

### 1) Correct Answer:- A

When the government cuts taxes, it injects more money into the economy by leaving more disposable income in the hands of individuals and businesses. This can potentially increase aggregate demand.

If Government is injecting money in the normal time bank must take out money form the market.

In order to work against each other:- if the central bank simultaneously increases the money supply, it adds even more money into circulation, potentially leading to inflationary pressures. This action would counteract the intended effect of the tax cuts by the government.

Therefore, option (C) increases the money supply best reflects a scenario where the central bank and the government are working against each other in response to the government cutting taxes.

### 2) Correct Answer:- C

When a government runs deficit budgets, it often needs to borrow money to finance its spending. This increased borrowing can put upward pressure on interest rates because there is more demand for loans.

High interest rates can then make it more expensive for businesses in the private sector to borrow money for their own investments and capital expenditures.

This can hamper the private sector's ability to raise capital because businesses may be deterred from borrowing at higher interest rates, leading to reduced investment and economic activity.

Therefore, deficit budgets can indirectly affect the private sector's ability to raise capital by influencing interest rates.

### 3) CORRECT ANSWER:- A

In the case of India, balance of invisibles is always positive because India is a net exporter of services and is largest recipient of remittances in the world.

Though, there is outflow on account of interest and dividend, the surplus in services and remittances is much more than the outflow on account of interest and dividend. Overall, there is surplus balance in invisibles.

Note:-

Balance of Payment (Current Account)

Visible:- Trade in Goods

Invisible:-

1} Trade in Services

2} Income:-Profit, Interest, Dividend etc.

3} Transfer:- Remittances, Gift, Grants, Donations etc.

### 4) Correct Answer:- B

Shoals: These are submerged or partially submerged landforms, often consisting of sand, gravel, or silt, found in shallow waters. Shoals are known for their low depths and moderate elevation, making them hazardous for ships and navigation.

Reefs: While reefs are also underwater structures, they are generally composed of rock or coral and often support marine ecosystems. They are not described as "detached elevations."

Atoll: An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef, island, or series of islets surrounding a lagoon. It does not fit the description of a detached shallow elevation.

Canyons: Submarine canyons are steep-sided valleys cut into the seabed of the continental slope. They are found at great depths and do not pose navigation risks due to shallow depths.

### 5) Correct Answer:- B

Laws which come under the environmental category criminal offence include:-

1. Forest Act, 1927
  2. Wildlife Protection Act, 1972,
  3. Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
  4. Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
  5. Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- Biodiversity Act 2002 is not included in this list.

Hence, Option b is correct.

### 6) Correct Answer:- D

Alpha diversity:- Alpha diversity describes the species diversity within a community at a small scale or local scale, generally the size of one ecosystem. When we casually speak of diversity in an area, more often than not it refers to alpha diversity.

Beta diversity:- Beta diversity describes the species diversity between two communities or ecosystems. It is at a larger scale, and looks to compare the species diversity between two separate entities that are often divided by a clear geographical barrier like a river or a mountain ridge.

Gamma diversity:- Gamma diversity is studied at a very large scale—a biome—where species diversity is compared between many ecosystems. It could range

over areas like the entire slope of a mountain, or the entire littoral zone of a sea shore.

**7) Correct Answer:- B**

The main reservoir of phosphorus is rock and soil. Agricultural science utilizes phosphorus as a vital component for fertilizers for the growth of plant crops. The main source of phosphorus in the soil is apatite--a calcium-phosphate mineral.

**8) Correct Answer: B**

Statement 1 is incorrect. The Census of India has been conducted more than six times. It has been conducted every 10 years since 1881, making it a regular decadal exercise. The 2011 Census was the 15th Census of India. After independence it has been conducted 7 times:- 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001, 2011.

Statement 2 is correct. The Census of India Act, 1948, does not mandate the Union Government to conduct the census on a specific date or to release its data within a particular timeframe. This gives the government flexibility in terms of scheduling and data release.

Statement 3 is incorrect. The Census of India is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs, not by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Thus, only statement 2 is correct.

**9) CORRECT ANSWER:-B**

Mesolithic Age is also known for Hunters and Herders. Both Mesolithic and Neolithic culture belongs to the Holocene era.

The Mesolithic man lived on hunting, fishing, food gathering and in later stages, also domestication of animals. One of the key aspects of Mesolithic Age were the reduction in size of well-established tool types. The characteristic tools of this age were microliths.

They were not only used as a tool in themselves but also to make composite tools, spearheads, arrowheads and sickle after hafting them on wooden or bone handles.

Important Mesolithic Age Sites:- Bagor, Adamgarh, Mahadaha, Birbhanpur, sarai nahar, Birhanpur etc.

**10) CORRECT ANSWER:-C**

Sites

Position

- Gelund Rajasthan
- Kayatha, Eran Madhya Pradesh
- Jorwe, Nevas Maharashtra
- Pandu, Rajar Dhibi West Bengal
- The Neolithic period is followed by Chalcolithic (Copper-Stone) period when copper and bronze came to be used. Generally, Chalcolithic cultures had grown in river valleys.
- Most importantly, the Harappan Culture is considered as a part of Chalcolithic culture.
- The new technology of smelting metal ore and crafting metal artifacts is an important development in Human Civilization. But the use of stone tools was not given up.

**11) Correct Answer:- C**

Features of Solanki School:-

Temples were devoid of any carving.

Porticos have decorative arched gateways known as Torans.

A unique feature of this School is presence of step-tank, known as Surya-Kund in the proximity of the temple.

Step of the tank are full of small temples. There are wooden carving present in these temples.

Most of the temples are east facing and designed such that every year, during the equinoxes, the sun-ray falls directly in to the central shrine.

Example of Solanki School:- Modhera Sun Temple, Gujarat

**12) Correct Answer:- B**

Statement 1st is Correct:- Generally, the government collect higher taxes from the rich people and spend it on the welfare of the poor. Thereby, reducing the inequalities of income.

Statement 2nd is INCORRECT:- Deficit budget is preferred during periods of Deflation.

Statement 3rd is Correct:- Expenditure on Pension neither creates any asset nor reduces any liability of the Government.

**13) Correct Answer:- A**

Assertion (A) suggests that economic globalism (the idea that economies across the world are becoming more integrated) does not necessarily mean that socialist ideology (which often includes ideas about social welfare, equality, and sometimes state control of

resources) is declining.

Reason (R) states that socialism believes in universalism (a principle that some ideas have universal application) and globalism (a perspective that involves the whole world).

Both A and R are true, and since socialism does incorporate elements of universalism and globalism, R is a correct explanation of A.

#### 14) CORRECT ANSWER:- C

In finance, a haircut is the difference between the market value of an asset used as loan collateral and the amount of the loan.

#### 15) Correct Answer:- C

A bond's yield is the discount rate that links the bond's cash flows to its current dollar price.

A bond's coupon rate is the periodic distribution the holder receives.

Although a bond's coupon rate is fixed, the price of a bond sold in secondary markets can fluctuate.

As the price of a bond increases or decreases, the true yield will change—straying from the coupon rate to make the investment more or less enticing to investors.

All else equal, when a bond's price falls, its yield increases.

When a bond's price increases, its yield decreases.

#### 16) Correct Answer:- C

CAG holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. So if she/he joined CAG at the age of 59, they may hold the office for 6 years from the age 59 to 65 i.e. 6 years.

Note:-

CAG is not eligible for further office, either under the Government of India or of any state, after she/he ceases to hold his office.

He is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.

The CAG is an agent of Parliament and conducts audit of expenditure on behalf of the Parliament. Therefore, he is responsible only to the parliament.

#### 17) Correct Answer:- A

In pursuance of the provision of Article 350-B of the Constitution, the office of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was created in 1957. He is designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities.

The Commissioner has his headquarters at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh). He has three regional offices at Belgaum (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Each is headed by an Assistant Commissioner.

#### 18) Correct Answer:- C

Statement:

- Article 25 allows the right to propagate religion, which includes voluntary conversions, provided they are not forced or induced by fraud. The key phrase "not to convert others" is misleading. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.
- Article 26 grants religious denominations the right to manage religious affairs and own property, but this right is subject to state regulations to maintain public order, morality, and health. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- Article 27 explicitly states that no person shall be compelled to pay taxes for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious institution. This includes state funding for pilgrimages. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- Article 28 prohibits religious instruction only in educational institutions funded by the state. It allows religious instruction in institutions administered by religious denominations or those receiving private funding. Hence statement 4 is incorrect.

#### 19) Correct Answer:- D

All of the aforementioned statements are correct.

CPI captures price change at the consumer level, WPI captures the production side.

WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, CPI does.

WPI gives more weight to manufactured goods, CPI gives more weight to food items.

WPI uses Financial Year as a reference, CPI uses the calendar year.

WPI measures the initial or first stage of a transaction, CPI is the final or last stage of a transaction.

The Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reports the wholesale price index monthly to track the overall rate of change in producer and wholesale prices.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) publishes CPI data every month.

**20) Correct Answer:- D**

The Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) is a measure used to evaluate the relative strength or weakness of a country's currency against a basket of other currencies, adjusted for inflation. It provides insight into the overall competitiveness of a country's goods and services in international markets.

If the REER is high, it indicates that the country's goods and services are relatively expensive compared to those of its trading partners, potentially leading to a decline in exports and an increase in imports. Conversely, a low REER suggests that the country's goods and services are relatively cheap, which could boost exports but also lead to higher import costs.

Effect on Trade:-

Changes in the REER can have significant implications for a country's trade balance. For example, an appreciation in the REER (indicating a strengthening of the domestic currency) can make exports more expensive for foreign buyers, potentially reducing export competitiveness and leading to a deterioration in the trade balance. Conversely, a depreciation in the REER (indicating a weakening of the domestic currency) can make exports cheaper for foreign buyers, potentially boosting export competitiveness and improving the trade balance.

Statement 4th i.e. Competitiveness of exports will diminishes is the correct answer:- When the REER of a country appreciates, its exports become more expensive for foreign buyers. As a result, the country's goods become less competitive in international markets, which can lead to a reduction in export volumes. Therefore, this statement correctly reflects the impact of an appreciation in the REER.

**21) Correct Answer:- A**

The Tobin tax is a duty proposed on spot currency trades to penalize short-term currency trading in order to stabilize markets and disincentive speculation.

The Tobin tax can be used to generate revenue streams for countries that see a great deal of short-term currency movement.

The Tobin tax is sometimes referred to as the Robin Hood tax, as many see it as a way for governments to take small amounts of money from the people making large, short-term currency exchanges.

**22) CORRECT ANSWER:- B**

Harmattan:-

These hot and dry wind originate from the Sahara Desert and blow towards the Guinea coast of Africa.

Due to their journey over the Sahara Desert, these winds become extremely dry and as they pass over the Sahara Desert they pick up more sand especially red sand and turn dusty.

As these winds arrive on the western coast of Africa, the weather which is warm and moist before its arrival, turns into pleasant dry weather with low relative humidity, thus bringing great relief to the people. Due to this reason, they are also known as doctor winds in the Guinea coast area of Western Africa.

**23) Correct Answer:- D**

Zero Hour:-

The zero hour (Unlike the question hour) is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.

It is an Indian innovation (since 1962) in the field of parliamentary procedures.

The time gap between the question hour and the agenda is known as zero hour.

Zero hour has an element of surprise.

Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.

The zero hour starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day is taken up.

**24) Correct Answer:- B**

Features of Pitt's India Act of 1784:-

It distinguished between the commercial and political function of the company.

It allowed the Court of Directors to manage the commercial affairs but created a new body called Board of Controls to manage the political affairs. Thus, it established a system of double government.

It empowered the Board of Control to supervise and direct all operations of the civil and military governments or revenues of the British Possessions in India.

This Act was significant for two reasons:

First the company's territories in India were for the first time called the 'British possessions' in India.

British Government was given supreme control over

Company's affair and its administration in India.

**25) Correct Answer:- C**

Statement C seems INCORRECT:-

Tenth Schedule:-If any nominated member joins any political party after the expiry of six months then it comes under the grounds for defection. Statement C does not mention time period.

**26) Correct Answer:- C**

The right to property as a legal right (as distinct from the Fundamental Rights) has the following implications:- It can be regulated i.e., curtailed, abridged or modified without constitutional amendment by an ordinary law of the Parliament.

In case of violation, the aggrieved person cannot directly move the Supreme Court under Article 32 (right to constitutional remedies including writs) for its enforcement. He/she can move the High Court under Article 226. Statement 1st is Correct.

It protects private property against executive action but not against legislative action. Hence, Statement 2nd is Correct.

No guaranteed right to compensation in case of acquisition or requisition of the private property by the state:-

Though the Fundamental Right to Property under Part III has been abolished, the Part III still carries two provisions which provide for the guaranteed right to compensation in case of acquisition or requisition of the private property by the state. These two cases where compensation has to be paid are:

When the State acquires the property of a minority educational institution (Article 30); and

When the State acquires the land held by a person under his personal cultivation and the land is within the statutory ceiling limits (Article 31 A). Hence, Statement 3rd is Correct.

**27) Correct Answer:- A**

The French East India Company, seeking to establish a trading post on the Coromandel Coast, negotiated with the Adilshahi Sultan of Bijapur for the acquisition of Pondicherry. The Sultanate granted permission to the French to establish a settlement and trade in the region.

**28) Correct Answer:- C**

Statement 1 is inaccurate:- Since the Department of Personnel and Training manages cadre management, and the UPSC serves only as a central recruiting agency.

Statement 2 is inaccurate:- Because the President has the power to exempt certain posts, services, and matters from the jurisdiction of the UPSC.

**29) CORRECT ANSWER:- B**

Giffen goods are those goods whose demand is positively related to its price.

It means with increase in price of the good, its demand would increase.

**30) Correct Answer:- C**

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD):- Commonly known as the World Bank. Gives development loans with interest.

International Development Association (IDA):- Assists the poorest countries via interest- free long-term loans ("Concessional Loans" or "soft loans").

International Finance Corporation (IFC):- Supports enterprise of developing countries. Known for its Masala Bonds.

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA):- Offers (foreign) investors insurance against non-commercial risk (such as political instability, regime change etc.). This helps 3rd world nations attract foreign investment.

International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID):- Helps in dispute resolution related to foreign investment / foreign companies in 3rd world countries. India is not a member of this organization.

**31) Correct Answer:- B**

Portuguese referred to Satgaon as Porto Pecquono (small port). In contrast, Chittagong was called Porto Grandoi (grand port).

**32) Correct Answer:-B**

(b) Leela Roy

Explanation:

The passage describes Leela Roy, highlighting her groundbreaking achievements, including being the first woman admitted to the University of Dhaka, her work

with Subhas Chandra Bose, founding Jayasree, and her membership in the Constituent Assembly.

**33) Correct Answer:- C**

(c) Only three

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct. Begum Aizaz Rasul was the only Muslim woman in the Constituent Assembly of India.
- Statement 2: Correct. She played a significant role in advocating for the abolition of zamindari.
- Statement 3: Incorrect. She was not the President of the Indian National Congress but of the All India Muslim League.
- Statement 4: Correct. She wrote From Purdah to Parliament, detailing her life and experiences.

**34) Correct Answer:- A**

Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A. The Treaty of Tordesillas was indeed designed to divide the non-Christian world between Portugal and Spain to prevent conflicts over newly discovered lands and trade routes, thus ensuring that each nation could explore and colonize without interference from the other.

**35) Correct Answer:- C**

The White Goods industry consists of air conditioners, refrigerators, Washing Machines, dryers, dishwashers, LED Lights etc.

Note:-

Inferior Goods:- An inferior good is one in which an increase in income causes a decrease in demand. It has a negative elasticity of demand. Example:- When you earn more you shift from normal pens to costly ones to write.

Giffen Goods:- Giffen goods are low-priced products, the demand for which rises along with the price. These products are necessary to fulfill the need for food, and they have only a few substitutes. Bread, wheat, and rice are examples of Giffen goods. The thought of Giffen goods undermines the fundamental law of demand.

Veblen Goods/Snob Goods:- They are high-quality premium goods, the demand for which increases along with its price. This is caused by the exclusive nature of these products. Examples include sports cars, expensive accessories (diamond rings, watches, necklaces), luxury couture clothing, etc. The exclusiveness of these

goods shows people's success and demonstrates their wealth

It is important to note that all Giffen goods are inferior goods, but not all inferior goods are Giffen goods.

**36) Correct Answer:- D**

A blue-chip company is one that is well-established, stable, and well-known. Blue-chip companies are thought to be safer investments since they have a track record of success and consistent development.

Blue-chip companies include Bharti Airtel Ltd., BPCL, Dr Reddy, HDFC, Reliance Industries Ltd., Infosys Technologies Ltd., and ICICI Bank Ltd.

In India, profits made from blue-chip stocks are taxed as income under Section 80 C of the Income Tax Act.

It is possible to invest directly in blue chip firms by purchasing their shares.

Blue chip instruments, often known as exchange-traded securities, are a sort of diamond.

Blue-chip stocks provide guaranteed profits in the form of dividends, which are paid out quarterly. The fact that well-established enterprises serve as a safe investment option for most investors.

Blue-chip corporations have sufficient money to easily meet their financial obligations. As a result, the creditworthiness of the shares issued by such enterprises is high.

**37) Correct Answer:- D**

Three phases of the Quit India Movement have been identified:-

It initially started as an urban revolt, marked by strikes, boycott and picketing, which were quickly suppressed.

In the middle of August, the focus shifted to countryside, which witnessed a major peasant rebellion, marked by destruction of communication systems such as railway tracks and stations.

The third phase was characterized by terrorist activities, which primarily involved sabotaging war efforts by dislocating communication systems and propaganda activities using various means. Along with educated youth, bands of ordinary peasants also participated. The peasant squads were engaged in farming by day and sabotage activities by night, which came to known as the 'Karnataka Event'.

**38) Correct Answer:- B**

b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. A No Confidence Motion can only be moved against the entire Council of Ministers, not individual ministers.
- Statement 2: Correct. As per parliamentary procedure, it must be supported by at least 50 members to be admitted for discussion.
- Statement 3: Correct. If the motion is passed, the entire Council of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, must resign.

**39) Correct Answer:- A**

All the statements are correct.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs regulates Nidhi Company's operational matters and RBI has the power to issue directions for its deposit-taking activities.

Nidhi Company is a type of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

Nidhi Company isn't required to receive the licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Nidhi Company is registered under the Companies Act.

Nidhi Company can't deal with chit funds, hire-purchase finance, leasing finance, insurance or securities business.

Only individual members are allowed in Nidhi companies and it cannot give loans to companies.

**40) CORRECT ANSWER:-D**

- Incorrect Statement is Option "D" as Cotton production during Indus Valley Civilization was a big industry and it was exported in huge amount.
- Harappan Civilization was the earliest known civilization to produce cotton.
- Known as "SINDON" by Greeks. India has been recognized as the birthplace of Cotton Industry and India has gained the FIRST place in cotton production and cotton cultivated area.

**41) CORRECT ANSWER:-C**

- The concept of Anuvrata was advocated by Jainism. The five cardinal principles of Jainism, if followed by a monk, is called Mahavrata and if observed by a lay follower, then it is called Anuvrata.
- The Anuvratas are vows to abstain from violence,

falsehood, and stealing; to be content with one's own wife; and to limit one's possessions.

**42) Correct Answer:- B**

b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. The Delimitation Commission is not a Constitutional Body. It is established under the Delimitation Act, enacted by Parliament after every Census.
- Statement 2: Correct. It redraws boundaries based on population changes.
- Statement 3: Correct. Its orders are binding and final, and they cannot be challenged in any court of law.

**43) CORRECT ANSWER:- A**

The founder of the Sankya school of Philosophy was Maharishi Kapila. Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.

This school does not believe in the existence of God but regards body and soul as real. Even after death the soul is caught in the cycle of rebirth with the body. It rejects rites and sacrifices. Hence, statements 1 and 2 are correct.

**44) CORRECT ANSWER:- C**

Jainism recognised the existence of god while Buddhism did not.

Jainism does not condemn the varna system while Buddhism does.

Jainism believed in the transmigration of soul i.e. reincarnation while Buddhism does not.

Hence, all statements are incorrect.

**45) CORRECT ANSWER:- D**

None of the above statements are correct.

First Buddhist Council Was held at Rajagriha under the chairmanship of Mahakasyapa immediately after the death of Buddha. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.

Final version of Tripitakas was completed in third Buddhist council. Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.

New School of Buddhism called Mahayana Buddhism came into existence during Fourth Buddhist Council.

**46) CORRECT ANSWER:- B**

- Ramanuja (1060-1118):-The earliest exponent of the Bhakti movement was Ramanuja who was appointed

the successor of his teacher Yamunamuni. He travelled all over India and ultimately settled down at Srirangam.

- Ramananda (1400-1476):-Born at Prayag, he was the first great Bhakti saint of North India. He opened the door of Bhakti to all without any distinction of birth, caste, creed or sex. He was a worshipper of Rama and believed in two great principles, namely as perfect love for god and human brotherhood.
- Guru Nanak (29 November 1469 – 22 September 1539) was the founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh Gurus.
- Tulsidas (1532-1623):- He was a great poet and a devotee of Rama. He composed the famous Ramcharitamanas in Hindi, expounding the various aspects of Hindu dharma. His other creations are Vinaya-Patrika and KavitaVali.

#### 47) Correct Answer:- D

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) refers to investments made by companies in foreign entities, whereas Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) involves institutional investors investing in a country's financial markets.

FDI injects long-term capital into the company receiving the investment, while FII can bring both short-term and long-term capital to the host country.

FDI contributes to job creation, overall economic growth, and infrastructural development in the investee country, unlike FII.

FDI targets specific companies, whereas FII does not focus on targeted investments.

FII allows for easy entry and exit into the stock market, facilitating quick gains. Conversely, FDI involves more complex entry and exit processes.

FDI entails the transfer of funds, resources, technology, strategies, and know-how, while FII primarily involves the transfer of funds.

FDI enhances a country's productivity, while FII primarily increases its capital.

FDI allows for management control in the invested company, while FII does not provide such control.

Note:- While both have their advantages and disadvantages, FDI is generally considered superior to FII. FDI not only brings capital but also enhances management, governance, technology transfer, and job creation.

#### 48) CORRECT ANSWER:- A

Iwan' in Mughal architectural terminology.

An iwan is a rectangular hall or space, usually vaulted, walled on three sides, with one end entirely open. The formal gateway to the iwan is called pishtaq, a Persian term for a portal projecting from the facade of a building, usually decorated with calligraphy bands, glazed tilework, and geometric designs.

Since the definition allows for some interpretation, the overall forms and characteristics can vary greatly in terms of scale, material, or decoration. Iwans are most commonly associated with Islamic architecture; however, the form is Iranian in origin and was invented much earlier and fully developed in Mesopotamia around the third century CE, during the Parthian period of Persia.

#### 49) CORRECT ANSWER:- C

Statement 2nd and 3rd are incorrect.

Statement 1st is correct as:- Inflation can erode the real value of debt over time. If someone has borrowed money, such as through a mortgage or a loan, they may benefit from inflation because the amount they owe in nominal terms remains the same, but its real value decreases as prices rise. This effectively reduces the burden of repaying the debt.

#### 50) Correct Answer:- B

When interest rates rise in a country, it becomes more attractive for foreign investors to invest in that country's assets, such as government bonds.

In the case of China, if the interest rate increases, foreign investors may seek to invest in Chinese bonds to take advantage of the higher returns.

To do so, they need to convert their own currency into Chinese currency, increasing the demand for Chinese currency in the foreign exchange market.

This increased demand for Chinese currency can lead to its appreciation or an increase in its price. Therefore, rising interest rates can stimulate speculative purchases of the Chinese currency as foreign investors seek to invest in Chinese bonds.

#### 51) CORRECT ANSWER:- D

Theoretically, the BOP should be zero, meaning that assets (credits) and liabilities (debits) should balance,

but in practice, this is rarely the case. Thus, the BOP can tell the observer if a country has a deficit or a surplus and from which part of the economy the discrepancies are stemming.

**52) CORRECT ANSWER:- A**

Capital receipts means those transactions which leads to decrease in assets of government. For example: Recovery of loans would give income but reduces the asset (loan is an asset) of government. Similarly, proceeds from disinvestment would lead to decrease in share of government which is an asset and hence would be capital receipt.

**53) Correct Answer:- C**

Increasing government spending is preferred by some because they believe it has a larger multiplier effect. This means that each dollar of increased government spending results in a larger overall increase in aggregate demand and economic output.

**54) Correct Answer:- B**

The money multiplier is a concept used in monetary economics to estimate the total increase in the money supply that results from an initial increase in the monetary base. The monetary base consists of currency in circulation and bank reserves held by the central bank.

When the central bank increases the monetary base, such as by purchasing government securities through open market operations, it provides banks with additional reserves. These additional reserves enable banks to create new money through the process of lending and deposit creation.

The money multiplier measures the extent to which the initial increase in reserves leads to a larger expansion of the money supply through the banking system. Therefore, option (b) the money supply due to an increase in the money base accurately describes what the money multiplier tells us.

**55) Correct Answer:- A**

Pair 1 is INCORRECT:- Car and petrol are often considered complementary goods rather than substitute goods.

Pair 2 is INCORRECT:- Rice and wheat are often

considered substitute goods. Both rice and wheat are staple grains that can fulfill similar dietary needs, such as providing carbohydrates. When the price of one increases, consumers may choose to substitute it with the other, depending on their preferences and relative prices. Therefore, rice and wheat can be viewed as substitute goods in many contexts.

Pair 3 is Correct. Inferior Goods: Demand decreases with an increase in Income - Inferior goods are those for which demand decreases as consumer income increases. This statement accurately describes the characteristic of inferior goods.

**56) CORRECT ANSWER:- D**

The king was assisted by four important ministers:

Diwan –i- Wizarat – (Wazir) – in charge of Revenue and Finance.

Diwan-i-Ariz – in charge of Army.

Diwan-i-Rasalat- Foreign Minister.

Diwan-i-Insha- Minister for Communications.

Fotedars, Karkuns handled matter related to accounts of the Paraganas.

**57) CORRECT ANSWER:- C**

Prem Vatika, poems on the life of Krishna, was composed by Raskhan. Raskhan was a Hindi poet who was both a Muslim and follower of Lord Krishna.

**58) Correct Answer:- C**

Countries:- Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

The Fergana Valley is located in Central Asia's southeast corner and is enclosed by the Tian Shan Mountains to the north and the Gissar-Alai range to the south.

The Fergana Valley's population consists mainly of Uzbeks, Kyrgyz and Tajiks.

**59) Correct Answer: B**

Detailed Explanation of Options:

(A) Stratification Collapse: Incorrect

- Stratification refers to the layering of ocean water based on density differences. While El Niño involves changes in oceanic layering, the thermocline does not collapse; instead, it becomes deeper or less steep.

(B) Thermocline Deepening: Correct

- During El Niño, the thermocline deepens in the eastern Pacific, disrupting the normal upwelling of cooler,

nutrient-rich waters. This deeper thermocline leads to a dominance of warm surface water, reducing nutrient availability and altering oceanic ecosystems.

(C) Upwelling Shutdown: Incorrect

- While upwelling is significantly reduced during El Niño, this term does not fully explain the role of the thermocline in the process. The disruption begins with thermocline deepening, which indirectly impacts upwelling.

(D) Oceanic Convergence: Incorrect

Oceanic convergence refers to the meeting of different water masses, often leading to downwelling. It is not the primary mechanism behind El Niño-related changes in the thermocline.

### 60) Correct Answer:- A

Explanation of Options:

- Manaus, Brazil (Correct)
  - o Manaus is located in the heart of the Amazon rainforest. It experiences a tropical rainforest climate with uniformly high temperatures (around 30°C), very high annual rainfall (over 2,000 mm), and high humidity year-round. This matches the given data.
- Bamako, Mali
  - o Bamako is in the Sahel region and has a semi-arid climate. It experiences a distinct dry season and much lower annual rainfall, making it unsuitable.
- Kolkata, India
  - o Kolkata has a tropical monsoon climate with a pronounced wet season and a dry winter season. Rainfall is not evenly distributed throughout the year, ruling it out.
- Windhoek, Namibia
  - o Windhoek is located in a semi-arid region near the Kalahari Desert. It has low rainfall and experiences dry conditions, making it completely inconsistent with the given data.

### 61) Correct Answer: D

Detailed Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct.

- Nokrek National Park in Meghalaya is part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

It harbors the red panda, though its sightings are rare due to habitat loss.

The park also conserves the wild citrus gene pool (*Citrus indica*), which is considered an ancestor of commercially

grown citrus species.

Statement 2: Incorrect.

- Clouded Leopard National Park in Tripura indeed protects the clouded leopard, but it does not support the endangered Hoolock Gibbon. Hoolock Gibbons are primarily found in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh (e.g., Namdapha National Park).

Statement 3: Correct.

- Desert National Park is a critical refuge for the Great Indian Bustard, which is critically endangered.
- The park also supports reptiles adapted to arid conditions, including the Indian spiny-tailed lizard, a key species in the desert food chain.

Statement 4: Correct.

- Papikonda National Park in Andhra Pradesh lies in the Eastern Ghats, featuring tropical moist deciduous forests.
- It is home to the Indian golden gecko, a rare and endemic species found in rock crevices and forested slopes.

### 62) Correct Answer:- B

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. Its seat is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). Hence, Statement 2 is correct

It settles legal disputes between member states. The International court has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. Hence, statement 1 is wrong. And also it is not a criminal court. Hence, Statement 3 is wrong.

### 63) Correct Answer:- D

Statement 1 is incorrect because the monsoon winds primarily originate from the southwest, not from the eastward movement of trade winds over the Arabian Sea.

Statement 2 is incorrect as the ITCZ actually shifts northwards, not southwards, during the Indian summer, which attracts monsoon winds.

Statement 3 is incorrect because La Niña strengthens, rather than weakens, the monsoon by typically increasing rainfall in India due to cooler sea surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

**64) CORRECT ANSWER:- A**

Moon rotates more slowly than the Earth and takes little over 27 days to rotate once.

Since it takes about the same time to rotate around the earth, it always presents the same face or hemisphere to the Earth.

One side of the Moon always faces the Earth because the spinning period of the Moon is the same as the time it takes for the Moon to orbit around the Earth. This is called tidal locking.

**65) CORRECT ANSWER:- C**

Statement 1 is incorrect. Largely due to subduction, oceanic crust is much, much younger than continental crust.

Statement 2 is Incorrect. Oceanic crust is thinner as compared to the continental crust.

Statement 3 is Incorrect. Oceanic crust is generally composed of dark-coloured rocks called Basalt and Gabbro.

**66) Correct Answer:- C**

1. Tussar Silk – Obtained from silkworms, which are insects.
  2. Honey – Produced by honeybees, which are insects.
  3. Lac – A resin secreted by the lac insect.
- All three products are derived from insects.

**67) Correct Answer:- A**

Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh lies near the Tropic of Cancer (23.5°N). Sundarbans is farther south, while Gir and Keoladeo are farther north.

**68) Correct Answer:- C**

Statement 'C' is most appropriate.

The Preamble to the Constitution starts with the words- "We the People of India...." These words indicate the Sovereignty of people or citizens of India. It means that peoples of India are not governed by any external power but are directed by the Constitution.

"We the people of India" - Emphasizes that the constitution is made by and for the Indian people. It emphasizes the "concept of popular sovereignty" and entails all the power emanates from the people and the political system will be accountable and responsible to the people.

**69) Correct Answer:- D**

Statement 1 is correct:-The oldest text that formed the basis of this philosophy was Brahmasutra of Badrayana  
Statement 2 is correct:-the philosophy evolved in the 9th century AD through the philosophical intervention of Shankaracharya who wrote commentaries on the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita. His changes led to the development of Advaita Vedanta. Another major philosopher of this school was Ramanujan who wrote in the 12th century AD.

Statement 3 is correct:-The Vedanta theory also gave credence to the Theory of Karma. They believed in the theory of Punarjanama or rebirth. They also argued that a person would have to bear the brunt of their actions from the previous birth in the next one.

**70) Correct Answer:- C**

Akbar was responsible for establishment of an entire department devoted to the paintings and scribing of his documents.

Indian influence started in the Mughal painting.

Use of 3 dimensional figure and the continued use of fore sighting.

Artists encouraged the use of calligraphy in the painting. One of the distinguishing feature of this period was the transformation of popular art to the court art i.e. the artist were more focused at depicting the scenes of court life than the life of the masses.

Famous painters:- Daswant, Basawan and Kesu.

**71) Correct Answer:- D**

Advaitavada:- Shankaracharya

Vishistadvaitvada:- Ramanujacharya

Dvaitvada:- Madhvacharya

Dvaitadvaitvada:- Nimbarkacharya

**72) Correct Answer:- B**

Krishnadeva Raya was a great builder. The Hazara Rama Temple, the Vittalswami temple at the Capital City is attributed to him. He built a new city called Nagalapuram to honour his mother.

Note:-

Nicolo Conti visited during the time of Deva-Raya I.

Abdur Razzaq visited during the reign of Deva Raya-II.

**73) Correct Answer:- D**

The Nayaka School of Architecture flourished under the Nayaka Rulers in the period between 16th and 18th Century A.D. It was also known as Madurai School. It was architecturally similar to the Dravidian Style, but much larger in scope.

Unique Features of Nayaka School of Architecture:-

- Presence of Prakarns or huge corridors in the portico
- Art of gopurams reached its climax in the Nayaka Style
- Temple structure was filled with intricate carvings.

**74) Correct Answer:- B**

Painting: Theme

1. Paitkar:- What happens to human life post death
2. Thangka:- Represents Buddhist belief of life and death including "Wheel of Life"
3. Manjusha:-Snake Painting
4. Warli:- Goddess of Fertility is drawn and among the male gods, those spirits that have taken human form are represented.

**75) Correct Answer:- D**

Mudra Rakshasa by Vishakhdutta is a political drama and it narrates ascent of King Chnadragupta Maurya to power in India.

**76) Correct Answer: A**

Explanation:

1. Correct. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O are primary greenhouse gases emitted from human activities like fossil fuel use and agriculture.
2. Incorrect. Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) acts as a secondary greenhouse gas in the troposphere and helps regulate UV radiation absorption in the stratosphere.
3. Incorrect. Fluorinated gases, despite their low concentration, significantly contribute to global warming due to their very high global warming potential.

**77) Correct Answer:- C**

An ordinance like any other legislation, can be retrospective, that is, it may come into force from a back date.

It may modify or repeal any act of parliament or another ordinance.

It can alter or amend a tax law also.

However, it cannot be issued to amend the constitution.

Hence, statement 4th is INCORRECT.

**78) Correct Answer:- D**

Statement 'A' and 'B' contradicts the doctrine of Separation of Power:-

- (i) MPLAD scheme disturbs the scheme of separation of power as MPs are getting involved in executive functions.
- (ii) In the Parliamentary form of government-executive(s) is/are member of legislature.

While, Statement 'c' is in accordance with the Separation of Power doctrine.

Note:- Legislatures cannot discuss the conduct of a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court. They can do so only in case of impeachment.

**79) Correct Answer: C**

Detailed Explanation:

1. Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary – Grizzled Giant Squirrel (a):
  - Located in Kerala's Western Ghats, Chinnar is one of the last habitats of the grizzled giant squirrel.
2. Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary – Indian Pangolin (b):
  - Located in Goa, this sanctuary is part of the Western Ghats and is a refuge for the Indian pangolin, along with species like the Malabar civet and leopards.
3. Dibru-Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuary – Feral Horses (c):
  - Located in Assam, Dibru-Saikhowa is famous for its feral horses, swamp forests, and Gangetic dolphins.
4. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary – Fossilized Dinosaur Nests (d):
  - This was an incorrect association in the previous question. Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh is primarily known for its herbivore population, waterfalls, and historical sites. No dinosaur nests have been reported here.

**80) Correct Answer: A**

Explanation:

Sundarbans: Tropical mangrove ecosystem. West Bengal

Bandipur: Tropical dry deciduous forests. Karnataka

Valley of Flowers: Temperate to alpine meadows. Uttarakhand

Dachigam: Alpine to sub-alpine zones. J&K

**81) Correct Answer:- D**

A supernova is the explosive death of a star that occurs when it exhausts its nuclear fuel. It can happen in two main ways:

1. A massive star collapsing under its gravity.
2. A white dwarf accumulating too much matter from a companion star.

This event releases an immense amount of energy and often leads to the formation of neutron stars or black holes.

**82) Correct Answer:- D**

Biodiversity prospecting or bio-prospecting is the systematic search for biochemical and genetic information in nature in order to develop commercially-valuable products for pharmaceutical, agricultural, cosmetic and other applications.

Bioprospecting involves seeking and exploiting natural resources with potential benefits for humans, which are then utilized to serve societal needs.

Numerous instances of bioprospecting exist, exemplified by discoveries like the antibiotic penicillin derived from *Penicillium* fungi and morphine developed from the opium poppy.

**83) Correct Answer:- A**

Allen's rule is an ecological principle that states that endotherms (warm-blooded animals) from colder climates generally have shorter appendages (such as limbs, ears, and tails) compared to those from warmer climates. Conversely, endotherms from warmer climates tend to have longer appendages.

The rationale behind Allen's rule lies in the concept of surface area and heat exchange. In colder climates, having shorter appendages helps to minimize heat loss and conserve body heat, thus aiding in thermoregulation. Conversely, in warmer climates, longer appendages help dissipate excess body heat, facilitating heat loss and aiding in cooling.

Example:- Brown Bear vs. Black Bear: Brown bears, which inhabit colder climates, tend to have shorter ears and limbs compared to black bears, which live in warmer regions.

**84) Correct Answer:- D**

Myanmar shares its borders with the following countries:

India and China to the north and west.

Bangladesh to the west.

Thailand to the southeast.

Laos to the east.

Vietnam, Cambodia, and Malaysia do not share a border with Myanmar.

**85) CORRECT ANSWER:- D**

- Assertion (A): This is false. While tropical rainforests have high primary productivity, their soils are often poor in nutrients. When the forests are cleared, the soil fertility declines rapidly because the nutrients are primarily stored in the vegetation, not the soil. Intensive agriculture without fertilizers is usually unsustainable in cleared tropical rainforest lands.

- Reason (R): This is true. The tropical rainforest does have very high primary productivity due to abundant sunlight, warmth, and moisture, which support rapid plant growth and diverse ecosystems.

Thus, R is true, but it does not validate the false A.

**86) Correct Answer:- D**

Solution:

- Statement 1 is incorrect because black cotton soil, which is ideal for growing cotton, is not the predominant soil type in Tamil Nadu. Black cotton soil is more commonly found in states like Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Statement 2 is also incorrect. While Tamil Nadu does have nuclear power plants, the primary reasons for its high production of mill-made cotton yarn are related to its established textile industry, skilled labor, and a well-developed industrial infrastructure rather than cheap power from nuclear sources.

Therefore, the correct answer is (d) Neither 1 nor 2.

**87) Correct Answer:- C**

Explanation:

Assertion (A) is false because, first on this list of aluminum-producing countries is China, which produced 41 million metric tons (where as India:- 4.1 million metric tons) of aluminum in 2023, more than half of total global production. China also consumes a considerable amount of aluminum.

Reason (R) is true, as aluminum production is highly energy-intensive, making affordable power critical for the industry.

**88) Correct Answer: A**

Solution:

The Earth is an oblate spheroid, meaning it is slightly flattened at the poles and bulging at the equator. Due to this shape, the poles are closer to the Earth's center compared to any point along the equator or tropics. Thus, the North Pole is the nearest place to the center of the Earth at sea level.

**89) Correct Answer:- C**

Explanation: Agrivoltaic farming is a sustainable practice that integrates solar panels with agricultural land use, allowing for the co-production of food and renewable energy.

This innovative approach leverages the shaded space underneath solar panels to grow crops, increasing land-use efficiency and reducing competition for land between agriculture and solar energy.

Water conservation: The shaded environment can reduce evaporation and runoff, making irrigation more efficient.

Diversified income streams: Farmers can generate additional revenue through land lease payments or by selling electricity to the grid.

Climate resilience: Agrivoltaic farming can improve crop resistance to extreme weather conditions, such as droughts.

**90) Correct Answer: B**

Explanation:

Sonoluminescence is the emission of light that occurs when sound waves generate and collapse gas bubbles in a liquid under high pressure. This collapse produces intense localized heat and pressure, leading to light emission. It is a remarkable phenomenon studied for its implications in fluid mechanics, thermodynamics, and the study of high-energy processes.

**91) Correct Answer:- A**

Explanation:

- Statement 1 (Incorrect):
  - o Biochar is not produced through direct combustion, which releases carbon dioxide. Instead, it is produced through pyrolysis, a process that decomposes biomass in a low-oxygen environment, converting it into a stable carbon-rich material.
- Statement 2 (Correct):
  - o Biochar improves soil microbial activity by creating a stable habitat and enhances nutrient retention due to its high porosity and cation exchange capacity.
- Statement 3 (Correct):
  - o Biochar is a climate mitigation tool as it sequesters carbon in the soil for long periods, reducing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels.
- Statement 4 (Incorrect):
  - o Biochar generally does not increase soil acidity or salinity. Instead, it often neutralizes soil pH and is beneficial for saline soils by improving water retention

and nutrient availability.

**92) Correct Answer:- B**

Explanation:

1. Incorrect. The Indian Ocean is the second-largest tuna-producing region, contributing 21% of the world's tuna production, not over 30%
2. Correct. The EEZ around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands offers untapped potential for species like yellowfin tuna (24,000 tonnes) and skipjack tuna (22,000 tonnes) annually
3. Correct. India primarily exports neritic tuna, harvested closer to the shore, as the region's oceanic tuna fishery remains underdeveloped
4. Correct. Challenges such as lack of modern fishing technologies, infrastructure, and processing facilities hinder the full utilization of India's tuna potential

**93) Correct Answer:- B**

Statement 1 is INCORRECT:-

Financial bills are of three types:

1. Money bills
2. Financial bills (I)- Article 117(1)
3. Financial bills (II)- Article 117(3)

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 which contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in the article 110 of the constitution.

Statement 2 is correct:- Money bill is considered to be a government bill and can be introduced only by a Minister.

Note:-

Money Bill:-

To introduce this bill, recommendation of President is required.

Rajya Sabha does not have the power to amend or reject the Money Bill.

Whether a bill is a money bill or not is decided by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.

The recommendation of the President of India is needed to introduce Money Bill.

Money Bill can be introduced only in Lok Sabha.

To resolve the deadlock on Money Bill, there is no provision for a joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Money Bills are dealt with by Article 110 of the Constitution.

Money Bill only deals with provisions mentioned in Article 110.

Money Bill is a Government Bill.

**94) Correct Answer:- B**

Preventive Detention (Article 22) undermines the essence of the chapter on Fundamental Rights, granting the State arbitrary authority and infringing upon individual liberty. Unlike other democratic nations, India has incorporated preventive detention as a fundamental aspect of its Constitution, a departure from the global norm.

A, C and D significance of Fundamental Rights.

**95) Correct Answer:- D**

Functions of the NHRC are mainly recommendatory in nature. It has no power to punish the violators of Human Rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim.

Notably, its recommendations are not binding on the concerned government or authority.

**96) CORRECT ANSWER:- B**

Structural unemployment arises due to a mismatch between the skills possessed by workers and the skills demanded by employers. This can occur when industries decline or technological advancements render certain skills obsolete.

For instance, the decline of traditional manufacturing industries leading to job losses or the automation of tasks reducing the demand for manual labor are examples of structural unemployment.

**97) Correct Answer:- B**

Keeping interest rates too low for an extended period can stimulate borrowing and spending in the economy. Increased borrowing and spending can lead to higher demand for goods and services, potentially outpacing the economy's ability to supply them.

When demand exceeds supply, it can lead to upward pressure on prices, resulting in inflation.

In the case of Japan between 1985 and 1989, keeping interest rates too low likely contributed to excessive borrowing, spending, and speculation in asset markets, particularly in real estate and stocks.

This speculative bubble eventually burst, leading to a period of economic stagnation and deflation in Japan known as the "Lost Decade."

Therefore, the mistake of keeping interest rates too low during that period likely accelerated inflation and contributed to the subsequent economic challenges faced by Japan.

**98) CORRECT ANSWER:- A**

Aurora is natural phenomena observed when the magnetosphere is ionized and excited by the solar winds.

These solar winds destabilize the earth's magnetosphere which causes ionization.

It is generally observed in higher latitudes.

**99) Correct Answer:- A**

Some other key events associated with William Bentinck:-

He combined the office of the Collector with that of Magistrate.

He abolished Persian as the court language and introduced English language.

Some of the important Social Reforms associated with William Bentinck are:- Abolition of Sati, Suppression of Thugs and Prevention of female infanticide.

Charter Act of 1833:-

It made the Governor-General of Bengal as the Governor General of India and vested in him all civil and military powers.

It deprived the Governor of Bombay and Bengal of their legislative powers. The Governor-General of India was given exclusive legislative powers for the entire British India.

It ended the activities of the East India Company as a commercial body, which became a purely administrative body.

Act attempted to introduce a system of open competition for selection of civil servants, and stated that the Indians should not be debarred from holding any place, office and employment under the Company. However, this provision was negated after opposition from the Court of Directors.

A new post of law member in the executive council of Governor-General was created by the Charter Act of 1833. Lord Macaulay was made the first law member.

**100) Correct Answer:- B**

The speaker of Lok Sabha is elected generally in the first meeting of the Lok Sabha following general elections, serving for a term of five years, the speaker is chosen from sitting members of the Lok Sabha.