# IIFT General Knowledge

## Sample Paper – 7

**Duration: 22 Minutes** **Maximum Marks: 30**

### Instructions

- This paper contains **20** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the **General Knowledge & Current Affairs** section of the **IIFT MBA** entrance exam (NTA CBT).
- Each correct answer carries **+1.5 marks**. An incorrect answer carries a penalty of **−0.5 marks**. Unattempted questions carry **zero** marks.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Time allocation: **22 minutes** (based on the 120-min/110-Q full paper structure).
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or other electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

**Q1.** India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has grown into one of the world's largest real-time payment systems. By the financial year 2023–24, UPI achieved a landmark in monthly transaction volume. Which of the following best describes this milestone?

(A) UPI crossed 5 billion transactions per month

(B) UPI crossed 8 billion transactions per month

(C) UPI crossed 11 billion transactions per month

(D) UPI crossed 14 billion transactions per month, with annualised value exceeding $2 trillion

**Q2.** **Operation Kaveri** was launched by the Government of India in April 2023 to evacuate Indian nationals who were stranded due to a sudden outbreak of military conflict. From which country did India carry out this evacuation operation?

(A) Sudan

(B) Ukraine

(C) Afghanistan

(D) Yemen

**Q3.** Two widely used price indices in India are the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Study the comparison below and identify the **key difference** that correctly distinguishes WPI from CPI.

| **WPI** | vs | **CPI** |
|---|---|---|
| • Level: Producer/Wholesale | | • Level: Retail/Consumer |
| • Basket: Goods only | | • Basket: Goods + Services |
| • Services: Not included | | • Services: Included |
| • Base year: 2011–12 | | • Base year: 2012 |
| • Released by: DPIIT | | • Released by: MoSPI |

Which statement correctly captures the **primary** difference between WPI and CPI?

(A) WPI measures retail prices of all goods and services, while CPI measures only wholesale prices of goods

(B) WPI measures wholesale prices at the producer level (goods only), while CPI measures retail prices at the consumer level (goods and services)

(C) Both WPI and CPI measure the same basket of goods and services but at different time intervals

(D) WPI is computed by the RBI, while CPI is computed by the Ministry of Finance

**Q4.** India's commercial 5G network was launched in October 2022, marking a significant milestone in the country's telecom sector. Which two telecom operators simultaneously launched 5G services in India, and in which month and year did this take place?

(A) Vodafone Idea and BSNL, January 2023

(B) Reliance Jio and BSNL, October 2022

(C) Reliance Jio and Airtel, October 2022

(D) Airtel and Vodafone Idea, October 2022

**Q5.** The NISAR satellite is a joint Earth-observation mission developed in partnership between two space agencies. What does the acronym **NISAR** stand for, and what is its primary scientific purpose?

(A) National Indian Space Atmospheric Rover; monitoring atmospheric pollution over South Asia

(B) NASA–ISRO Surveillance and Reconnaissance; real-time border surveillance using high-resolution imaging

(C) National Infrastructure Synthetic Aperture Radar; monitoring India's road and rail infrastructure from orbit

(D) NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar; mapping Earth's surface changes including earthquakes, glacier movement, and sea level rise

**Q6.** The Bengal Famine of 1943 was one of the deadliest famines in the history of modern India, occurring during the British colonial period amid the backdrop of World War II. Which British Indian province experienced this famine, and what was the approximate death toll?

(A) Bengal Province, British India; approximately 2–3 million deaths

(B) Madras Province, British India; approximately 1–2 million deaths

(C) Punjab Province, British India; approximately 3–4 million deaths

(D) United Provinces, British India; approximately 1 million deaths

**Q7.** The Government of India Act, 1919 — popularly known as the **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms** — introduced a landmark constitutional change in the governance of British India. Which of the following was the most important constitutional feature introduced by this Act?

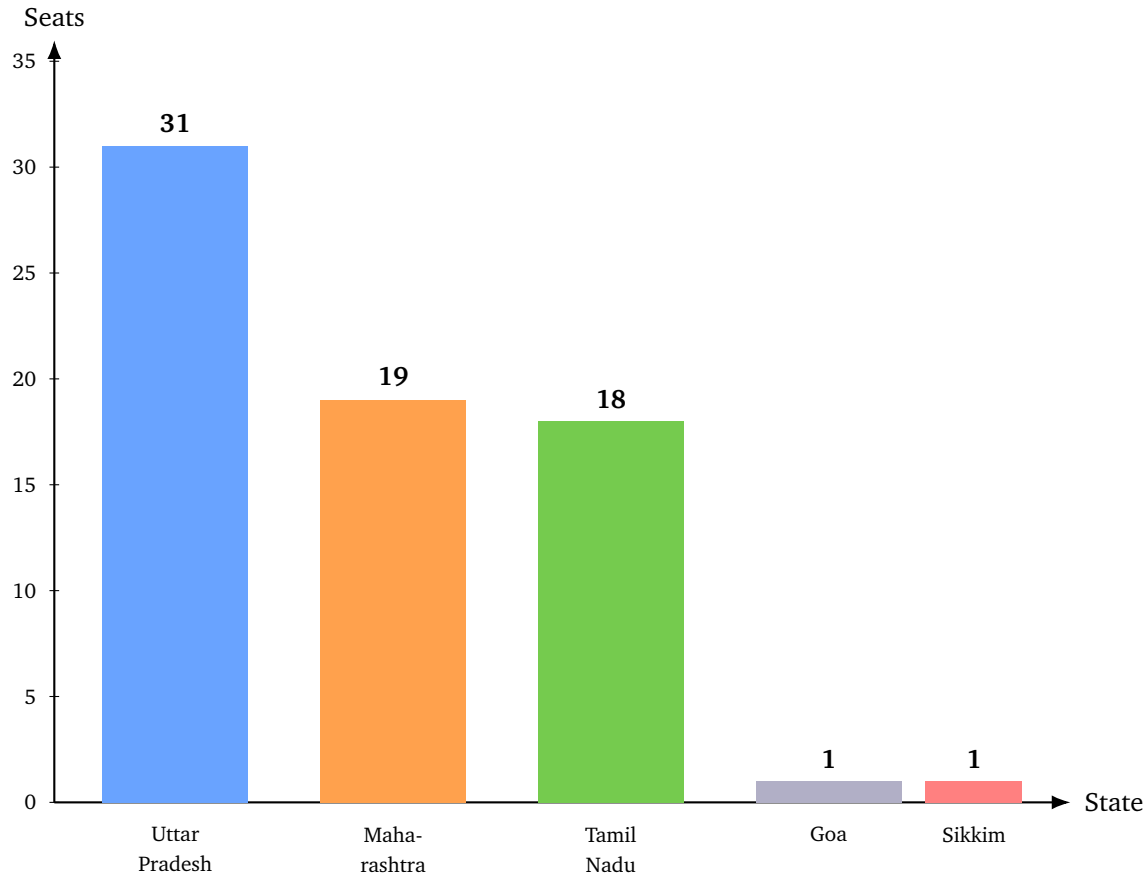
(A) Introduction of separate electorates for Muslims for the first time

(B) Dyarchy in provinces: division of subjects into “transferred” (under elected ministers) and “reserved” (under the Governor)

(C) Full responsible government at the central level with an elected majority legislature

(D) Direct elections to the Indian National Congress working committee

**Q8.** The Constitution of India lays down specific principles for the allocation of seats to states in the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). The bar chart below shows the approximate number of Rajya Sabha seats for selected states. What constitutional principle does this distribution reflect?




Which statement correctly describes the constitutional basis for Rajya Sabha seat allocation?

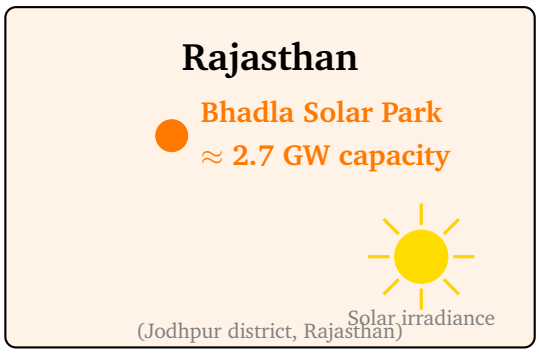
(A) All states have equal representation in the Rajya Sabha, irrespective of population

(B) Rajya Sabha seats are allocated based solely on the geographical area of each state

(C) Rajya Sabha seats are allocated roughly in proportion to the population of each state, so larger states have more seats

(D) Rajya Sabha seats are fixed at 12 per state, with additional nominated members appointed by the President

**Q9.** India has become a global leader in renewable energy. One of the world's largest solar power parks is located in India. Study the schematic map below and answer the question.




In which Indian state is the **Bhadla Solar Park** located, and why is it internationally notable?

(A) Gujarat; it is the first solar park to be connected to the national grid

(B) Maharashtra; it generates more than 5 GW of solar power

(C) Madhya Pradesh; it was built entirely with foreign direct investment under the Make in India programme

(D) Rajasthan; it is one of the world's largest solar power parks with an installed capacity of approximately 2.7 GW

**Q10.** The **Chenab** is one of the five major rivers of the Punjab region that forms part of the Indus river system. In which Indian state does the Chenab River originate?

(A) Himachal Pradesh (Bara Lacha La pass, Lahaul and Spiti region)

(B) Jammu and Kashmir (Pir Panjal range)

(C) Uttarakhand (Gangotri glacier)

(D) Punjab (Ropar district)

**Q11.** **Project Tiger** is India's flagship wildlife conservation programme, launched to protect the Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) and its habitat across the country. In which year was Project Tiger launched, and which was the first tiger reserve established under it?

(A) 1969, Kanha Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh

(B) 1973, Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand (then Uttar Pradesh)

(C) 1980, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan

(D) 1985, Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, West Bengal

**Q12.** **Jim Corbett National Park** holds a unique distinction in the history of Indian wildlife conservation. In which Indian state is it located, and what is its primary historical distinction?

(A) Himachal Pradesh; it is the largest national park by area in India

(B) Madhya Pradesh; it was the first national park to receive Project Tiger funding in 1973

(C) Uttarakhand; it is India's oldest national park, established in 1936 as Hailey National Park during the British era

(D) Rajasthan; it is home to the largest population of Royal Bengal tigers in India

**Q13.** The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 was awarded jointly to three scientists for their discovery and development of a class of nanoscale semiconductor particles that have revolutionised display technology, biomedical imaging, and solar cells. What was this discovery, and who were the laureates?

(A) Discovery of CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing; Jennifer Doudna, Emmanuelle Charpentier, and Feng Zhang

(B) Development of lithium-ion batteries; John Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham, and Akira Yoshino

(C) Development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry; Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, and Barry Sharpless

(D) Discovery of quantum dots; Moungi Bawendi, Louis Brus, and Alexei Ekimov

**Q14.** The **Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission)** was launched by the Government of India as a national campaign to eliminate open defecation, improve solid waste management, and promote cleanliness. On which date and year was the Swachh Bharat Mission officially launched, and what was the significance of that date?

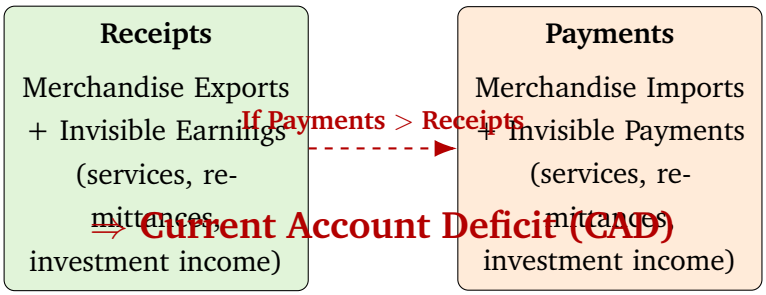
(A) 2 October 2014, Gandhi Jayanti — the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

(B) 15 August 2014, Independence Day — coinciding with the 68th Independence Day celebrations

(C) 26 January 2015, Republic Day — to mark India's constitutional commitment to a clean environment

(D) 1 April 2015, the start of the new financial year — tied to budgetary allocations for sanitation

**Q15.** The **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** is an important macroeconomic indicator monitored closely by the RBI and the Ministry of Finance. Study the diagram below and identify the correct definition of CAD.




Which of the following is the **correct definition** of Current Account Deficit (CAD)?

(A) CAD occurs when a country's foreign exchange reserves fall below three months of import cover

(B) CAD occurs when the total value of imports of goods and services (and net invisible payments) exceeds the total value of exports of goods and services (and net invisible receipts) during a given period

(C) CAD refers to a shortfall in the government's budgetary receipts compared to its total expenditure in a financial year

(D) CAD occurs when the capital account of the Balance of Payments shows a net outflow of foreign direct investment

**Q16.** The **National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL)** was established in India in 2021. What is the primary mandate of NARCL, and why is it commonly referred to as a "Bad Bank"?

(A) NARCL is mandated to provide emergency credit lines to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) facing insolvency

(B) NARCL is a regulatory body set up to oversee the functioning of Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) in India

(C) NARCL was established to acquire stressed/non-performing assets (NPAs) from commercial banks at an agreed transfer price, thereby cleaning up banks' balance sheets

(D) NARCL is a subsidiary of SEBI tasked with recovering money from companies that have defaulted on their listed bonds

**Q17.** India commissioned its first domestically designed and built aircraft carrier in 2022, marking a major milestone in the country's defence indigenisation. Which of the following correctly identifies this vessel, the year of commissioning, and the port where it was commissioned?

(A) INS Vikramaditya; commissioned in 2013 at Mumbai (originally INS Gorshkov, acquired from Russia)

(B) INS Viraat; recommissioned in 2022 at Visakhapatnam after a decade-long refit

(C) INS Vikrant (first); recommissioned in 2022 at Chennai after being salvaged from the original 1997 decommissioning

(D) INS Vikrant (IAC-1); commissioned in 2022 at Kochi, India's first domestically designed and built aircraft carrier

**Q18.** The **2022 Commonwealth Games** (XXII Commonwealth Games) were hosted after a delay caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and featured athletes from 72 Commonwealth nations and territories. Which city hosted the 2022 Commonwealth Games?

(A) Birmingham, United Kingdom

(B) Auckland, New Zealand

(C) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

(D) Gold Coast, Australia

**Q19.** The **Global Innovation Index (GII)** is an annual ranking published by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) that measures the innovation ecosystems of economies worldwide. What was India's rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023?

(A) 46th out of 132 economies

(B) 40th out of 132 economies

(C) 35th out of 132 economies

(D) 52nd out of 132 economies

**Q20.** **Loktak Lake** is a distinctive wetland famous for its unique floating biomass islands and is home to the world's only floating national park. In which Indian state is Loktak Lake located, and what are these floating islands called?

(A) Assam; the floating islands are called *chapori* and support the Kaziranga ecosystem

(B) Meghalaya; the floating islands are called *umiam* and are found on the Umiam reservoir

(C) Manipur; the floating islands are called *phumdis* (heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil, and organic matter), and the national park is Keibul Lamjao

(D) Mizoram; the floating islands are called *tlawng* and are found on the Palak Lake

## Detailed Solutions

**Q1.**

**Solution**

**Concept — UPI Growth in India:** The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in 2016, has become the backbone of India's digital payments ecosystem. It allows real-time inter-bank transactions through mobile devices using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA).

**Step 1 — Recall the milestone:** During the financial year 2023–24, UPI crossed the **14 billion transactions per month** mark on a monthly peak basis, and the annualised transaction value exceeded $2 trillion (approximately Rs. 200 lakh crore). India accounts for nearly 46% of all real-time digital payment transactions globally, outpacing countries like the US, UK, and China.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): 5 billion/month was crossed around 2021–22 — significantly earlier and lower than the 2023–24 milestone.
- Option (B): 8 billion/month was crossed around mid-2022, not the landmark figure for 2023–24.
- Option (C): 11 billion/month was an intermediate figure crossed in early 2023, not the peak milestone for the full FY24 period.

**Final Answer:** UPI crossed 14 billion transactions/month with annualised value over $2 trillion $\Rightarrow$ D

**Answer: (D)** Go Back to Q 1

**Q2.**

**Solution**

**Concept — Indian Evacuation Operations:** India has periodically conducted humanitarian evacuation missions to rescue its citizens from conflict zones abroad. These operations are named and coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Step 1 — Identify Operation Kaveri: Operation Kaveri** was launched by the Government of India in **April 2023** to evacuate Indian nationals from **Sudan** after a violent armed conflict erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on 15 April 2023. Over 3,000 Indian nationals were evacuated through air and sea corridors via Port Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and other transit points. The operation used Indian Air Force aircraft and naval ships.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (B): Ukraine evacuation in 2022 was named **Operation Ganga**, not Operation Kaveri.
- Option (C): Afghanistan evacuation in 2021 was named **Operation Devi Shakti**, not Operation Kaveri.
- Option (D): Yemen evacuations in 2015 were conducted under **Operation Raahat**, not Operation Kaveri.

**Final Answer:** Operation Kaveri evacuated Indian nationals from Sudan $\Rightarrow$ A

**Answer: (A)** Go Back to Q 2

## Q3.

### Solution

**Concept — Price Indices (WPI and CPI):** India uses two primary price indices to measure inflation. The WPI (Wholesale Price Index) tracks price changes at the producer/wholesale level, while the CPI (Consumer Price Index) tracks price changes at the retail/consumer level. They differ in coverage, basket composition, and the level of the supply chain they measure.

**Step 1 — Identify the key difference:** WPI measures the **average change in prices of goods at the wholesale (producer) level**, covering primary articles, fuel and power, and manufactured products — *services are excluded*. CPI measures the **average change in prices of goods and services at the retail (consumer) level**, including food, housing, education, health, transport, and other services. WPI is released by the DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce) while CPI is released by MoSPI. The RBI uses CPI (specifically CPI-Combined) as the headline inflation measure for monetary policy.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): This reverses the definitions — WPI is wholesale (not retail), and CPI covers both goods and services (not only wholesale prices).
- Option (C): WPI and CPI do not measure the same basket; their compositions differ substantially in coverage of services and weights assigned to various categories.
- Option (D): WPI is computed by DPIIT (Ministry of Commerce and Industry), not the RBI. CPI is compiled by MoSPI, not the Ministry of Finance.

**Final Answer:** WPI = wholesale/producer level (goods only); CPI = retail/consumer level (goods and services) $\Rightarrow$ B

**Answer: (B)** Go Back to Q 3

## Q4.

### Solution

**Concept — India's 5G Rollout:** The fifth-generation (5G) mobile network promises significantly higher data speeds, lower latency, and greater connectivity. The Indian government held 5G spectrum auctions in July 2022, and commercial services began shortly thereafter.

**Step 1 — Identify the 5G launchers:** **Reliance Jio** and **Bharti Airtel** simultaneously launched commercial 5G services in India in **October 2022**, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Mobile Congress on 1 October 2022. Jio launched its 5G in four cities (Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Kolkata) while Airtel launched in eight cities. Vodafone Idea and BSNL had not yet launched commercial 5G at that time.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): Vodafone Idea was still in financial difficulty and did not launch 5G in January 2023; BSNL was developing its own 5G technology domestically but had not commercially launched.
- Option (B): BSNL did not launch 5G commercially in October 2022; it was Airtel, not BSNL, that joined Jio.
- Option (D): Vodafone Idea did not launch 5G in October 2022 — only Jio and Airtel did.

**Final Answer:** Reliance Jio and Airtel launched 5G commercially in October 2022 $\Rightarrow$ C

**Answer: (C)** Go Back to Q 4

## Q5.

### Solution

**Concept — NISAR Mission (NASA–ISRO):** NISAR is a bilateral Earth observation satellite mission jointly developed by the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), combining L-band and S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) instruments.

**Step 1 — Expand the acronym and purpose:** **NISAR** stands for **NASA–ISRO**

**Synthetic Aperture Radar**. It is designed to measure and monitor Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses. Key scientific applications include: mapping **earthquake deformation**, monitoring **glacier and ice sheet movement**, tracking **sea level rise**, observing **forest carbon stock changes**, and monitoring **subsidence** over urban and agricultural areas. It uses dual-band radar to scan the globe every 12 days.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): NISAR does not stand for "National Indian Space Atmospheric Rover," and it is not designed primarily for atmospheric pollution monitoring.
- Option (B): NISAR is not a surveillance or reconnaissance satellite; it is a scientific Earth observation mission not intended for border surveillance.
- Option (C): NISAR does not stand for "National Infrastructure Synthetic Aperture Radar," and its mandate is scientific, not infrastructure monitoring.

**Final Answer:** NISAR = NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar; maps Earth's surface changes (earthquakes, glaciers, sea level) $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

**Answer: (D)** Go Back to Q 5

## Q6.

### Solution

**Concept — Bengal Famine 1943:** The Bengal Famine of 1943 was a catastrophic famine that struck the Bengal Province of British India during World War II. It is one of the most studied and debated famines in modern history, with causes ranging from wartime supply disruptions, administrative failures, and food export policies to the "denial policy" aimed at denying resources to a potential Japanese invader.

**Step 1 — Identify province and toll:** The famine occurred in the **Bengal Province** of British India (comprising present-day West Bengal, Bangladesh, and parts of Assam). The estimated death toll is approximately **2 to 3 million people**, primarily from starvation and related diseases such as cholera and malaria. Amartya Sen's seminal work on famines attributes it to a failure of entitlements rather than a shortage of food supply alone.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (B): The Madras Province (now Tamil Nadu) did not experience a

major famine in 1943; the reference is to Bengal specifically.
- Option (C): The Punjab Province had the Great Punjab Famine in 1869–70, not in 1943. No mass famine of this scale struck Punjab in 1943.
- Option (D): The United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh) did not experience a comparably severe famine in 1943.

**Final Answer:** Bengal Province, British India; $\approx$ 2–3 million deaths $\Rightarrow$ A

**Answer: (A)** Go Back to Q 6

## Q7.

### Solution

**Concept — Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms):** The Act resulted from the report submitted by Secretary of State Edwin Montagu and Viceroy Lord Chelmsford in 1918. It significantly restructured provincial governance in British India and introduced a measure of self-governance at the provincial level.

**Step 1 — Identify the key feature — Dyarchy:** The most important feature of the Act was the introduction of **Dyarchy** (dual government) in the provinces. Provincial subjects were divided into two categories: (1) **Transferred subjects** — administered by elected Indian ministers responsible to the provincial legislature (e.g., education, public health, agriculture, local self-government); and (2) **Reserved subjects** — administered by the Governor and his Executive Council, not accountable to the legislature (e.g., law and order, finance, land revenue). This was the first significant experiment with responsible government at the provincial level.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): Separate electorates for Muslims were first introduced by the **Morley-Minto Reforms (Indian Councils Act, 1909)**, not the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919.
- Option (C): Full responsible government at the central level was NOT introduced by the 1919 Act; the Central Government remained under British control. Responsible government at the centre came only with the Government of India Act, 1935.
- Option (D): Direct elections to the Indian National Congress Working Committee are an internal party matter and have no connection to the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms.

**Final Answer:** The 1919 Act introduced Dyarchy in provinces (transferred + re-

served subjects) $\Rightarrow$ B

**Answer: (B)** Go Back to Q 7

## Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept — Rajya Sabha Composition and State Representation:** Under Article 80 of the Constitution of India, the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) can have a maximum of 250 members: up to 238 elected representatives from states and union territories, plus 12 members nominated by the President for their expertise in art, science, literature, and social service.

**Step 1 — Identify the allocation principle:** The Fourth Schedule of the Constitution specifies the number of seats allocated to each state in the Rajya Sabha. Seats are allocated **roughly in proportion to the population** of each state — *not* equally. This is why Uttar Pradesh (most populous) has 31 seats, Maharashtra has 19, Tamil Nadu has 18, while smaller states like Goa and Sikkim have only 1 seat each. This makes the Rajya Sabha differ from the US Senate, where all states have equal representation (2 senators each).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): Equal representation for all states is the principle of the US Senate, not India's Rajya Sabha. The bar chart clearly shows unequal representation.
- Option (B): Geographical area is not the basis for Rajya Sabha seat allocation; India uses population as the primary criterion.
- Option (D): Rajya Sabha seats are not fixed at 12 per state. The 12-member limit refers only to the President's nominated members (from the entire country), not per-state seats.

**Final Answer:** Rajya Sabha seats are allocated roughly in proportion to state population $\Rightarrow$ C

**Answer: (C)** Go Back to Q 8

## Q9.

**Solution**

**Concept — Bhadla Solar Park:** India has aggressively expanded its solar energy capacity as part of its commitment to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030 under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Large solar parks have been developed in states with high solar irradiance.

**Step 1 — Identify location and significance:** The **Bhadla Solar Park** is located in the **Jodhpur district of Rajasthan**. With an installed capacity of approximately **2.7 GW (2,700 MW)**, it is one of the world's largest solar power parks by capacity, spread over approximately 14,000 acres. Rajasthan's Thar Desert region receives among the highest solar irradiance in India (over 6 kWh/m$^2$/day), making it ideal for large-scale solar generation. The park was developed by multiple project developers under the guidance of Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): Gujarat has significant solar capacity (Charanka Solar Park) but Bhadla is in Rajasthan, not Gujarat.
- Option (B): Maharashtra's solar capacity is notable but Bhadla Solar Park is not located there, and its capacity is approximately 2.7 GW, not "more than 5 GW."
- Option (C): Madhya Pradesh has solar parks but Bhadla is specifically in Rajasthan and was not built entirely with FDI.

**Final Answer:** Bhadla Solar Park is in Rajasthan; one of the world's largest solar parks ($\approx$2.7 GW) $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

**Answer: (D)** Go Back to Q 9

## Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept — Chenab River System:** The Chenab is one of the five rivers of the Punjab region (Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) and a major tributary of the Indus River. Under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) between India and Pakistan, the Chenab's waters are allocated primarily to Pakistan.

**Step 1 — Trace the origin:** The Chenab River originates near the **Bara Lacha La pass** in the **Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh**. It is formed by the confluence of two streams, Chandra and Bhaga, near Tandi in Himachal Pradesh

(hence the river is also called the Chandrabhaga in its upper reaches). It flows through Himachal Pradesh, then through Jammu (J&K), before entering Pakistan.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (B): The Chenab does flow through Jammu and Kashmir but does not *originate* there; it originates in Himachal Pradesh before entering J&K.
- Option (C): The Uttarakhand/Gangotri glacier region gives rise to the Ganga (Bhagirathi) and Alaknanda, not the Chenab.
- Option (D): The Chenab does not originate in Punjab's Ropar district; Ropar is where the Sutlej enters the Punjab plains, and the Chenab enters Pakistan much further north.

**Final Answer:** Chenab originates in Himachal Pradesh (Bara Lacha La / Lahaul and Spiti) $\Rightarrow$ A

**Answer: (A)** Go Back to Q 10

## Q11.

### Solution

**Concept — Project Tiger (1973):** Project Tiger is India's most celebrated wildlife conservation initiative, launched to address the rapid decline in tiger populations due to habitat loss and poaching. It is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

**Step 1 — Identify launch year and first reserve:** **Project Tiger** was launched on **1 April 1973** by Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi**. The first tiger reserve to be established under Project Tiger was **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve** in what was then **Uttar Pradesh** (now **Uttarakhand**), followed by eight other reserves including Kanha (MP), Simlipal (Odisha), and Ranthambore (Rajasthan). India currently has over 50 tiger reserves.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): 1969 saw the IUCN resolution and early groundwork for tiger conservation but Project Tiger itself was formally launched in 1973, not 1969; and Kanha was not the first reserve.
- Option (C): Ranthambore Tiger Reserve was established in 1973 as part of Project Tiger, but it was not the *first* — Jim Corbett had that distinction.
- Option (D): Sundarbans Tiger Reserve was designated later in the programme (1973 as well), but Jim Corbett is specifically identified as the first tiger reserve under Project Tiger.

**Final Answer:** Project Tiger was launched in 1973; first reserve was Jim Corbett (then Uttar Pradesh) $\Rightarrow$ B

**Answer: (B)** Go Back to Q 11

## Q12.

### Solution

**Concept — Jim Corbett National Park:** Jim Corbett National Park is one of India's most famous wildlife sanctuaries, known primarily for its Bengal tiger population and diverse ecosystem. It holds a special place in Indian conservation history as the country's first national park.

**Step 1 — Identify state and distinction:** Jim Corbett National Park is located in **Uttarakhand** (in the Nainital and Pauri Garhwal districts, near Ramnagar). It was established in **1936** during the British era as **Hailey National Park** (named after Malcolm Hailey, then Governor of the United Provinces), making it **India's oldest national park**. It was later renamed to Ramganga National Park, and finally to Jim Corbett National Park in 1957, in honour of the famous hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett. It was also the first park selected under Project Tiger in 1973.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): Jim Corbett is in Uttarakhand, not Himachal Pradesh; and it is not the largest national park by area (Hemis National Park in J&K holds that distinction).
- Option (B): Jim Corbett is in Uttarakhand (not Madhya Pradesh), though it did receive Project Tiger funding first in 1973.
- Option (D): Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan is famous for tigers but is not India's oldest national park; and Jim Corbett in Uttarakhand has a renowned tiger population but is not in Rajasthan.

**Final Answer:** Jim Corbett NP is in Uttarakhand; India's oldest national park, established 1936 as Hailey National Park $\Rightarrow$ C

**Answer: (C)** Go Back to Q 12

## Q13.

**Solution**

**Concept — Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023:** The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for outstanding contributions to the field of chemistry. The 2023 prize recognised a foundational discovery in nanotechnology with wide-ranging technological applications.

**Step 1 — Identify the 2023 Chemistry Nobel:** The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 was awarded jointly to **Moungi G. Bawendi** (MIT), **Louis E. Brus** (Columbia University), and **Alexei I. Ekimov** (Nanocrystals Technology) for the **discovery and synthesis of quantum dots**. Quantum dots are nanoscale semiconductor crystals (typically 2–10 nm in diameter) whose electronic and optical properties depend on their size — smaller dots emit blue light, larger dots emit red light. They are used in QLED displays, LED lighting, medical imaging, and photovoltaics.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing was awarded the Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 2020** to Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier; Feng Zhang was notably not included in the 2020 prize.
- Option (B): Lithium-ion batteries were awarded the Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 2019** to John Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham, and Akira Yoshino.
- Option (C): Click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry were awarded the Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 2022** to Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, and K. Barry Sharpless.

**Final Answer:** Nobel Chemistry 2023 = quantum dots; Bawendi, Brus, and Ekimov $\Rightarrow$ D

**Answer: (D)** Go Back to Q 13

## Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept — Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM):** The Swachh Bharat Mission is one of India's largest and most ambitious public health and sanitation campaigns. It was designed to achieve the vision of a "Clean India" by eliminating open defecation (ODF status) and improving solid waste management across rural and urban areas.

**Step 1 — Identify the launch date and significance:** The Swachh Bharat Mission

was officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **2 October 2014**, the **Gandhi Jayanti** (the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi). The date was chosen deliberately to honour Gandhi's lifelong emphasis on cleanliness and sanitation as a moral and public health imperative. The mission had two sub-missions: SBM (Gramin) for rural areas and SBM (Urban) for cities, with a target to achieve ODF status across India by 2 October 2019 (Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (B): 15 August 2014 (Independence Day) did not see the formal launch of Swachh Bharat Mission; Modi did mention cleanliness in his first Independence Day speech as PM, but the formal launch was on 2 October.
- Option (C): 26 January 2015 (Republic Day) has no connection to the Swachh Bharat Mission launch; the mission had already been running for nearly four months by then.
- Option (D): 1 April 2015 (start of FY 2015–16) is not related to the launch date; the mission was launched in October 2014, not April 2015.

**Final Answer:** Swachh Bharat Mission launched on 2 October 2014, Gandhi Jayanti $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

**Answer: (A)** Go Back to Q 14

## Q15.

### Solution

**Concept — Current Account and Balance of Payments:** The Balance of Payments (BoP) has two main accounts: the Current Account and the Capital/Financial Account. The Current Account records all transactions involving goods, services, and transfer payments (including remittances) between residents and non-residents.

**Step 1 — Define Current Account Deficit:** The **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** occurs when a country's **total payments** on the current account (imports of goods + payments for services + outward remittances + investment income paid abroad) **exceed** its **total receipts** (exports of goods + receipts for services + inward remittances + investment income received from abroad) during a given period. A CAD means the country is a net borrower from the rest of the world and must finance the gap through capital inflows (FDI, FII, ECBs, etc.).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): A fall in foreign exchange reserves below three months of im-

port cover describes a **foreign exchange reserve adequacy** concern, not the definition of CAD.

- Option (C): A shortfall in government receipts versus expenditure describes the **Fiscal Deficit**, not the Current Account Deficit. These are distinct concepts.
- Option (D): A net outflow of FDI from the capital account describes a **Capital Account deficit** or FDI outflow, not the Current Account Deficit.

**Final Answer:** CAD = imports + invisible payments exceed exports + invisible receipts $\Rightarrow$ B

**Answer: (B)** Go Back to Q 15

## Q16.

### Solution

**Concept — NARCL (Bad Bank):** The concept of a "Bad Bank" involves a specialised institution that acquires stressed loans (Non-Performing Assets) from banks at an agreed price, allowing the banks to clean up their balance sheets and resume normal lending activity. India set up this structure in 2021 to tackle the large NPA burden in the banking system.

**Step 1 — Identify NARCL's mandate: NARCL (National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd)** was incorporated in 2021 and is popularly called the **"Bad Bank."** Its primary mandate is to **acquire stressed or non-performing assets** (specifically large NPAs of Rs. 500 crore and above) from commercial banks at a **transfer price** (15% upfront in cash + 85% as Security Receipts backed by a Government of India guarantee). NARCL works alongside India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL), which manages and resolves the acquired assets. This separates the problem of NPA management from the core business of banking.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): NARCL does not provide emergency credit to MSMEs. MSME credit facilities are handled by SIDBI, CGTMSE, and the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).
- Option (B): NARCL is not a regulatory oversight body for ARCs; the RBI regulates ARCs under the SARFAESI Act. NARCL is itself an ARC, not a regulator.
- Option (D): NARCL is not a subsidiary of SEBI and does not deal with bond defaults by listed companies. SEBI regulates the securities market; NARCL deals with bank NPAs under the RBI's framework.

**Final Answer:** NARCL acquires stressed NPA assets from banks to clean up their balance sheets (Bad Bank) $\Rightarrow$ C

**Answer: (C)** Go Back to Q 16

## Q17.

### Solution

**Concept — INS Vikrant (IAC-1):** India's defence indigenisation programme under the "Make in India" initiative has achieved landmark milestones in naval shipbuilding. An aircraft carrier is among the most technically complex naval vessels, and building one domestically was a major strategic achievement.

**Step 1 — Identify the vessel and its facts: INS Vikrant** (Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 / IAC-1) was **commissioned on 2 September 2022** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) in Kochi, Kerala**. It is India's first domestically designed and built aircraft carrier, constructed entirely in India. It displaces approximately 45,000 tonnes, is 262 metres long, and can carry MiG-29K jets and Ka-31 helicopters. The name "Vikrant" pays tribute to India's first aircraft carrier, the original INS Vikrant (decommissioned in 1997).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in 2013 at Mumbai but was *acquired from Russia* (originally INS Gorshkov); it was not domestically designed or built.
- Option (B): INS Viraat was decommissioned in 2017 (not recommissioned in 2022); it was eventually scrapped in 2022 in Alang, Gujarat.
- Option (C): The original INS Vikrant was decommissioned in 1997 and subsequently scrapped; it was not "salvaged" or recommissioned.

**Final Answer:** INS Vikrant (IAC-1), commissioned 2022 at Kochi; India's first domestically designed and built aircraft carrier $\Rightarrow$ D

**Answer: (D)** Go Back to Q 17

## Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept — Commonwealth Games 2022:** The Commonwealth Games is a multi-sport event held every four years, bringing together athletes from Commonwealth nations and territories. The 2022 edition was the 22nd Commonwealth Games.

**Step 1 — Identify the host city:** The **2022 Commonwealth Games** were hosted by **Birmingham, United Kingdom**, from 28 July to 8 August 2022. It was the third time England hosted the Games (after London 1934 and Manchester 2002). India finished fourth on the medal tally with 61 medals (22 gold, 16 silver, 23 bronze). Birmingham's Alexander Stadium served as the main venue.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (B): Auckland, New Zealand hosted the 1990 Commonwealth Games, not 2022.
- Option (C): Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia hosted the 1998 Commonwealth Games, not 2022.
- Option (D): Gold Coast, Australia hosted the immediately preceding **2018** Commonwealth Games (XXI edition), not 2022.

**Final Answer:** 2022 Commonwealth Games were hosted by Birmingham, United Kingdom $\Rightarrow$ A

**Answer: (A)** Go Back to Q 18

## Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept — Global Innovation Index (GII):** The GII is published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in partnership with INSEAD and Cornell University. It ranks economies on their innovation capabilities and outputs using 80 indicators across seven pillars: Institutions, Human Capital and Research, Infrastructure, Market Sophistication, Business Sophistication, Knowledge and Technology Outputs, and Creative Outputs.

**Step 1 — Recall India's 2023 GII rank:** India ranked **40th out of 132 economies** in the **Global Innovation Index 2023**, released by WIPO in September 2023. This was a significant improvement from India's rank of 81st in 2015. India has consistently improved its GII ranking year-on-year through investments in R&D, digital infrastructure, start-up ecosystems, and intellectual property filings. India leads among lower-middle-income economies and all of Central and Southern

Asia.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): India ranked 46th in GII 2021, not in 2023. The 2023 rank was 40th, showing further improvement.
- Option (C): 35th is not India's GII 2023 rank; while India is moving in this direction, the confirmed 2023 rank is 40th.
- Option (D): 52nd was approximately India's GII rank around 2019; by 2023 India had improved significantly to 40th place.

**Final Answer:** India's GII 2023 rank = 40th out of 132 economies (WIPO) $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

**Answer: (B)** Go Back to Q 19

## Q20.

### Solution

**Concept — Loktak Lake and Keibul Lamjao National Park:** India's northeastern states are home to unique and ecologically significant wetlands. Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India and is internationally recognised as a Ramsar site.

**Step 1 — Identify state and features: Loktak Lake** is located in **Manipur**, primarily in the Bishnupur district. It covers approximately 289 sq km. The lake is famous for its **phumdis** — heterogeneous masses of vegetation, soil, and organic matter floating on the lake surface at various stages of decomposition. The lake contains **Keibul Lamjao National Park**, the **world's only floating national park**, which is the last natural habitat of the endangered Sangai deer (*Rucervus eldii eldii*), also called Manipur's brow-antlered deer or "dancing deer." The lake was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in 1990.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Option (A): Assam's *chapori* are riverine sand islands in the Brahmaputra, not the phumdis of Loktak. The Kaziranga ecosystem is riverine, not a floating lake ecosystem.
- Option (B): Meghalaya's Umiam reservoir is a man-made lake with no famous floating islands; "umiam" is the name of the reservoir itself, not floating masses of biomass.
- Option (D): Mizoram's Palak Lake is a scenic lake but does not have floating biomass islands called *tlawng* of ecological significance comparable to Loktak's phumdis.

**Final Answer:** Loktak Lake is in Manipur; floating islands = phumdis; world's only floating national park = Keibul Lamjao $\Rightarrow$ C

**Answer: (C)** Go Back to Q 20

# Answer Key

| Q | Ans | Q | Ans | Q | Ans | Q | Ans | Q | Ans |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | D | 2 | A | 3 | B | 4 | C | 5 | D |
| 6 | A | 7 | B | 8 | C | 9 | D | 10 | A |
| 11 | B | 12 | C | 13 | D | 14 | A | 15 | B |
| 16 | C | 17 | D | 18 | A | 19 | B | 20 | C |