right against handcuffing.
- Right against inhuman treatment.
- Right against delayed execution.
- Right to travel abroad
- Right against bonded labour.
- Right against custodial harassment.
- Right to emergency medical aid.
- Right to timely medical treatment in government hospitals.
- Right not to be driven out of a state.
- Right to a fair trial.
- Right of a prisoner to have necessities of life.
- Right of women to be treated with decency and dignity.
- Right against public hanging.
- Right to the road in hilly areas.
- Right to information.
- Right to reputation.
- Right of appeal from a judgment of conviction
- Right to family pension
- Right to social and economic justice and empowerment



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Right against bar fetters➤ Right to appropriate life insurance policy➤ Right to sleep➤ Right to freedom from noise pollution➤ Right to sustainable development➤ Right to opportunity. <p>Hence, Article 21 does not explicitly recognise the 'right to work' as a fundamental right. It is placed in Part IV (Directive Principles of State Policy) of the Constitution under Article 41, mentioned Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases. The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. So, Option (c) is correct.</p>
<p>18. Which of the following statements are correct in respect of a Money Bill in the Parliament ?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Article 109 mentions special procedure in respect of Money Bills2. A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States3. The Rajya Sabha can either approve the Bill or suggest changes but cannot reject it4. Amendments to a Money Bill suggested by the Rajya Sabha have to be accepted by the Lok Sabha. <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below :</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (a) 1, 3 and 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.28</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Constitution lays down a special procedure for the passing of money bills in the Parliament.2. There is no provision for a Joint sitting of both the Houses in case of a Money bill.3. All money bills are financial bills and Vice-versa.4. Money bills and Finance bills cannot be amended or rejected by the Rajya Sabha. <p>How many of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Article 109 Constitution of India contains the Special procedure in respect of Money Bill like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ A Money Bill shall not be introduced in the Council of States.➤ After the House of the People passes a Money Bill, it is sent to the Council of States for recommendations. The Council of States must return the Bill within fourteen days, and the House of the People can then either accept or reject the Council's recommendations.➤ If the House of the People accepts Council of States' recommendations on a Money Bill, it is considered passed by both Houses with the accepted amendments.



- If the **House of the People rejects all recommendations from the Council of States regarding a Money Bill**, the Bill is considered passed by both Houses in its original form as passed by the House of the People, without any amendments suggested by the Council of States.

If a Money Bill transmitted to the Council of States is not returned within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both Houses in the form passed by the House of the People.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

The Parliament of India is bicameral, and both houses must agree to pass a bill. However, the Constitution of India specifies in Article 108 the provision for joint sitting if the deadlock between the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha arises. The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills.

So, Statement 2 is correct.

Money bills are simply a species of financial bills. Hence, all money bills are financial bills, but all financial bills are not money bills. Only those financial bills are money bills that contain exclusively those matters that are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution. These are also certified by the Speaker of Lok Sabha as money bills. The financial bills (i) and (ii), on the other hand, have been dealt with in Article 117 of the Constitution.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

Article 109 of the Constitution limits the powers of the Rajya Sabha regarding Money Bills. After passage by the Lok Sabha, a Money Bill was sent to the Rajya Sabha for recommendations. The Lok Sabha can accept or reject Rajya Sabha's recommendations, and if not accepted, the Money Bill is deemed passed by both Houses. If the Rajya Sabha fails to return the Money Bill within fourteen days, it is deemed passed in the form approved by the Lok Sabha. Hence, it cannot reject money bills.

- Financial Bill (I) can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President, and it is governed by the same legislative procedure applicable to an ordinary bill. Hence, it can be either rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha
- Financial bill (II) can be introduced in either House of Parliament and recommendation of the President is not necessary for its introduction. It can be either rejected or amended by either House of Parliament.
- **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**



20. The North Eastern Council (NEC) was established by the North Eastern Council Act, 197 Subsequent to the amendment of NEC Act in 2002, the Council comprises which of the following members?

1. Governor of the Constituent State
2. Chief Minister of the Constituent State
3. Three Members to be nominated by the President of India
4. The Home Minister of India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

TEST NO.32 – Q.NO.41(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following statements:

1. Zonal council are advisory bodies notified by a government notification time to time.
2. Zonal council provides excellent forum where irritants between center and states and amongst states can be resolved through discussion.
3. North eastern council, which is one among the five zonal council consist of 8 states and Sikkim was the last state to be included in 2002.
4. The chief ministers of each zone act as the chairperson in rotation for the term of one year each.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

EXPLANATION:

The Zonal Councils are the statutory (and not the constitutional) bodies. They are established by an Act of the Parliament, that is, States Reorganisation Act of 1956. The act divided the country into five zones (Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern) and provided a zonal council for each zone. However, Each Zonal Council is an advisory body. **Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Zonal Councils provide an excellent forum where irritants between Centre and States and amongst States can be resolved through free and frank discussions and consultations. Being advisory bodies, there is full scope for free and frank exchange of views in their meetings. **Statement 2 is correct.**

In addition to the five Zonal Councils, a North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament-the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971. 8 Its members include Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunchal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim. However, The State of Sikkim has also been included in the North Eastern Council vide North Eastern Council (Amendment) Act, 2002 notified on 23rd December 2002. **Statement 3 is not correct.**

The **home minister of Central government is the common chairman of the five zonal councils.** Each chief minister acts as a vice-chairman of the council by rotation, holding office for a period of one year at a time. **Statement 4 is not correct.**



21. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam'.

1. Provisions will come into effect from the 18th Lok Sabha.
2. This will be in force for 15 years after becoming an Act.
3. There are provisions for the reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes Women within the quota reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

TEST NO.09 – Q.NO.35

With reference to 106th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2023, Consider the following statements :

1. The Act provides 1/3rd of reservation to women in both the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies
2. The reservation for women will be provided for 10 years

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

EXPLANATION:

- The President has given assent to the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023. The key amendments include the reservation of 33% seats for women in the House of People (Lok Sabha) & in the Legislative Assemblies of State. Further, the Act provides a framework for the reservation of seats for women in the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- According to a government source, the Bill does not require ratification by the states since it doesn't change the actual number of seats that the states have in Parliament. So state representation in Parliament remains unaffected".

So, Statement 1 is correct.

During the special session of Parliament, the Prime Minister of India had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam." The law, however, will be implemented after the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise redrawing of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies will determine the particular seats that are to be reserved for women. The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies will continue for 15 years, and Parliament can later extend the benefit period. Seats reserved for women will be rotated after each delimitation exercise. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**



<p>23. A Writ of Prohibition is an order issued by the Supreme Court or High Courts to :</p> <p>(a) A government officer prohibiting him from taking a particular action.</p> <p>(b) The Parliament/ Legislative Assembly to pass a law on Prohibition</p> <p>(c) the lower court prohibiting continuation of proceedings in a case</p> <p>(d) the Government prohibiting it from following an unconstitutional policy.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">TEST NO.13 – Q.NO.25</p> <p>The writ of prohibition can be issued against which of the following authorities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Judicial authority2. Administrative authority3. Legislative bodies4. Quasi-judicial authority <p>Select the correct answer using the codes given below</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 1 and 4 only (d) 1, 3 and 4 only</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The writ of prohibition is a writ issued by the Supreme Court or a High Court to an inferior court forbidding the latter to continue proceedings therein in excess of its jurisdiction or to usurp a jurisdiction with which it is not legally vested. In other words, the object of the writ is to compel inferior courts to keep themselves within the limits of their jurisdiction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Literally, it means 'to forbid.' It is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent the latter from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction that it does not possess.➤ The writ of prohibition can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities. So, Statements 1 and 4 are correct.➤ It is not available against administrative authorities, legislative bodies, and private individuals or bodies. So, Statements 2 and 3 are not correct.
<p>24. Consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is the Governor of the State who recognizes and declares any community of that State as a Scheduled Tribe.2. A community declared as Scheduled Tribe in a State need not be so in another State. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">TEST NO.9 – Q.NO.8 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)</p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of an Autonomous District Council(ADCs).2. ADCs have legislative and administrative autonomy within the state but not Judicial autonomy. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The formation of Autonomous District Councils is provided in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution as the tribal areas in the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been constituted as autonomous districts.



- Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected based on adult franchise. The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.
- Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.
- While the **Fifth Schedule deals with the provisions relating to the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.**

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

- The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor.
- The **district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute village councils or courts for the trial of suits and cases between the tribes.** They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of the high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.
- The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by nontribes. But, such regulations require the assent of the governor.
- The district and regional councils are empowered to assess and collect land revenue and to impose certain specified taxes.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.

TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.19(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following states:

1. Gujarat
2. Madhya Pradesh
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Jharkhand
5. Maharastra



How many of those above mentioned states have areas notified under the Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five**

EXPLANATION:

Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas'. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

The scheduled areas are treated differently from the other areas in the country because they are inhabited by 'aboriginals' who are socially and economically rather backward, and special efforts need to be made to improve their condition. The various features of administration contained in the Fifth Schedule are as follows:

- The president is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. The executive power of a state extends to the scheduled areas therein.
- But the governor has a special responsibility regarding such areas. Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribe's advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.
- The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
- At present, 10 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana have Fifth Schedule Areas. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

TEST NO.15 – Q.NO.24 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Constitution specifies the conditions for designating an area as a Scheduled Area.
2. While exercising the power under the Fifth schedule, the Governor is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.



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

EXPLANATION:

The Fifth Schedule under Article 244(1) of Constitution defines “Scheduled Areas” as such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas after consultation with the Governor of that State.

The First Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission, also known as the Dhebar Commission (1960-61) laid down the following criteria for declaring any area as a ‘Scheduled Area’ under the Fifth Schedule

Criteria for declaring any area as a “Scheduled Area under the Fifth Schedule are:

- Preponderance of tribal population,
- Compactness and reasonable size of the area,
- A viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk, and
- Economic backwardness of the area as compared to the neighbouring areas.

The above criteria for declaration of scheduled areas is as such not spelt out in the constitution, but has become well established. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

While exercising powers under the Fifth Schedule, there is considerable debate as well as litigation on whether or not the powers conferred upon the Governor by the Fifth Schedule can be exercised without explicit sanction from the State government, and whether he is, in fact, bound by the advice of the Central Government. It has been argued that the Governor, while exercising his powers under the Fifth Schedule, is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers and must exercise the function independently. This position has received affirmation from the Courts as well. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



25. With reference to Union Budget, consider the following statements :

1. The Union Finance Minister on behalf of the Prime Minister lays the Annual financial statement before both the Houses of Parliament.
2. At the Union level no demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.38 – Q.NO.15(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

With reference to Government Budgeting, consider the following statements

1. The constitution of India mandates the government to present Annual Financial Statement every year in Parliament
2. The budget is considered as Balanced budget when revenue of the government exceeds the expenditure of the government

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

EXPLANATION:

There is a constitutional requirement in India (Article 112) to present before the Parliament a statement of estimated receipts and expenditures of the government in respect of every financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March. This 'Annual Financial Statement' constitutes the main budget document of the government. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The government may spend an amount equal to the revenue it collects. This is known as a balanced budget. If it needs to incur higher expenditure, it will have to raise the amount through taxes in order to keep the budget balanced. When tax collection exceeds the required expenditure, the budget is said to be in surplus. However, the most common feature is the situation when expenditure exceeds revenue. This is when the government runs a budget deficit. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.19 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Which of the following is/are Constitutional provisions with regard to the enactment of the budget?

1. Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it.
2. The budget shall distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditures.
3. No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law.
4. The Rajya Sabha has no power to vote on the demand for grants.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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



	<p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>The Constitution of India contains the following provisions with regard to the enactment of budget. No tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. According to Article 117 Parliament can reduce or abolish a tax but cannot increase it. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>According to Article 112, The estimates of expenditure embodied in the budget shall show separately the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and the expenditure made from the Consolidated Fund of India. The budget shall distinguish expenditure on revenue account from other expenditure. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>The President shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before both the Houses of Parliament a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for that year. No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President. No money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India except under appropriation made by law. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p> <p>The Constitution has also defined the relative roles or position of both the Houses of Parliament with regard to the enactment of the budget. According to Article 113, the Rajya Sabha has no power to vote on the demand for grants; it is the exclusive privilege of the Lok Sabha. So, Statement 4 is correct.</p>
<p>30. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which one of the following is the largest source of sulphur dioxide emissions?</p> <p>(a) Locomotives using fossil fuels (b) Ships using fossil fuels (c) Extraction of metals from ores (d) Power plants using fossil fuels</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.57 – Q.NO.64</p> <p>Identify the following air pollutants with respect to the given statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a gas produced from burning coal, mainly in thermal power plants.2. It is a major contributor to smog and acid rain.3. It is used in some industrial processes, such as the production of paper and smelting metals. <p>Select the correct answer:</p> <p>(a) Sulphur dioxide (b) Carbon dioxide (c) Carbon monoxide (d) Lead</p>



	<p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Sulfurdioxide, (SO₂), inorganic compound, a heavy, colourless, poisonous gas. It is produced in huge quantities in intermediate steps of sulfuric acid manufacture. Sulfur dioxide has a pungent, irritating odour, familiar as the smell of a just-struck match. It is a gas produced from burning coal, mainly in thermal power plants. Some industrial processes, such as production of paper and smelting of metals, produce sulphur dioxide. It is a major contributor to smog and acid rain. Sulfur dioxide can lead to lung diseases. So, Option (a) is correct.</p>
<p>33. Consider the following statements in respect of the digital rupee :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a sovereign currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India RHI in alignment with its monetary policy.2. It appears as a liability on the RBI's balance sheet.3. It is insured against inflation by its very design.4. It is freely convertible against commercial bank money and cash. <p>Which of the statements given above are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2 and 4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.34 – Q.NO.28</p> <p>Consider the following statements about the Central Bank Digital Currencies (e-rupee):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.2. It is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency at par.3. It will earn interest income like cash.4. It can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Onlytwo (c) Only three (d) All the above</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>RBI Act 1934 had been amended to include e-rupee in 'bank note' and now it's a legal tender. E-Rupee is a legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ It is the same as a fiat currency and is no different from cash➤ It is exchangeable one-to-one with the fiat currency (bank notes/cash) at par.➤ Only its form is different i.e., digital. So, Statement 2 is correct.➤ E-rupee will not replace cash rather it will complement it➤ It will be issued in the same denominations that paper currency and coins are currently issued➤ E-rupee will be distributed through intermediaries i.e., banks and it can be converted to other forms of money like deposits with bank. So, Statement 4 is correct.➤ E-rupee will not earn any interest like cash. So, Statement 3 is not correct.



35. Consider the following information:

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

In which of the above rows is the given information correctly matched?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3**
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4

TEST NO.18 – Q.NO.4

With reference to Chalcolithic settlement in India, Consider the following statements:

1. Chalcolithic people used black and red, wheel turned pots
2. Chalcolithic people domesticated camels in many parts of the settlement
3. Chalcolithic people were not familiar with the cultivation of cotton
4. Chalcolithic people were generally not acquainted with burnt bricks

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three**
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

Towards the end of the Neolithic period began the use of metals. The metal to be used first was copper, and several cultures were based on the use of stone and copper implements. Such a culture is called chalcolithic. The people of the stone copper phase used different types of pottery, one of which is called black-and-red and seems to have been widely prevalent. It was thrown on the wheel and occasionally painted with white linear designs. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The people living in the stone-copper age in south-eastern Rajasthan, western Madhya Pradesh and western Maharashtra domesticated animals and cultivated food grains. They kept cows, sheep, goats, pigs and buffaloes and hunted deer. Remains of the camel have also been found. It is not clear whether they were acquainted with the horse. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Chalcolithic people produced wheat and rice; in addition to these staple crops, they also cultivated bajra. They produced several pulses such as the lentil (masur), black gram, green gram, and glass pea. Cotton was produced in the black cotton soil of the Deccan, and ragi, bajra and several millets were cultivated in the lower Deccan. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

The Chalcolithic people were generally not acquainted with burnt bricks, which were seldom used. Occasionally their houses were made of mud bricks, but mostly, these were constructed with wattle and daub and seem to have been thatched houses. **At Inamgaon, in the earlier Chalcolithic phase in western Maharashtra, large mud houses with ovens and circular pit houses have been discovered. So, Statement 4 is correct.**



37. With reference to revenue collection by Cornwallis, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Ryotwari Settlement of revenue collection, the peasants were exempted from revenue payment in case of had harvests or natural calamities.
2. Under the Permanent settlement in Bengal, if the Zamindar failed to pay his revenues to the state, on or before the fixed date, he would be removed from his Zamindari.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.24 – Q.NO.25 and 26 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following statements with reference to the Zamindari Land revenue settlement

1. Lord Cornwallis, James Grant and Sir John Shore were all associated with the Zamindari system.
2. The Zamindari system covers the areas of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Northern Madras.
3. Zamindars were required to issue pattas to each cultivator under this system.
4. The Permanent Settlement covered more than one-fourth of the territory under British rule.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three**
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

In 1776, Philip Francis, a member of Hastings' council, recommended a permanent settlement or Zamindari system inland revenue. In the end, Lord Cornwallis was sent as governor-general with instructions that the land revenue settlements with the zamindars be made permanent. Lord Cornwallis set up a committee consisting of himself, Sir John Shore, and James Grant to examine the issue.

Cornwallis, himself a member of the landed aristocracy of Britain, favoured giving the right of ownership to the zamindars, who, he hoped, would improve the land as English landlords did. Also, the number of cultivators being too large, it was seen to be simpler to collect the revenue from the smaller number of zamindars. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Zamindari system introduced in Bengal and Bihar, it was extended to Orissa, Banaras (Varanasi), and northern Madras. Every piece of land in the areas where the permanent settlement was promulgated became a part of some zamindari or other. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Under the settlement, zamindars were required to issue written agreements (pattas) to each cultivator, specifying what tenant was to pay. However, no such agreements were made; the result was that the peasants were at the mercy of the zamindars to be exploited and harassed for more rent, driving the cultivators into the clutch of moneylenders. The peasantry was reduced to serfdom.

So, Statement 3 correct.

A fixed tax on the land had to be paid by the zamindar, and the revenue was to be collected by him



from the cultivators who had now become tenants (the ryots or raiyyats). **The zamindar was allowed to keep one-tenth to one-eleventh of the revenue and give the rest to the Company government.** The Zamindari System covered around 19 per cent of the territory under British rule. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

With reference to the Ryotwari settlement, Consider the following statements:

1. Thomas Munro introduced the Ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency in the early 19th Century.
2. Ownership and Occupancy rights were vested with the ryots, and limits were imposed on the extend of land they could own.
3. The settlement was not permanent and could be revised periodically.
4. Ryotwari system also covers major parts of the North Western Province, Central Province and the Punjab.

How many statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

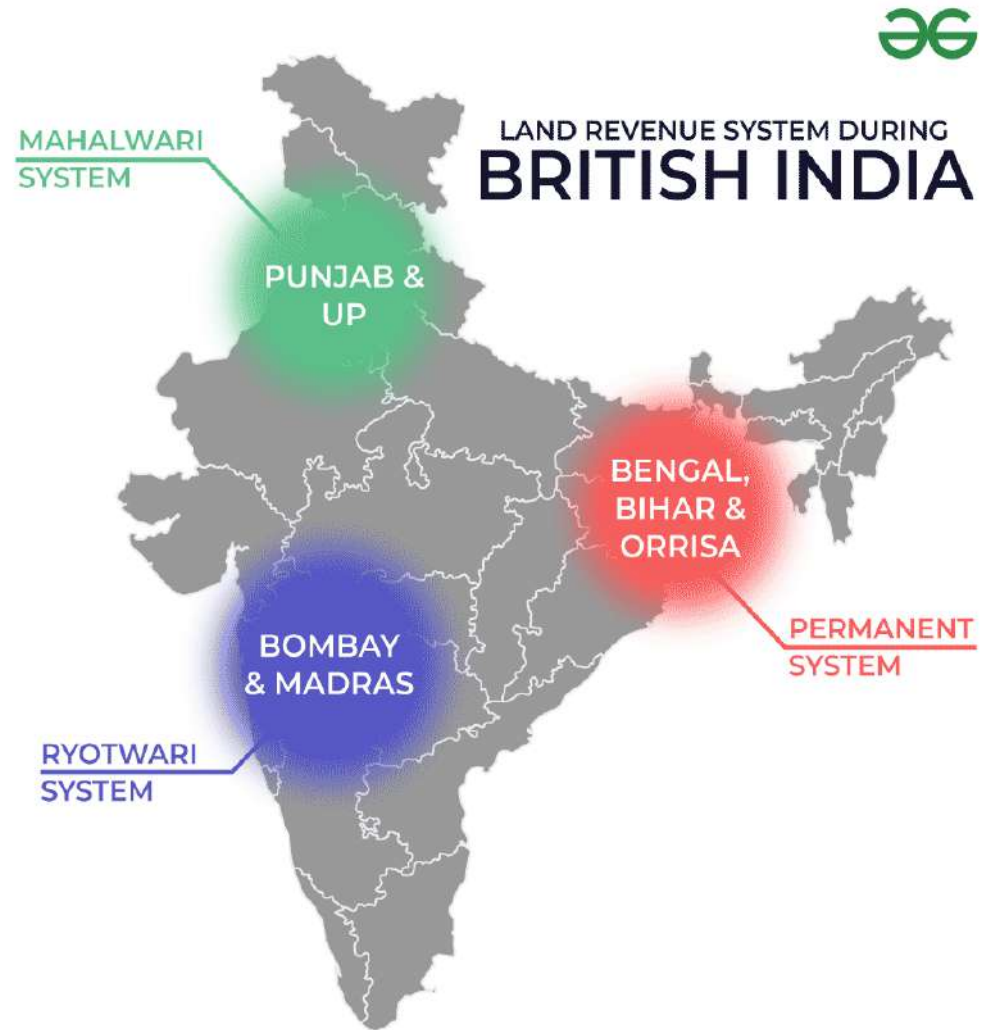
Thomas Munro and Captain Alexander Read, who were sent in 1792 to administer the recently acquired Baramahal region of Madras Presidency, devised a system of collecting directly from the villages, fixing the amount that each village had to pay. When Munro became governor of the Madras Presidency in 1820, he introduced the system, which came to be known as the Ryotwari System. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Ownership and occupancy rights of land were vested in the ryot, and there was no limit on the extent of land they could own. They were free to sublet, transfer, or sell their land. **Ryots paid the tax directly to the Company. The revenue to be paid was in the range of 45 percent to 55 percent based on an estimated production of the land.** Hence, there was no limit to the extension of the land owned by ryots. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Revenue was not fixed, so it could be raised when production was higher. In theory, the ryot were allowed to cultivate the land of their choice, but in practice, they were more or less forced to cultivate land even if they did not want to do so. The settlement was not permanent and could be revised periodically. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



The Ryotwari System covered about 51 percent of the area under British rule, comprising part of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, Assam, and certain other parts of British India. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**



TEST NO.49 – Q.NO.43

40. Which one of the following was the latest inclusion is the Intangible Cultural Heritage List of UNESCO?

- (a) Chhau dance
- (b) Durga puja
- (c) Garba dance**
- (d) Kumbh mela

Consider the following statements with respect to Garba dance :

1. Garba is a ritualistic and devotional dance that is performed on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Navaratri.
2. Garba dance celebrates fertility, honor womanhood, and pays respect to any of an array of mother Goddesses.
3. Garba is a dance form native to the Indian state of Maharashtra.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three
- (d) None

EXPLANATION:

Garba is a ritualistic and devotional dance that is performed on the occasion of the Hindu festival of Navaratri, which is dedicated to the worship of the feminine energy or 'Shakti'. The dance takes place around a perforated earthenware pot lit with an oil lamp, or an image of the mother goddess Amba. Modern Garba is heavily influenced by Dandiya Raas, a dance traditionally performed by men. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Garba dances celebrate fertility, honour womanhood, and pay respect to any of an array of mother goddesses. In Gujarat the dances customarily mark a girl's first menstrual cycle and, later, her imminent marriage. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Garba, the dance form that originates from Gujarat comes from the Sanskrit word 'garbha' meaning the womb. Garba which has become the identity of Gujarat has been approved by UNESCO under its intangible cultural heritage list. Garba of Gujarat is the 15th ICH element from India to join this list. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

TEST NO.49 – Q.NO.17 (PARTIALLY REFLEX)

41. Consider the following statements :

Statement I:

There is instability and worsening security situation in the Sahel region.

Statement II:

There have been military takeovers/coups d'état in several countries of the Sahel region in the recent past.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements ?

- (a) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does **not** explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Consider the following countries

1. Niger
2. Burkina Faso
3. Mali

What is common among these nations in the recent time?

- (a) Part of North–Western Africa
- (b) Countries falling under Congo River Basin.
- (c) Countries with genocide activity
- (d) Announcing their withdrawal from ECOWAS bloc**

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the military governments of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger jointly announced their exit from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The leaders of the three Sahel nations issued a statement saying it was a "sovereign decision" to leave the Economic Community of West African States "without delay".

The Heads of State and Governments of fifteen West African Countries established the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) when they signed the ECOWAS Treaty on May 28 1975, in Lagos, Nigeria.

- The ECOWAS region spans an area of 5.2 million square kilometres. The 15 Member States are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sénégal and Togo.
- Countries are Struggling with jihadist violence and poverty; the regimes have had tense ties with ECOWAS since coups took place in Niger last July, Burkina Faso in 2022 and Mali in 2020.
- All three were suspended from ECOWAS, with Niger and Mali facing heavy sanctions.

So, Option (d) is correct.





TEST NO.55 – Q.NO.90

Consider the following:

1. Afghanistan
2. Yemen
3. Burkina Faso
4. Haiti
5. Nigeria

How many of the above countries were identified as Hunger Hotspots by FAO along with the World Food Programme?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All the above**

EXPLANATION:

- The FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots report is a forward-looking, early warning analysis of countries and situations, called hotspots, where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months.
- These hotspots are identified through a consensus-based analysis of key drivers of food insecurity, and their likely combination and evolution across countries and regions. There are 18 areas in 22 countries where acute Food Insecurity may increase in magnitude and severity.
- As per the report, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen remain at the highest concern level. Haiti, the Sahel (Burkina Faso and Mali), and Sudan have been elevated to the highest concern levels.
- FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- The report provides country-specific recommendations on priorities for emergency response, as well as anticipatory action to address existing humanitarian needs and ensure short-term protective interventions before new needs materialize.

So, Option (d) is correct.

TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.10

43. With reference to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, consider the following statements:
While any resolution for the removal of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is under consideration

1. He/She shall not preside
2. He/She shall not have the right to speak
3. He/She shall not be entitled to vote on the resolution in the first instance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Which of the following statements is correct regarding the Speaker of the Lok Sabha?

- (a) The Speaker can be removed from the Lok Sabha by a resolution passed by the majority of the members present and voting in the House.
- (b) The Speaker summons and presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of the Parliament.
- (c) The salaries and allowances of the Speaker are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.**
- (d) If the office of the Speaker is vacant, the panel of the Chairperson of Lok Sabha will preside over the House.

EXPLANATION:

The Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha from amongst its members (as soon as may be, after its first sitting). The date of election of the Speaker is fixed by the President. Usually, the Speaker remains in office during the life of the Lok Sabha. **He is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all then members of the Lok Sabha (Special Majority). It is not the majority of the members present and voting in the House. So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Speaker is the head of the Lok Sabha and its representative. He is the guardian of the powers and privileges of the members, the House as a whole and its committees. **He presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. Such a sitting is summoned by the President to settle a deadlock between the two Houses on a bill. So, Option (b) is not correct.**

As the office of the Speaker is vested with great prestige, position and authority, independence and impartiality become its sine qua non. He is provided with a security of tenure. His salaries and allowances are fixed by Parliament. They are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and thus are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.

So, Option (c) is correct.

The Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker's office when it is vacant. He also acts as the Speaker when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both cases, he assumes all the powers of the Speaker. **Under the Rules of Lok Sabha, the Speaker nominates from amongst the members a panel of not more than ten chairpersons. Any of them can preside over the House in the absence of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker. They cannot preside when the office of Speaker is vacant. So, Option (d) is not correct.**



TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.12

44. With reference to the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements :

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses on its dissolution.
2. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha and pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha
3. A bill in regard to which the President of India notified his/her intention to summon the Houses to a joint sitting lapses on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Consider the following situations:

1. A bill pending in the Lok Sabha
2. A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha
3. A bill passed by both Houses but pending for the assent of the President
4. A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha
5. A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration

In which of the above situations does the bill lapse when the Lok Sabha is dissolved?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 5 only

EXPLANATION:

When the Lok Sabha is dissolved, all business, including bills, motions, resolutions, notices, petitions and so on pending before it or its committees lapse. They (to be pursued further) must be reintroduced in the newly constituted Lok Sabha. However, some pending bills and all pending assurances that are to be examined by the Committee on Government Assurances do not lapse on the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The position with respect to the lapsing of bills is as follows:

- A bill pending in the Lok Sabha lapses (whether originating in the Lok Sabha or transmitted to it by the Rajya Sabha). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- A bill not passed by the two Houses due to disagreement and if the President has notified the holding of a joint sitting before the dissolution of Lok Sabha does not lapse.
- A bill pending in the Rajya Sabha but not passed by the Lok Sabha does not lapse. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- A bill passed by both Houses but pending assent of the President does not lapse. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- A bill passed by the Lok Sabha but pending in the Rajya Sabha lapses. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**
- A bill passed by both Houses but returned by the President for reconsideration of Houses does not lapse. **So, Statement 5 is not correct.**



45. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

1. Prorogation of a House by the President of India does not require the advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Prorogation of a House is generally done after the House is adjourned sine die but there is no bar to the President of India prorogating the House which is in session.
3. Dissolution of the Lok Sabha is done by the President of India who, save in exceptional circumstances, does so on the advice of the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.12 – Q.NO.7(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following statements:

1. Prorogation implies that the end of both sitting and session of the House was done by the Presiding officer of the House.
2. Like Britain, prorogation brings an end to all bills pending before the House of the Indian Parliament.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Under Article 85(2) of the Constitution, the President may from time to time prorogue Houses or either House of Parliament. **Termination of a session of the House by an Order by the President under the above constitutional provision is called 'prorogation'.** Prorogation normally follows the adjournment of the sitting of the House sine die. The time-lag between the adjournment of the House sine die and its prorogation is generally two to four days, although there are instances when the House was prorogued on the same day on which it was adjourned sine die.

So, Statement 1 is not correct.

Prorogation does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House. Under Article 107 (3) of the Constitution, a bill pending in Parliament shall not lapse by reason of the prorogation of the Houses. Under Rule 336 of the Lok Sabha, a motion, resolution or an amendment, which has been moved and is pending in the House, shall not lapse by reason only of the prorogation of the House.

However, all pending notices (other than those for introducing bills) lapse on prorogation and fresh notices have to be given for the next session. In Britain, prorogation brings to an end all bills or any other business pending before the House.

So, Statement 2 is not correct.



TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.27(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following pairs

S. No	Sessions of the Parliament	The power of authority lies with
1.	Summoning	Presiding officer
2.	Adjournment	Presiding officer
3.	Adjournment sine die	President
4.	Prorogation	President

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

The President, from time to time, summons each House of Parliament to meet. But, the maximum gap between two sessions of Parliament cannot be more than six months (meet at least twice a year). There are usually three sessions in a year. A 'session' of Parliament is the period spanning between the first sitting of a House and its prorogation (or dissolution in the case of the Lok Sabha). **So, Pair (1) is not correct.**

A session of Parliament consists of many meetings. A sitting of Parliament can be terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution (in the case of the Lok Sabha). An adjournment suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks. The presiding officer of the House has power to adjourn the House. **So, Pair (2) is correct.**

Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly, it is called adjournment sine die. The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House. He can also call a sitting of the House before the date or time to which it has been adjourned or at any time after the House has been adjourned sine die. Thus, it is not President. **So, Pair (3) is not correct.**

The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) declares the House adjourned sine die, when the business of a session is completed. Within the next few days, the President issues a notification for prorogation of the session. However, the President can also prorogue the House while in session. **So, Pair (4) is correct.**



49. Which reference to the 'Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan', consider the following statements:

1. This scheme guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their second and third trimesters of pregnancy and six months post-delivery health care service in any government health facility.
2. Under this scheme, private sector health care providers of certain specialities can volunteer to provide services at nearby government health facilities.

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

TEST NO.16 – Q.NO.97(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Consider the following statements about 'LaQshya Programme':

1. The program guarantees a minimum package of antenatal care services to women in their 2nd/3rd trimesters of pregnancy.
2. It targets all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and equivalent facilities.

Which of the above statements is/are **not** correct?

- (a) 1 only**
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 and 2

EXPLANATION:

The primary aim of LaQshya programme is to improve quality of care around birth and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity, neonatal mortality and still births. The interventions targeted specifically for labour rooms (LR) and maternity operation theatres (OT) under the programme, focus on strengthening of LR and OT. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Pradhan Mantri SurakshitMatritva Abhiyan was launched by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, to provide fixed-day assured, comprehensive and quality antenatal care universally to all pregnant women (in 2nd and 3rd trimester) on the 9th of every month.

The LaQshya program is being implemented at all Government Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and equivalent health facilities, designated First Referral Unit (FRU), as well as Community Health Center (CHCs) will benefit every pregnant woman and new born delivering in public health institutions. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



50. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. The entry age group for enrolment in the scheme is 21 to 40 years.
2. Age specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
3. Each subscriber under the scheme shall receive a minimum pension of Rs.3,000 per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.38 – Q.NO.88(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

With reference to the PM-Shram Yogi Maan Dhaan (PM-SYM) scheme, consider the following:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme administered by the Ministry of Labor and Employment.
2. The scheme is implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSC e-Governance India Limited (CSC SPV).
3. It is a voluntary and compensatory pension scheme under which the subscriber would receive a minimum assured pension of Rs.3000 after attaining the age of 60 years.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The government of India has introduced a pension scheme for unorganized workers namely Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) to ensure old age protection for Unorganised Workers. They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income taxpayer.

PM-SYM will be a Central Sector Scheme administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Hence, It is not a centrally sponsored scheme. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

It is Implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India and CSC eGovernance Services India Limited (CSC SPV). LIC will be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out. The amount collected under the PM-SYM pension scheme shall be invested as per the investment pattern specified by the Government of India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme under which the subscriber would receive the following benefits : (i) Minimum Assured Pension: Each subscriber under the PM-SYM shall receive a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years. (ii) Family Pension: During the receipt of a pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as a family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouses. (iii) If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before the age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



TEST NO.55 – Q.NO.35(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

51. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The atmosphere is heated more by incoming solar radiation than by terrestrial radiation.

Statement-II:

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are good absorbers of long wave radiation.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) **Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.**

With reference to water vapor, consider the following statements:

- 1. The composition of water vapor in the atmosphere decreases from the equator towards poles.
- 2. Water vapor is less transparent for incoming short-wave solar radiation but almost transparent for outgoing longwave terrestrial radiation.

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

EXPLANATION:

Water vapour is also a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude. In the warm and wet tropics, it may account for four per cent of the air by volume, while in the dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions, it may be less than one per cent of the air. **Water vapour also decreases from the equator towards the poles. So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Water vapor, carbon dioxide, and other gases whose molecules have electric **dipole moments absorb radiation more strongly in the longwave part of the spectrum occupied by outgoing terrestrial radiation than the shortwave part occupied by incoming solar radiation. So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Test 02 question 31

Consider the following gases:

- 1. Nitrogen
- 2. Oxygen
- 3. Carbon dioxide
- 4. Argon

Arrange the above-mentioned permanent gases of the atmosphere in descending order by their volume :

- (a) **1-2-4-3**
- (b) 2-1-3-4
- (c) 3-4-1-2
- (d) 4-3-2-1



EXPLANATION:

The atmosphere is a gaseous composition. It also contains a large number of solid and liquid particles known as 'aerosols.' Some of the gases may be considered permanent atmospheric components, existing in a fixed proportion to the overall gas volume.

Various gases in diverse concentrations make up the atmosphere. Wherein Nitrogen, Oxygen, Argon and Carbon dioxide are the permanent gases. These percentages remain constant over time. The atmosphere of Earth is composed of Nitrogen 78%, Oxygen 21%, Argon 0.9%, Carbon dioxide 0.04% and trace gases. A variable amount of water vapor is also present in the atmosphere, and it decreases with altitude.

So, Option (a) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

Nitrogen

- **Nitrogen** makes up over 78% of the total atmospheric volume.
- It is a relatively inert gas that is an essential component of all organic molecules.
- Nitrogen's primary purpose is to control combustion by diluting oxygen.
- It also indirectly aids in certain types of oxidation.

Oxygen

- Despite accounting for only 21% of the total volume of the atmosphere, **oxygen** is the most important component among gases.
- All living things breathe in oxygen. Furthermore, oxygen may react with other elements to generate significant compounds such as oxides.
- Furthermore, combustion is impossible in the absence of oxygen.

Carbon dioxide

- The third main gas is **Carbon dioxide**, which is a byproduct of combustion and accounts for just approximately 3% of the dry air.
- Meteorologically a very important gas as it is transparent to the incoming solar radiation but opaque to the outgoing terrestrial radiation.
- It absorbs a part of terrestrial radiation and reflects some part of it towards the Earth's surface.
- It is largely responsible for the greenhouse effect.



Test 02 question 38

Consider the following statements with respect to the Hot desert and Mid-latitude desert climates :

1. The major hot deserts of the world are located on the western coasts of continents between latitudes 15 and 30°N and S.
2. The diurnal range of temperature in the desert regions is great, and there is no cold season in the hot deserts.
3. Soils present in the desert regions are rich in nutrients and humus content.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

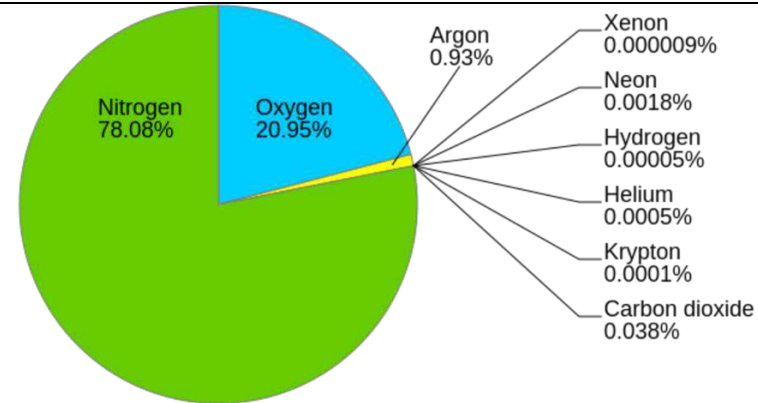
- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) None of the above

EXPLANATION:

The primary factor influencing the location of hot deserts is the presence of subtropical high-pressure zones. These zones are characterized by descending air masses, which inhibit the vertical development of clouds and promote dry conditions. The descending air warms and dries as it sinks, leading to arid conditions; the next factor is The trade winds, which blow from east to west and transport dry air from subtropical high-pressure zones toward the western coasts of continents. This dry air further limits the amount of moisture available for precipitation. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The diurnal temperature range in desert regions is characterized by extreme fluctuations between day and night, with scorching daytime temperatures and significantly cooler nights. This remarkable variance is primarily due to the unique climate and geographic features of desert environments. Hot deserts, which include places like the Sahara Desert and the Atacama Desert, have this phenomenon. The key reasons are deserts are marked by arid conditions and minimal annual precipitation, resulting in dry air and soil. This dryness prevents the retention of heat and allows for rapid temperature changes. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Desert soils range from red to brown. They are generally saline. Desert soils lack humus due to a lack of vegetation in desert areas. Humus is a dark, organic material that forms in soil when plant and animal matter decays. If there is a lack of vegetation, then no humus will form in desert soils. So, soils in desert regions are not rich in nutrients and humus content **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.37(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

52. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Thickness of the troposphere at the equator is much greater as compared to poles.

Statement-II:

At the equator, heat is transported to great heights by strong conventional currents.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I**
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does not explain Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct.

Consider the following statements with respect to the characteristics of the troposphere :

1. The temperature increases in the troposphere with the increase in height.
2. The water vapor and dust particles found in the Earth's atmosphere are almost concentrated only in the troposphere.
3. Weather phenomena like precipitation and storms occur in the troposphere.
4. All forms of Majority of the life forms exist within the tropospheric layer

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) **Only three**
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

In the troposphere, the temperature generally decreases with altitude, which increases in height at an average rate of 1° per 165 meters of height. This phenomenon is known as the "Normal lapse rate". As the gradual decrease in temperature stops, tropopause starts. The temperature drop with increasing altitude occurs because the troposphere is primarily heated from below, as the Earth's surface absorbs and subsequently radiates the incoming solar energy, instead of being heated from above by direct solar radiation. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**



The Majority of the mass of the entire atmosphere is contained in the troposphere, between approximately 75 and 80 percent. Most of the water vapor in the atmosphere, along with dust and ash particles, are found in the troposphere which is the reason why most of Earth's clouds are located in this layer. Moreover, all types of climatic and weather phenomena take place within the troposphere. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Since water vapour and dust particles play an important role in weather changes, therefore, Earth's troposphere contains 80% of the mass of Earth's atmosphere and most of the water vapour in the atmosphere, so all the weather phenomena like clouds, precipitation and storms occur in this layer. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The troposphere contains about 85% of the atmosphere's total mass. Tropospheric processes, such as the water or hydrologic cycle (the formation of clouds and rain) and the greenhouse effect, have a great influence on meteorology and the climate. The troposphere is shielded from the intense ultraviolet radiation of the Sun by the upper atmospheric layers, specifically the stratospheric ozone layer. Owing to this protective barrier, various molecules remain more stable in the troposphere compared to other parts of the atmosphere. This safeguard is crucial in enabling life to thrive on Earth. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

54. Which of the following is/are correct inference/inferences from isothermal maps in the month of January?

1. The isotherms deviate to the north over the ocean and to the south over the continent.
2. The presence of cold ocean currents, Gulf Stream and North Atlantic Drift make the North Atlantic Ocean colder and the isotherms bend towards the north.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

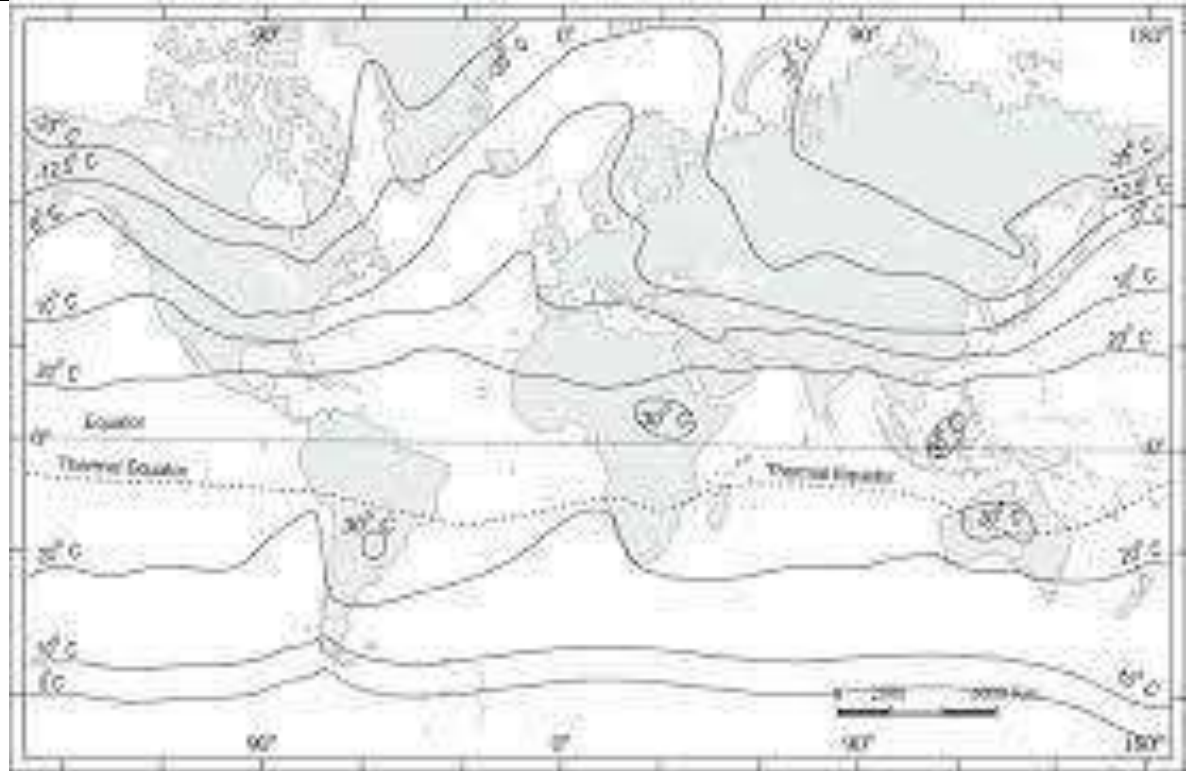
TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.28(PARTIALLY REFLEX)

Which of the following statements is **not correct** with respect to Isotherms ?

- (a) Isotherms are the lines joining the places that have equal temperature
(b) **Isotherms are always parallel to the latitude in both hemispheres**
(c) Isotherms are relatively regular and widely spaced in the southern hemisphere
(d) Isotherms are not regular and are closely spaced in the northern hemisphere

EXPLANATION:

Isotherms are lines on a map that connect sites that have the same temperature at a certain time or on average over a given period of time. The term isotherm is frequently used in meteorology. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**



In the southern hemisphere, isotherms run roughly parallel to latitudinal lines. The distance between these lines from the South Pole to the Tropic of Capricorn is about equal. In the northern hemisphere, there exist both continents and oceans. There is a distinction between land and water heating. In comparison to the oceans, the land region heats up quickly. As a result, the northern hemisphere's isotherms are more curved. **Statement 2 is not correct.**

In Southern Hemisphere, they bend toward the poles when they cross land masses, and they bend toward the equator when they cross oceans. The southern hemisphere has a large body of water. As a result, southern hemisphere isotherms are regular and widely apart. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

There is unbalanced distribution of land and water in the northern hemisphere the landmass size greater compared to Southern hemisphere. This unequal distribution causes temperature variations during the day and night. Because of this uneven heating of land mass, we have irregularly shaped isotherms in the northern hemisphere. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

TEST NO.03 – Q.NO.23

56. With reference to the Himalayan rivers joining the Ganga downstream of Prayagraj from West to East, which one of the following sequences is correct?
- (a) Ghaghara – Gomati – Gandak – Kosi
(b) Gomati – Ghaghara – Gandak – Kosi
 (c) Ghaghara – Gomati – Kosi – Gandak
 (d) Gomati – Ghaghara – Kosi – Gandak

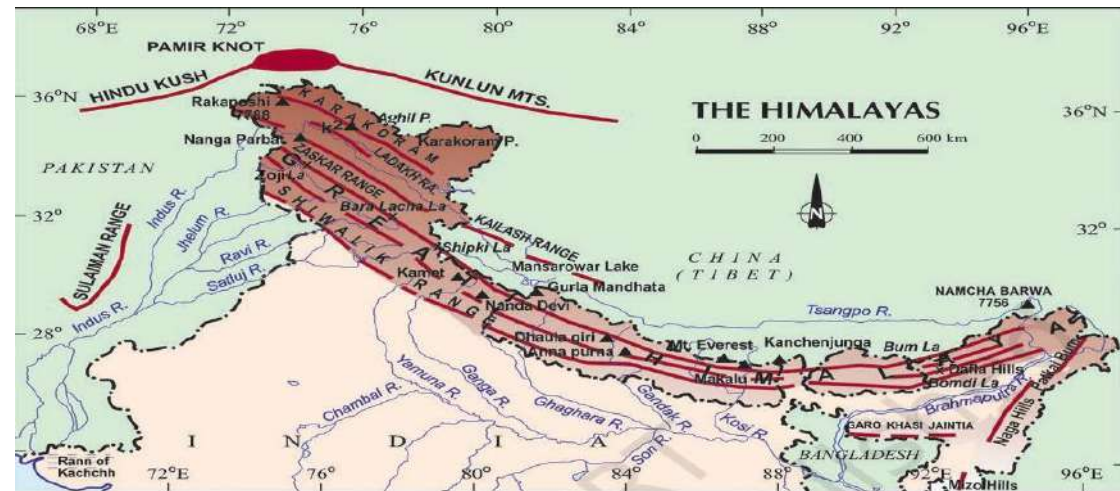
Arrange the following mountain peaks from west to east

1. Nanda Devi
2. Dhaulagiri
3. Makalu
4. Namchabarwa

Select the correct answer using the codes given below :

- (a) 1-2-4-3
(b) 1-2-3-4
 (c) 4-3-2-1
 (d) 1-4-2-3

EXPLANATION:



The Himalayas, geologically young and structurally folded mountains, stretch over the northern borders of India. These mountain ranges run in a west-east direction from the Indus to the Brahmaputra. The Himalayas represent the loftiest and one of the most rugged mountain barriers in the world. The altitudinal variations are greater in the eastern half than those in the western half. The Himalayas consist of three parallel ranges in their longitudinal extent. A number of valleys lie between these ranges.

- Nanda Devi is the second-highest mountain in India and the highest located entirely within the country. (Kangchenjunga, which is higher, is on the border of India and Nepal.) It is the 23rd-highest peak in the world. It is part of the Greater Himalayas and is located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, between the Rishiganga Valley on the west and the Goriganga Valley on the east.
 - Dhaulagiri mountain massif of the Himalayas in west-central Nepal. It is situated on the western side of the deep Kali (Kali Gandak) River gorge, about 65 km northwest of Annapurna. Many of Dhaulagiri's snow- and glacier-covered peaks exceed 7,620 meters, including Dhaulagiri I, II, III, and IV. The tallest, Dhaulagiri I, reaches an elevation of 8,167 metres and is the world's seventh-highest mountain.
 - Mount Makalu is located in the Mahalangur range of the Nepal Himalayas, southeast of Mount Everest is on the border between Nepal and Tibet. Makalu is an isolated peak which is shaped like a four-sided pyramid. Makalu I and Makalu II are the two notable subsidiary peaks of Makalu, lying 3 km north-northwest of the main summit.
 - Namcha Barwa is located in the region of Pemako in Tibet. It is considered the easternmost point of the Himalayas and is situated in the extreme east of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- So, Option (b) is correct.**

Some Highest Peaks of the Himalayas

Peak	Country	Height in metres
Mt. Everest	Nepal	8848
Kanchenjunga	India	8598
Makalu	Nepal	8481
Dhaulagiri	Nepal	8172
Nanga Parbat	India	8126
Annapurna	Nepal	8078
Nanda Devi	India	7817
Kamet	India	7756
Namcha Barwa	India	7756
Gurla Mandhata	Nepal	7728



<p>58. Consider the following countries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finland2. Germany3. Norway4. Russia <p>How many of the above countries have a border with the North Sea?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) Only three (d) All four</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>TEST NO.03 – Q.NO.14</u></p> <p>The Rosebank oil and gas field, which was seen in the news recently, is located in :</p> <p>(a) Atlantic Ocean (b) Levantine basin (c) North Sea (d) Adriatic Sea</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The Rosebank field, northwest of Shetland in Scotland, is the largest undiscovered oil and gas field in the North Sea, with the potential to produce 500 million barrels of oil. It is majority-owned by Norwegian state-owned energy corporation Equinor. It is claimed to hold up to 300 million barrels of oil and is owned by Equinor, a Norwegian energy powerhouse, and Ithaca Energy, a British corporation.</p> <p>The North Sea lies between Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. It is an epeiric sea (on the continental plate with an average depth of 90 meters) on the European continental shelf that connects to the Atlantic Ocean via the English Channel to the south and the Norwegian Sea to the north. So, Option (c) is correct.</p>
<p>70. Consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cashew2. Papaya3. Red sanders <p>How many of the above trees are actually native to India?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>TEST NO.42 – Q.NO.43</u></p> <p>With reference to Cashew crop, consider the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. India holds the share of second largest cashew nut producer and exporter in the world.2. Extreme low temperature and frost are not conducive for growing cashew.3. Cashew is native to southern part of India and it is an important part of ancient Indian trade to roman empire. <p>How many of the above statements are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>➤ After Côte d'Ivoire, India is the second largest producer and exporter of Cashew Nuts with a share of more than 15%, followed by Vietnam in the world's cashew export. India's top export destinations are the UAE, the Netherlands, Japan, and Saudi Arabia.</p>



	<p>➤ Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the major Cashew producing states in India. India primarily exports Cashew Kernels with small quantities of Cashew Nut Shell Liquid and Cardanol.</p> <p>➤ With the UAE and the Netherlands remaining as the top export destinations for Indian Cashew Nuts. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), an organization under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, played an instrumental role as an export facilitator. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Cashew is very well adapted to Indian coastal area under hot humid conditions with temperature in the range of 20 to 38 °C, relative humidity in the range of 60 to 95 % and annual precipitation in the range of 2000 to 3500mm. Extreme low temperature and frost are not conducive to raise cashew plantations. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Cashew is an introduction from Brazil. The Cashew tree, <i>Anacardium occidentale</i>, generally considered the native to the northern part of South America, is now found in many tropical areas. The Portuguese recognized the value of the cashew apple and nut and took the crop to their Old World colonies. By 1590 the cashew tree had been introduced to East Africa and India where it was also used to help <u>control erosion</u> along the coastal regions So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.20 – Q.NO.15</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about the impact of Portuguese on India:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Portuguese developed Goa as a dominant centre of Asian trade.2. Agricultural products such as potato, maize and Tobacco were introduced by Portuguese from central American countries.3. They opened up India's trade with Japan, from which copper and silver were obtained. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The Portuguese were hardly able to change the established pattern of the Asian trade network. They could neither adequately police the Indian Ocean nor were able to develop Goa as the dominant centre of the Asian trade, eclipsing Cambay and later Surat in Gujarat. However, they adversely</p>



affected the Malabar trade, and the sea trade from Bengal which they preyed upon from Chittagong. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Portuguese were responsible for the introduction of major crops like potato, maize, chillies, tobacco, groundnut and fruits like papaya and pineapple from Central America. The Portuguese could not act as a bridge for transmitting to India the science and technology which had grown in Europe since the Renaissance. This was partly because the Portuguese were themselves not as deeply affected by the Renaissance as Italy and North Europe. Later, with the growth of a Catholic religious' reaction led by the Jesuits, they even set their face against the new science. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Portuguese, however, opened up India's trade with Japan from which copper and silver were obtained. They also opened up India's trade with the Philippines. From the Philippines, the Portuguese carried Indian textiles to South America and brought back silver in exchange. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

TEST NO.07 – Q.NO.49

Consider the following statements with respect to the Red Sanders :

1. Red Sanders is a flora species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in the Western Ghats.
2. It falls under the 'endangered list' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
3. The export of Red Sanders from India is prohibited as per the Foreign Trade Policy.

How many of the above statements are correct ?

- (a) Only one**
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

EXPLANATION:

Red Sanders is a flora species that is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in the Eastern Ghats (Not on Western Ghats) region of Andhra Pradesh and falls under the 'endangered list' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

Red Sanders is also listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wildlife Fauna and Flora (CITES). Its rich hue and therapeutic properties are responsible for its high demand across Asia, particularly China, for use in cosmetics, medicinal products and high-end furniture/woodcraft.



	<p>Further, Red Sanders is endemic to Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, and according to IUCN, there has been about a 50-80% decline in its numbers. So, Statement 1 is not correct.</p> <p>Red Sanders (<i>Pterocarpus santalinus</i>), also called Red Sandalwood, is a species found in the southern tropical dry deciduous forest of Andhra Pradesh (AP). The tree reaches an average height of 10 to 15 meters.</p> <p>➤ The species is listed as 'Endangered' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and falls in Appendix II of CITES. In India, it has been enlisted under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The heartwood of Red Sanders is in demand in the domestic and international markets for making furniture, handicrafts and musical instruments in China and Japan. The red dye obtained from the wood is used as a coloring agent in the textiles, medicine and food industries. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>As a native species to Andhra Pradesh, Red Sanders (also known as Red Sandalwood) use and trade are regulated by the State. Following the amendment to the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 in December 2022, Red Sanders is now listed in Schedule IV.</p> <p>➤ Under the foreign trade policy of India, the import of Red Sanders is prohibited, while export is restricted.</p> <p>Despite the regulation and legal protection, illegal logging and timber extraction remain major conservation concerns for the species. So, Statement 3 is not correct.</p>
<p>72. With reference to “water vapour”, which of the following statements is/are correct?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It is a gas, the amount of which decreases with altitude.2. Its percentage is maximum at the poles. <p>Select the answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.55 – Q.NO.35</p> <p>With reference to water vapour, consider the following statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The composition of water vapour in the atmosphere decreases from the equator towards poles.2. Water vapour is less transparent for incoming short-wave solar radiation but almost transparent for outgoing long wave terrestrial radiation. <p>Which of the statements given above is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Water vapour is also a variable gas in the atmosphere, which decreases with altitude. In the warm and wet tropics, it may account for four per cent of the air by volume, while in the dry and cold areas of desert and polar regions, it may be less than one per cent of the air. Water vapour also decreases from the equator towards the poles. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p>



	<p>Water vapour, carbon dioxide, and other gases whose molecules have electric dipole moments absorb radiation more strongly in the long wave part of the spectrum occupied by outgoing terrestrial radiation than the shortwave part occupied by incoming solar radiation. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p>
<p>74. With reference to “Coriolis force”, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. It increases with increase in wind velocity 2. It is maximum at the poles and is absent at the equator Select the answer using the code given below: (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.02 – Q.NO.7,8</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements :</p> <p>Statement 1: The magnitude of the Coriolis force is influenced by the speed of the wind.</p> <p>Statement 2: Coriolis force affects the wind speed by deflecting the wind direction from the expected path.</p> <p>Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements? (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>The direction of surface winds is usually controlled by the pressure gradient and rotation of the Earth. Because of the rotation of the Earth along its axis, the winds are deflected. The force which deflects the direction of winds is called deflection force. This force is also called the Coriolis force on the basis of the famous scientist G.G. Coriolis.</p> <p>So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>The Coriolis Effect only affects wind direction and not wind speed because it deflects the wind from its expected path. Because of the Coriolis force, all the winds are deflected to the right in the northern hemisphere while they are deflected to the left in the southern hemisphere with respect to the rotating Earth. This is why winds blow counter clockwise around the center of low pressure (to make a cyclonic circulation) in the northern hemisphere while they blow in a clockwise direction in the southern hemisphere.</p> <p>So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p>



Consider the following statements :

Statement 1:

Tropical cyclones are not formed near the equator.

Statement 2:

Wind blows perpendicular to the isobars at the equator, and the low pressure is filled instead of getting intensified.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

(a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I

(b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I

(c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

(d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

Without the spin of the Earth and the resulting Coriolis force, Tropical cyclones would not form. **Since the Coriolis force is at a maximum at the poles and a minimum at the equator, Tropical cyclones can not form within 5 degrees latitude of the equator. The Coriolis force generates a counterclockwise spin to low pressure in the Northern Hemisphere and a clockwise spin to low pressure in the Southern Hemisphere.**

➤ At the equator, the Coriolis force is zero, and the wind blows perpendicular to the isobars. The low pressure gets filled instead of getting intensified. That is the reason why tropical cyclones are not formed near the equator. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Coriolis force acts perpendicular to the pressure gradient force. The pressure gradient force is perpendicular to an isobar. The higher the pressure gradient force, the higher the velocity of the wind and the larger the deflection in the direction of the wind. As a result of these two forces operating perpendicular to each other, in the low-pressure areas, the wind blows around it. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



TEST NO.08 – Q.NO.24 (PARTIAL)

79. Consider the following plants

1. Groundnut
2. Horse gram
3. Soybean

How many of the above being in the pea family?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Biofuels can be extracted from

1. Switchgrass
2. Sorghum
3. Poplar
4. Soybean
5. Camelina
6. Tallow
7. Lard

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 2, 4 and 5 only
(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

EXPLANATION:

Any fuel produced from biomass, such as plant or algal matter or animal feces, is referred to as biofuel. Unlike fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, biofuel is seen as a renewable energy source since its raw material is easily renewed. In light of the growing cost of petroleum and other fossil fuels as well as growing concern over the role fossil fuels play in global warming, biofuel is frequently promoted as a more affordable and ecologically friendly alternative to these fuels.

Switchgrass has excellent potential as a bioenergy feedstock for cellulosic ethanol production, direct combustion for heat and electrical generation, gasification, and pyrolysis. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Sweet sorghum is a promising target for biofuel production. It is a C4 crop with low input requirements and accumulates high levels of sugars in its stalks. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Poplars are more desirable for biofuels than many other woody crops because of their fast growth, their ability to produce a significant amount of biomass in a short period of time, and their high cellulose and low lignin contents. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

Soybean is a cool-season legume that can be grown from south to north throughout much of the eastern half of the United States. Soybean oil is currently a major feedstock for the production of biodiesel (NBB). **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

	<p>The Brassicaceae <i>Camelina sativa</i>, generally known as camelina, is a winter or spring annual oil seed plant. <i>Camelina sativa</i> is being used in a wide range of industrial, nutraceutical, and biomedical products and as an animal feed. More specifically, <i>Camelina sativa</i> is widely used as a biofuel, including renewable jet fuel, green diesel, and biodiesel. So, Statement 5 is correct.</p>	
	<p>Tallow is made by rendering suet, which is the fat of cattle or sheep, typically the fat that surrounds the animal's organs. Animal fats are attractive feedstocks for biodiesel. This includes beef tallow and pork lard. So, Statement 6 and 7 are correct.</p>	
<p>81. The total fertility rate in an economy is defined as:</p> <p>(a) the number of children born per 1000 people in the population in a year.</p> <p>(b) the number of children born to a couple in their lifetime in a given population.</p> <p>(c) the birth rate minus death rate.</p> <p>(d) the average number of live births a woman would have by the end of her child-bearing age.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TEST NO.31 – Q.NO.15</p> <p>Consider the following statements about the demographic dividend of India:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It refers to an episode of higher economic growth driven by changes in the age structure of the population. 2. India's demographic cycle is about 10-30 years ahead of other countries like China, Korea and Brazil. 3. The demographic dividend in peninsular India will peak early as compared to the hinterland states. <p>Which of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p> <p>EXPLANATION:</p> <p>Demographic Dividend is an episode of higher economic growth driven by changes in the age structure of the population (it is the additional growth due to demographic factors alone). The specific variable driving the demographic dividend is the ratio of the working-age (WA) population (20-59) to the non-working-age (NWA) population. Both the level and the growth of the WA/NWA ratio have a positive impact on economic activity. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>India's demographic cycle is about 10-30 years behind that of other countries like China, Korea, Brazil etc., indicating that the next few decades present an opportunity for India to catch up to their per capita income levels. This does not mean that the demographic dividend will turn negative after that, rather positive impact will slow down. So, Statement 2 is not correct.</p> <p>A distinctive feature in India is the large heterogeneity among the States in their demographic profile evolution. There is a clear divide between peninsular India (West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala,</p>	



	<p>Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh), where WA/NWA population ratio will peak early as compared to the hinterland States (Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar). The divide in the WA/NWA ratio of peninsular India and the hinterland States is because of the difference in their levels of Total Fertility Rate (the average number of children that a woman would have over her childbearing years).</p> <p>So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>
<p>83. In India, which of the following can trade in Corporate Bonds and Government Securities?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Insurance Companies2. Pension Funds3. Retail Investors <p>Select the correct answer using the code given below:</p> <p>(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TEST NO.36 – Q.NO.35</u></p> <p>Consider the following statements about the foreign portfolio investment (FPI):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It refers to any investment made by a person resident outside India in a capital instrument.2. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) can invest in central and state government securities and corporate bonds.3. FPIs can up to 10% of the equity capital in a listed Indian company. <p>How many of the above statements is/are correct?</p> <p>(a) Only one (b) Only two (c) All three (d) None</p> <p><u>EXPLANATION:</u></p> <p>Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an ownership stake in a foreign company or project made by an investor, company, or government from another country. Generally, the term is used to describe a business decision to acquire a substantial stake in a foreign business or to buy it outright to expand operations to a new region. The term is usually not used to describe a stock investment in a foreign company alone. FDI is a key element in international economic integration because it creates stable and long-lasting links between economies. So, Statement 1 is correct.</p> <p>Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) are institutions incorporated outside India and include mutual fund, insurance company, pension fund, banks, NRIs etc. registered with SEBI. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) can also invest in Central and State Government securities/bonds and corporate bonds and are treated as debt. So, Statement 2 is correct.</p> <p>Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) is any investment made by a person resident outside India in 'capital instruments' where such investment is less than 10 percent of the equity capital of a listed Indian company. Foreign investors generally do not get involved in the management of the company and purchase minority stakes. So, Statement 3 is correct.</p>



TEST NO.56 – Q.NO.75 (PARTIAL)

84. Consider the following:

1. Exchange-Traded Funds (ETF)
2. Motor vehicles
3. Currency swap

Which of the above is/are considered financial instruments?

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

With reference to the Exchange Traded Funds, consider the following statements

1. An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trades on an exchange just like a stock.
2. They are like mutual funds, which means they only trade once a day after the market closes.
3. They offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) All three
- (d) None

EXPLANATION:

An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a type of pooled investment security that can be bought and sold much like an individual stock. The main difference between an ETF and a mutual fund is that though a mutual fund is also a pooled investment, it trades only once a day after market close. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trades on an exchange just like a stock does. ETF share prices fluctuate all day as the ETF is bought and sold; this is different from mutual funds, which only trade once a day after the market closes. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ETFs can contain all types of investments, including stocks, commodities, or bonds; some offer U.S.-only holdings, while others are international. ETFs offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

88. Which one of the following words/phrases is most appropriately used to denote “an interoperable network of 3D virtual words that can be accessed simultaneously by millions of users, who can exert property rights over virtual items”?

- (a) Big data analytics
- (b) Cryptography
- (c) Metaverse**
- (d) Virtual matrix

TEST NO.47 – Q.NO.50

Consider the following :

1. Decentralized Finance
2. Asset Tokenization
3. Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)
4. Metaverse

Web3 is described as the future of the internet, and it is projected to create millions of direct jobs in India. Its use cases and applications include:

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four**



EXPLANATION:

Web3 is the new generation of the Internet that is highly useful for websites and many other applications. It is also referred to as the “Semantic Web” or “3D Web”. It adds new meaning to the existing content and various developing methods and helps to interact easily with the current environment. The applications of Web3 include,

- Decentralized finance, or DeFi, uses emerging technology to remove third parties and centralized institutions from financial transactions. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Asset tokenization is the process of representing real-world assets, such as real estate, art or securities, as digital tokens on a blockchain. This measure will allow these assets to be traded and exchanged more easily and efficiently. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- NFTs, short for Non-Fungible Tokens, are blockchain-based tokens where each one is unique and can be distinguished from all others in existence. NFT trades are recorded on the blockchain so that the current ownership can be proved at any time. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Metaverse is a broad term encompassing interconnected 3D virtual worlds made possible through advancements in technologies such as augmented reality (AR)/virtual reality (VR), artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchains. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

90. With reference to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules in India, consider the following statements:

1. CSR rules specify that expenditures that benefit the company directly or its employees will not be considered as CSR activities.
2. CSR rules do not specify minimum spending on CSR activities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

TEST NO.56 – Q.NO.12

Consider the following statements about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):

1. It is an instrument for integrating social, environmental and human development concerns in the entire value chain of corporate business.
2. The Ministry of Commerce issued Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014.
3. The company is required to spend an annual 3 per cent of the average net profits of the company calculated as per the provisions of the Companies Act.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) One only**
(b) Two only
(c) Three only
(d) None of the above



EXPLANATION:

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was conceived as an instrument for integrating social, environmental and human development concerns in the entire value chain of corporate business. Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued 'Voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility, 2009' as a first step towards mainstreaming the concept of Business Responsibilities. It was further refined subsequently as 'National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, 2011'. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs issued the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- Under the Companies Act 2013, certain classes of profitable companies are required to spend at least 2 per cent of their average net profit of the preceding three financial years on CSR activities in a particular financial year.
- Under the CSR rules, amounts remaining unspent in a financial year relating to an ongoing project, as well as any unutilised surplus arising from the CSR activities, are required to be deposited by the company in a special bank account called the 'Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account'.
- This limit has now been increased to the higher of 2 per cent or Rs 50 lakh, which will enable companies to undertake comprehensive impact assessments for large-scale CSR projects and account for the same towards their CSR obligation. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**