

IIFT General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 8

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. The **Digital India** programme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at transforming the country into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. On which date was the Digital India programme officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- (A) 1 July 2014
- (B) 1 July 2015
- (C) 15 August 2015
- (D) 26 January 2016

Q2. According to India's merchandise trade data for the financial year 2023–24, which country remained India's **largest goods export destination** with exports valued at approximately \$77 billion?

- (A) China

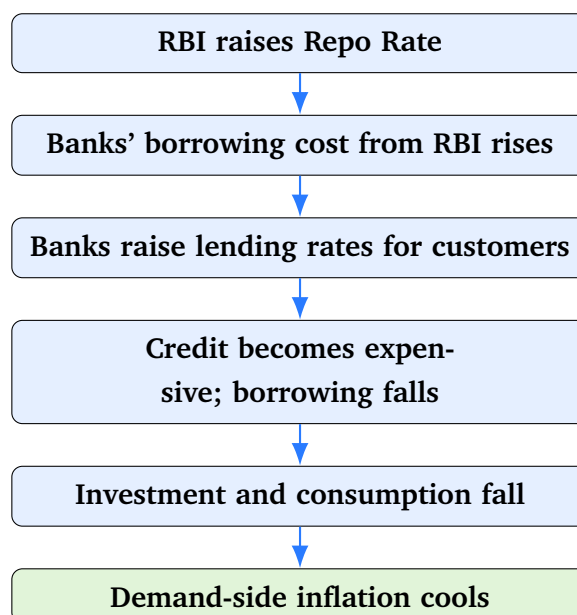


- (B) United Arab Emirates
- (C) United States of America
- (D) Saudi Arabia

Q3. The Government of India launched the **UDAN** scheme as part of the National Civil Aviation Policy to enhance regional air connectivity. Which of the following correctly states the full form of UDAN *and* its primary purpose?

- (A) Udaan Development and Aero Navigation — to build new international airports in metro cities
- (B) Urban Development and Aerodrome Network — to modernise existing major airports for cargo
- (C) Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik — to provide subsidised metro rail connectivity in Tier-2 cities
- (D) Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik — to make air travel affordable on unserved and underserved regional routes

Q4. When the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raises the **repo rate**, a chain of monetary policy transmission effects unfolds across the economy. The diagram below illustrates this chain:



Based on this chain, which of the following correctly describes the **immediate direct effect** of an RBI repo-rate hike?

- (A) Banks' cost of borrowing funds from the RBI increases, making funds costlier for banks
- (B) The government's fiscal deficit automatically falls as borrowing becomes expensive
- (C) Foreign portfolio investors immediately increase equity investments in India
- (D) The RBI prints less currency, directly reducing money supply overnight

Q5. The **Permanent Settlement** of 1793 was a landmark revenue arrangement introduced during British rule in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. Which of the following correctly identifies the person who introduced it and its defining feature?

- (A) Lord Dalhousie; land revenue was collected directly from peasants (Ryotwari System)
- (B) Lord Cornwallis; land revenue was fixed permanently with zamindars who became the proprietors of land
- (C) Lord Wellesley; revenue was assessed village by village through the Mahalwari System
- (D) Lord Curzon; it replaced the Ryotwari System with a tiered zamindar hierarchy

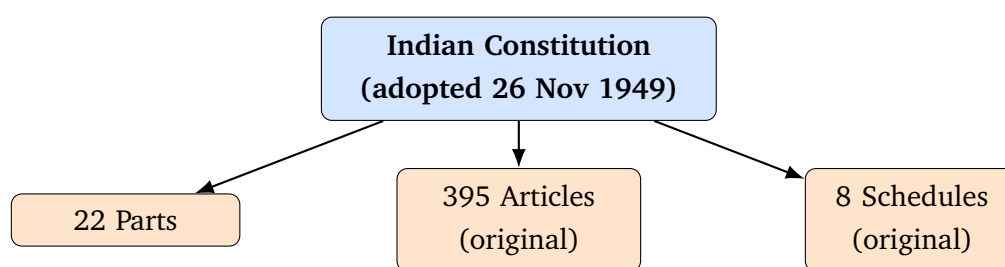
Q6. The **Poona Pact** of September 1932 was a historic political agreement that resolved a major constitutional controversy regarding representation of the depressed classes in legislative bodies. Which of the following correctly describes the parties to the Pact and its key outcome?

- (A) Between Congress and the Muslim League; it agreed to separate Muslim electorates in provincial legislatures
- (B) Between Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Lord Chelmsford; it created a dual governance structure under the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms



- (C) Between B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi; Ambedkar gave up separate electorates for depressed classes in return for increased reserved seats in the general Hindu electorate
- (D) Between Jawaharlal Nehru and Mohammad Ali Jinnah; it proposed joint Hindu-Muslim electorates at the Centre

Q7. The Indian Constitution, adopted on 26 November 1949 and effective from 26 January 1950, is the world's longest written constitution. The diagram below shows its original structural composition:



Which of the following correctly states the number of **original parts**, **original articles**, and **original schedules** at the time the Constitution was adopted?

- (A) 24 Parts, 448 Articles, 10 Schedules
- (B) 22 Parts, 448 Articles, 12 Schedules
- (C) 25 Parts, 470 Articles, 12 Schedules
- (D) 22 Parts, 395 Articles, 8 Schedules
- Q8.** The Indian Constitution provides for the establishment of several constitutional bodies to ensure federal fiscal relations between the Centre and the States. Which constitutional body is established under **Article 280** of the Indian Constitution, and what is its primary function?
- (A) Finance Commission; constituted every five years to recommend the distribution of taxes between the Centre and States
- (B) Planning Commission; constituted to prepare five-year plans for balanced economic development

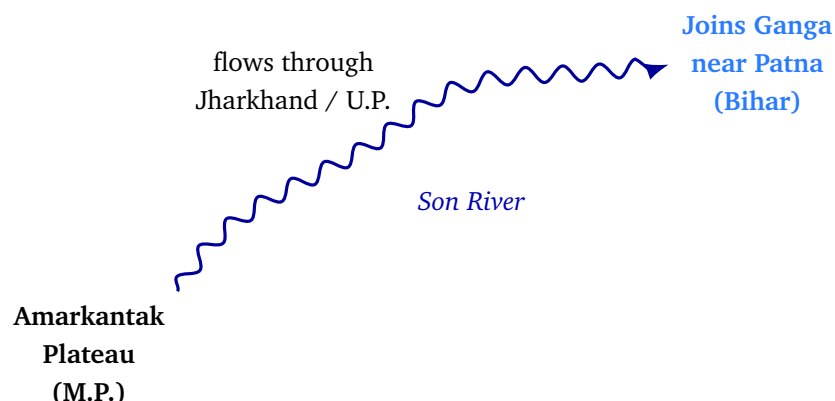


- (C) Comptroller and Auditor General; to audit the accounts of the Union and States
- (D) Inter-State Council; to investigate and recommend solutions to inter-state disputes

Q9. Constitutional amendments have significantly altered the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under Part III of the Indian Constitution. What was the **principal change** brought about by the **44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978**?

- (A) It inserted Article 21A, making the Right to Education a Fundamental Right for children aged 6–14
- (B) It deleted the Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights under Article 19, converting it to a legal right under Article 300-A
- (C) It added the Right to Constitutional Remedies under Article 32 as a non-suspendable right even during Emergency
- (D) It curtailed the powers of the President to proclaim a National Emergency by requiring Cabinet approval

Q10. The **Son River** is one of the major rivers of central India with its source on the Amarkantak plateau. The schematic below traces its course:



The Son River is a right-bank tributary of which major river system, joining it near **Patna** in Bihar?

- (A) Narmada



- (B) Mahanadi
- (C) Ganga
- (D) Godavari

Q11. India has significant mangrove forest cover distributed across its coastal states. According to the India State of Forest Report, which Indian state has the **highest total mangrove cover** in the country, largely owing to the Sundarbans delta?

- (A) Odisha
- (B) Gujarat
- (C) Andhra Pradesh
- (D) West Bengal

Q12. **Wular Lake** is an important freshwater lake and a significant wetland ecosystem. It is a Ramsar site and plays a critical role in flood moderation for the surrounding region. In which Indian state or union territory is Wular Lake located, and what is its national distinction?

- (A) Jammu & Kashmir; it is India's largest natural freshwater lake
- (B) Himachal Pradesh; it is India's highest-altitude freshwater lake
- (C) Uttarakhand; it is the source of the Ganga river system
- (D) Sikkim; it is India's deepest freshwater lake

Q13. Several global and domestic operators have sought to provide **satellite-based broadband internet** services in India (e.g., Starlink, OneWeb, Jio Space). Which regulatory or government body is the **primary authority** responsible for allocating spectrum for satellite internet services in India?

- (A) TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India), which directly allocates spectrum to operators
- (B) DoT (Department of Telecommunications), which grants spectrum licences; TRAI issues recommendations



- (C) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation), since satellites are space assets under its jurisdiction
- (D) MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology), since broadband is a digital infrastructure matter

Q14. The **Nobel Peace Prize 2022** was jointly awarded to three recipients — an individual and two organisations — for their outstanding efforts in documenting human rights abuses, including war crimes, in their respective countries. Which of the following correctly lists all three recipients?

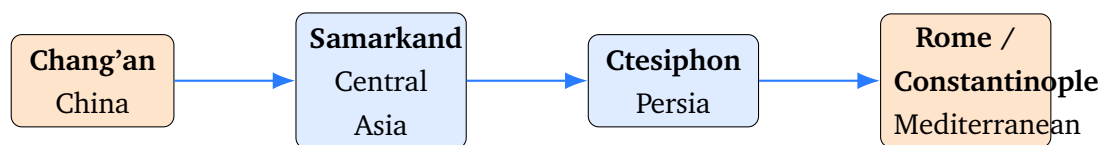
- (A) Narges Mohammadi (Iran), Amnesty International (UK), Human Rights Watch (USA)
- (B) Ales Bialiatski (Belarus), Open Society Foundations (USA), Reporters Without Borders (France)
- (C) Ales Bialiatski (Belarus), Memorial (Russia), Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine)
- (D) Oleksandra Matviichuk (Ukraine), Memorial (Russia), Transparency International (Germany)

Q15. **Samagra Shiksha** is an integrated scheme for school education launched by the Government of India in 2018. It was designed as a single unified programme by merging several pre-existing centrally sponsored schemes. Which three earlier schemes were **subsumed** into Samagra Shiksha?

- (A) Mid-Day Meal Scheme, POSHAN Abhiyaan, and National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship
- (B) Pradhan Mantri Vidya Lakshmi, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao
- (C) Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, National Literacy Mission, and National Skill Development Mission
- (D) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan, and Teacher Education



- Q16.** The **UNDP Human Development Report** publishes the Human Development Index (HDI) ranking countries on health, education, and standard of living. According to the most recently published UNDP HDI report (2023/24), what is India's rank and development category?
- (A) 134th out of 193 countries; Medium Human Development category
(B) 122nd out of 193 countries; High Human Development category
(C) 148th out of 193 countries; Low Human Development category
(D) 107th out of 193 countries; Medium Human Development category
- Q17.** The ancient **Silk Road** was a network of trade and cultural exchange routes that linked major civilisations across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe for more than a millennium. The schematic below depicts the principal overland route:



— Overland Silk Road —

The ancient Silk Road primarily connected which two major regions, facilitating trade in silk, spices, and ideas?

- (A) Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia via the Indian Ocean
(B) China (East Asia) and the Mediterranean world (Europe/Middle East) via Central Asia
(C) Southeast Asia and West Africa via the trans-Saharan route
(D) South Asia and Australia via the Pacific maritime route
- Q18.** India's **Chandrayaan-2** mission was launched by ISRO on 22 July 2019 and comprised an orbiter, a lander (Vikram), and a rover (Pragyan). What is the **current operational status** of Chandrayaan-2?
- (A) The entire mission was lost on 7 September 2019 when contact with the spacecraft was broken



- (B) The lander and rover are operational on the lunar surface and continue to send scientific data
- (C) The orbiter is fully functional and continues to study the Moon; the lander and rover were lost on 7 September 2019 during the final descent
- (D) The mission was decommissioned in 2022 after completing its planned objectives

Q19. India has set an ambitious target for green hydrogen production as part of the **National Green Hydrogen Mission**. NTPC Ltd. commissioned India's first **green hydrogen pilot plant** powered by solar energy for electrolysis. Where is this plant located?

- (A) Dadri, Uttar Pradesh
- (B) Korba, Chhattisgarh
- (C) Mundra, Gujarat
- (D) Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh

Q20. The **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** was enacted to modernise the governance of India's major ports by granting them greater autonomy and a corporate governance structure. Which earlier legislation did this Act **replace**?

- (A) Major Port Trusts Act, 1963
- (B) Indian Ports Act, 1908
- (C) Merchant Shipping Act, 1958
- (D) Coastal Shipping Act, 1976



Detailed Solutions**Q1.****Solution**

Concept — Digital India Programme: Digital India is a flagship programme of the Government of India launched to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It is anchored on three key vision areas: digital infrastructure as a utility to every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.

Step 1 — Recall the launch date: The Digital India programme was officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **1 July 2015** at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. The programme subsumed a number of ongoing schemes which were restructured and implemented under its umbrella.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): 1 July 2014 is a plausible confusion date but is incorrect; the NDA government was sworn in on 26 May 2014 and the programme was formally launched a year later.
- Option (C): 15 August 2015 (Independence Day) saw announcements under Digital India but was not the formal launch date.
- Option (D): 26 January 2016 is Republic Day 2016; unrelated to the Digital India launch.

Final Answer: Digital India was officially launched on 1 July 2015 ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 1](#)

Q2.**Solution**

Concept — India's Export Destinations: India's merchandise exports are spread across multiple global markets. The USA has consistently been India's single-largest goods export destination, absorbing a wide range of Indian exports including engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, gems and jewellery, and IT-related products.

Step 1 — Identify the top export destination: In 2023–24, the **United States of America** was India's largest goods export destination, with bilateral merchandise exports from India valued at approximately **\$77 billion**. The USA accounts for roughly 17–18% of India's total exports, well ahead of any other single country.



Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): China is India's largest import source (not export destination); the trade balance is heavily skewed against India.
- Option (B): UAE is an important trade partner and was the second or third largest export destination, but not the largest.
- Option (D): Saudi Arabia is a significant trade partner (mainly for oil imports to India) but is not among the top export destinations.

Final Answer: USA is India's largest goods export destination in 2023–24 ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 2](#)

Q3.

Solution

Concept — UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme: UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik) is a regional airport development and connectivity scheme launched under the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016. It is a market-based mechanism with viability gap funding (VGF) support from the government.

Step 1 — Full form and purpose: UDAN stands for “Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik” (Let the common citizen of the country fly). Its primary purpose is to **make air travel affordable and widespread** by providing subsidised, capped-fare seats on flights connecting unserved and underserved regional airports, enabling common citizens to access air connectivity.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): “Udaan Development and Aero Navigation” is a fabricated full form; UDAN does not target new international airports in metro cities.
- Option (B): “Urban Development and Aerodrome Network” is also fictitious; UDAN's focus is regional routes, not cargo at major airports.
- Option (C): The full form is correct but the purpose stated (metro rail connectivity) is entirely wrong; UDAN is an aviation scheme.

Final Answer: UDAN = Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik; regional air connectivity at affordable fares ⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 3](#)



Q4.

Solution

Concept — Monetary Policy Transmission (Repo Rate): The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends overnight funds to commercial banks against government securities. A change in the repo rate sets off a chain of effects through the banking system and broader economy, known as the monetary policy transmission mechanism.

Step 1 — Identify the immediate direct effect: When the RBI *raises* the repo rate, the **immediate and direct** effect is that **banks' cost of borrowing from the RBI increases**. Since repo rate is the price of short-term funds for banks, a higher repo rate makes funds costlier for banks, which then transmit this increased cost to their lending rates over time.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The government's fiscal deficit does not automatically fall due to a repo rate hike; fiscal management is a separate policy domain from monetary policy.
- Option (C): A repo rate hike typically discourages foreign portfolio inflows into equities because higher rates signal tighter liquidity and possible slowdown, though the rupee may strengthen.
- Option (D): Printing of currency (seigniorage) is an independent RBI decision; repo rate changes do not directly cause overnight reductions in currency printing.

Final Answer: Immediate direct effect = banks' cost of borrowing from RBI increases $\Rightarrow$ **A**

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 4](#)

Q5.

Solution

Concept — British Land Revenue Systems in India: The British introduced three principal land revenue systems in India: the Zamindari (Permanent Settlement), the Ryotwari System, and the Mahalwari System. Each was designed for different regions and had distinct structural features.

Step 1 — Identify the Permanent Settlement: The Permanent Settlement (also called the Zamindari System) was introduced in 1793 by **Lord Cornwallis** (Governor-General) in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa. Its defining feature was that



land revenue was **permanently fixed** with the zamindars, who were recognised as proprietors of land. In exchange, zamindars paid a fixed sum to the British and could keep any surplus they collected from peasants.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Lord Dalhousie is associated with the Doctrine of Lapse, not the Permanent Settlement; Ryotwari collected revenue directly from cultivators.
- Option (C): Lord Wellesley is known for the Subsidiary Alliance; the Mahalwari System (village-level revenue assessment) was introduced later, primarily in North-Western Provinces.
- Option (D): Lord Curzon (1899–1905) is known for the Partition of Bengal (1905); he did not introduce any new land revenue system.

Final Answer: Permanent Settlement 1793 = Lord Cornwallis; fixed revenue with zamindars permanently ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 5](#)

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Poona Pact 1932: The Poona Pact was a direct consequence of the Communal Award announced by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald in August 1932, which granted separate electorates to depressed classes (Dalits). Mahatma Gandhi, who was imprisoned at the time, began a fast unto death in protest against separate electorates, fearing it would divide Hindu society.

Step 1 — Parties and outcome: The Pact was signed on **24 September 1932** between **B.R. Ambedkar** (representing the depressed classes) and **Mahatma Gandhi**. Ambedkar agreed to give up the separate electorate demand in exchange for a **significant increase in reserved seats** for depressed classes within the general Hindu electorate (from 71 to 148 seats in provincial legislatures). Gandhi ended his fast upon signing.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The Congress-Muslim League agreement relates to the Lucknow Pact (1916), not the Poona Pact.
- Option (B): The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms (1919) were introduced through the Government of India Act, 1919; Tilak died in 1920.
- Option (D): The Nehru-Jinnah dialogue was a separate political strand; no such pact was signed in 1932.



Final Answer: Poona Pact = Ambedkar and Gandhi; gave up separate electorates for increased reserved seats $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 6](#)

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Original Structure of the Indian Constitution: The Constitution of India was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950. Its original structure is frequently tested in competitive examinations. Note that the Constitution has grown over time through amendments: it currently has 25 Parts, approximately 470 Articles, and 12 Schedules.

Step 1 — Recall the original figures: At the time of adoption, the Constitution had **22 Parts, 395 Articles, and 8 Schedules**. The number of schedules grew from 8 to 12 through subsequent amendments (e.g., the 9th Schedule was added by the 1st Amendment, 1951; the 10th Schedule by the 52nd Amendment, 1985).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): 448 articles and 10 schedules reflect a later state of the Constitution, not the original.
- Option (B): While 22 Parts is correct, 448 articles and 12 schedules represent the current (not original) position.
- Option (C): 25 Parts and 470 articles are approximate current figures; 8 original schedules grew to 12.

Final Answer: Original Constitution: 22 Parts, 395 Articles, 8 Schedules $\Rightarrow$

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 7](#)

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Finance Commission (Article 280): The Indian Constitution creates several independent constitutional bodies to safeguard fiscal federalism and accountability. Article 280 specifically establishes the Finance Commission to ensure an equitable sharing of resources between the Centre and States.

Step 1 — Identify the body under Article 280: Article 280 of the Indian Constitution provides for the constitution of a **Finance Commission** by the President of



India every five years (or earlier if deemed necessary). The Finance Commission is tasked with recommending: (a) the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and States (vertical devolution), and (b) the allocation of such proceeds among the States (horizontal devolution). The 16th Finance Commission is currently constituted.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The Planning Commission was a non-constitutional executive body (now replaced by NITI Aayog); it had no constitutional article.
- Option (C): The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) is established under Article 148, not Article 280.
- Option (D): The Inter-State Council is established under Article 263, not Article 280.

Final Answer: Article 280 establishes the Finance Commission $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 8](#)

Q9.

Solution

Concept — 44th Constitutional Amendment, 1978: The 44th Amendment was enacted by the Janata Party government under Prime Minister Morarji Desai. It was largely a corrective measure to undo several changes made by the 42nd Amendment (1976) during the Emergency, and also addressed the Right to Property.

Step 1 — Principal change: The most significant change of the 44th Amendment was the **deletion of the Right to Property** from the list of Fundamental Rights. Article 19(1)(f) (right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property) and Article 31 (right against deprivation of property without authority of law) were removed from Part III (Fundamental Rights). Instead, the right to property was made a **constitutional right** (not a fundamental right) under the newly inserted **Article 300-A**, which simply states that no person shall be deprived of their property save by authority of law.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Article 21A (Right to Education for children) was inserted by the 86th Amendment, 2002, not the 44th.
- Option (C): Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies) already existed; the 44th Amendment did protect it from suspension during Emergency (Ar-



ticle 359 was modified), but this was a secondary change.

- Option (D): While the 44th Amendment did impose conditions on Emergency proclamation (requiring Cabinet approval and written advice), the principal change most universally cited is the deletion of the Right to Property from Fundamental Rights.

Final Answer: 44th Amendment deleted Right to Property from Fundamental Rights; became a legal right under Article 300-A ⇒ **B**

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 9](#)

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Son River and the Ganga Drainage System: India's river systems are broadly classified into Himalayan rivers (perennial) and Peninsular rivers (rain-fed). The Son river is a major peninsular river that rises on the Amarkantak plateau (Madhya Pradesh) and flows northward to join the Ganga.

Step 1 — Identify the parent river: The Son River originates at the **Amarkantak plateau** (near the source of the Narmada, but flowing in the opposite direction). It flows north-eastward through Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh before joining the **Ganga** as a major right-bank tributary **near Patna (Arrah), Bihar**. It is one of the longest right-bank tributaries of the Ganga.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The Narmada originates very close to the Son on the Amarkantak plateau, but flows *westward* into the Arabian Sea; the Son flows *eastward* and joins the Ganga, not the Narmada.
- Option (B): The Mahanadi is an eastern-flowing peninsular river draining into the Bay of Bengal through Odisha; the Son is not its tributary.
- Option (D): The Godavari drains through the Deccan plateau into the Bay of Bengal; the Son does not join it.

Final Answer: Son River joins the Ganga near Patna, Bihar ⇒ **C**

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 10](#)



Q11.

Solution

Concept — Mangrove Forest Cover in India: Mangroves are unique coastal ecosystems found in intertidal zones. India's mangrove cover is assessed biennially by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) in its India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The Sundarbans in West Bengal constitute the world's largest contiguous mangrove delta.

Step 1 — State with highest mangrove cover: West Bengal has the highest mangrove cover among all Indian states, approximately **2,114 sq km**, almost entirely owing to the **Sundarbans** — a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Ramsar wetland that straddles the India–Bangladesh border. West Bengal is followed by Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Odisha has significant mangrove cover (Bhitarkanika mangroves are the second largest in India) but its total cover is less than West Bengal's.
- Option (B): Gujarat has extensive mangrove patches in the Gulf of Kutch and Gulf of Khambhat; it ranks second or third, not first.
- Option (C): Andhra Pradesh has mangroves along the Krishna and Godavari deltas but ranks behind West Bengal and Gujarat.

Final Answer: West Bengal has the highest mangrove cover due to the Sundarbans
⇒ D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 11](#)

Q12.

Solution

Concept — Major Freshwater Lakes of India: India has several notable freshwater lakes. Wular Lake, located in the Kashmir Valley, is of immense ecological, economic (fisheries), and flood-moderation significance. It must be distinguished from Dal Lake (also in J&K) and from high-altitude lakes like Pangong Tso.

Step 1 — Location and distinction of Wular Lake: Wular Lake is located in the **Bandipora district of Jammu & Kashmir**. It is **India's largest natural freshwater lake**, spanning approximately 130–200 sq km depending on seasonal water levels. It is fed by the Jhelum River and is a designated Ramsar wetland site (since 1990). It is also listed under Project Wular for conservation.

Why other options are wrong:



- Option (B): Himachal Pradesh has no claim to India's largest freshwater lake; Renuka Lake and Gobind Sagar reservoir are in Himachal, but they are smaller or man-made.
- Option (C): The Ganga originates from the Gangotri glacier (Gomukh) in Uttarakhand; no major lake there is described as the source.
- Option (D): Sikkim's Gurudongmar Lake is the highest-altitude lake but not India's deepest; Wular Lake is in J&K, not Sikkim.

Final Answer: Wular Lake is in Jammu & Kashmir; it is India's largest natural freshwater lake $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 12](#)

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Regulatory Framework for Satellite Broadband in India: Satellite internet is a rapidly expanding sector. Unlike terrestrial telecom, satellite broadband involves both space and ground segments, creating overlapping jurisdictions among ISRO, DoT, and TRAI in India.

Step 1 — Primary authority for spectrum allocation: The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** under the Ministry of Communications is the **primary statutory authority** for spectrum management in India. It allocates spectrum (including bands used for satellite communications) and grants licences/authorisations. TRAI issues *recommendations* to DoT on tariff, licensing, and spectrum pricing, but the final decision and formal allocation rests with DoT.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): TRAI does not directly allocate spectrum; it only issues recommendations. The TRAI Act 1997 explicitly reserves spectrum allocation for the government/DoT.
- Option (C): ISRO handles the space segment (satellites, launch vehicles) but does not regulate or allocate terrestrial radio spectrum; that function belongs to DoT/WPC (Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing of DoT).
- Option (D): MeitY handles digital infrastructure, IT policy, and cybersecurity but has no role in radio spectrum allocation for satellite communications.

Final Answer: DoT allocates spectrum; TRAI issues recommendations $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 13](#)



Q14.

Solution

Concept — Nobel Peace Prize 2022: The Nobel Committee in Oslo selects recipients who have made outstanding contributions to fraternity between nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the holding and promotion of peace congresses. The 2022 award was notable for recognising civil society efforts in documenting state repression.

Step 1 — Identify all three 2022 recipients: The Nobel Peace Prize 2022 was jointly awarded to:

- **Ales Bialiatski** — a Belarusian human rights defender and leader of the Viasna Human Rights Centre, imprisoned in Belarus.
- **Memorial** — a Russian human rights organisation documenting Soviet-era repressions and current human rights abuses; later forcibly liquidated by Russian authorities.
- **Center for Civil Liberties** — a Ukrainian human rights organisation documenting Russian war crimes in Ukraine.

The Nobel Committee cited their efforts in documenting human rights abuses, war crimes, and advocating for human rights in their countries.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Narges Mohammadi won the Nobel Peace Prize in **2023**, not 2022; Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch were not the 2022 recipients.
- Option (B): Open Society Foundations and Reporters Without Borders were not 2022 Peace Prize recipients.
- Option (D): Oleksandra Matviichuk is the head of the Center for Civil Liberties (one of the 2022 winners), but she received the prize as a representative of the organisation, not individually. Transparency International was not a recipient.

Final Answer: Nobel Peace Prize 2022 = Ales Bialiatski, Memorial (Russia), Center for Civil Liberties (Ukraine) ⇒ C

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 14](#)



Q15.

Solution

Concept — Samagra Shiksha (Integrated Scheme for School Education): The Government of India launched Samagra Shiksha in 2018 as an overarching programme for the school education sector from pre-school to Class XII. It was designed to treat school education holistically, from Early Childhood Care and Education to senior secondary level.

Step 1 — Schemes subsumed: Samagra Shiksha consolidated the following three centrally sponsored schemes:

- **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)** — universal elementary education (Classes 1–8)
- **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** — secondary education (Classes 9–12)
- **Teacher Education (TE)** scheme — improving teacher quality and training infrastructure

By merging these three, the government aimed to ensure a seamless, unified approach to school education at all levels.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Mid-Day Meal Scheme and POSHAN Abhiyaan are separate centrally sponsored schemes related to nutrition; they were not merged into Samagra Shiksha.
- Option (B): PM Vidya Lakshmi is a scholarship scheme; Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya is a component within SSA; Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is a separate social campaign.
- Option (C): While RMSA is correctly included, the National Literacy Mission (for adult literacy) and National Skill Development Mission are separate programmes not subsumed into Samagra Shiksha.

Final Answer: Samagra Shiksha merged SSA, RMSA, and Teacher Education ⇒

D

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 15](#)



Q16.

Solution

Concept — UNDP Human Development Index: The HDI is a composite statistic of life expectancy, education (mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling), and per capita income indicators. Countries are ranked across four tiers: Very High, High, Medium, and Low Human Development.

Step 1 — India's rank in HDI 2023/24: According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2023/24, India ranked **134th out of 193 countries** with an HDI value of 0.644. India falls in the **Medium Human Development** category. India's rank has improved over successive reports as life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators have improved, but it remains behind most of Southeast Asia and all of its BRICS peers except South Africa.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): Rank 122 with High Human Development would place India alongside countries like Egypt or South Africa; India has not yet crossed into the High HDI category.
- Option (C): Rank 148 with Low Human Development is an overestimate of India's developmental challenges; India's HDI score places it in the Medium category.
- Option (D): Rank 107 is too optimistic for India's current position in the HDI rankings.

Final Answer: India ranks 134th (Medium Human Development) in UNDP HDI 2023/24 ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 16](#)

Q17.

Solution

Concept — The Ancient Silk Road: The Silk Road was not a single road but a network of overland and maritime trade routes that facilitated commerce and cultural exchange between civilisations from roughly the 2nd century BCE to the 15th century CE. It is named after the lucrative silk trade which was a major Chinese export.

Step 1 — Primary connection: The Silk Road primarily connected **China (East Asia)** — specifically from the imperial capital Chang'an (modern Xi'an) — through **Central Asia** (passing through cities like Samarkand, Bukhara) and



Persia (Ctesiphon, later Merv) to the **Mediterranean world** (Rome, Byzantium/Constantinople). It facilitated trade in silk, spices, glassware, precious metals, and cultural/religious ideas (including Buddhism and later Islam spreading westward/eastward respectively).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia via the Indian Ocean describes the Indian Ocean maritime trade network, not the overland Silk Road.
- Option (C): A trans-Saharan route between Southeast Asia and West Africa is historically inaccurate; trans-Saharan trade connected North Africa and sub-Saharan West Africa.
- Option (D): A South Asia–Australia Pacific route has no historical basis in classical or medieval trade networks.

Final Answer: Silk Road connected China to the Mediterranean via Central Asia
⇒ B

Answer: (B) [Go Back to Q 17](#)

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Chandrayaan-2 Mission Status: Chandrayaan-2 was ISRO's second lunar exploration mission, comprising an orbiter, the Vikram lander, and the Pragyan rover. The mission had a complex fate because of the lander's failure during the final descent phase.

Step 1 — Current operational status: The Chandrayaan-2 **orbiter** is **fully functional** and continues to orbit the Moon, conducting scientific studies including high-resolution mapping, mineralogical analysis, and study of the Moon's exosphere. However, the **Vikram lander** and **Pragyan rover** were lost on **7 September 2019** when the lander deviated from its planned trajectory during the final 2.1 km of descent and crash-landed. Contact was lost seconds before the intended touchdown.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): The *entire* mission was not lost; the orbiter survived and continues to function. Only the lander-rover component was lost.
- Option (B): The lander and rover never became operational on the lunar surface; they were lost in the crash landing.



- Option (D): The orbiter has not been decommissioned; it has a designed orbital life of approximately 7 years and continues to send scientific data as of the exam date.

Final Answer: Chandrayaan-2 orbiter is fully functional; lander and rover were lost on 7 Sep 2019 ⇒

Answer: (C) [Go Back to Q 18](#)

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Green Hydrogen in India (National Green Hydrogen Mission): India launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with a target to produce 5 MMT (million metric tonnes) of green hydrogen annually by 2030. NTPC Ltd., India's largest power generator, is a key public sector player in the green hydrogen push.

Step 1 — NTPC's first green hydrogen plant: NTPC commissioned India's first green hydrogen pilot plant at its **Simhadri thermal power station in Andhra Pradesh**. The plant uses solar power to electrolyse water, producing green hydrogen. The Simhadri plant is significant as it demonstrated the integration of renewable energy with electrolysis-based hydrogen production at a utility scale.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Dadri (Uttar Pradesh) hosts NTPC's major thermal and gas power stations but was not the location of the first green hydrogen plant.
- Option (B): Korba (Chhattisgarh) is home to one of NTPC's largest thermal power plants but is not associated with the first green hydrogen pilot.
- Option (C): Mundra (Gujarat) hosts Adani Power's private thermal plant; NTPC does not operate a power plant there and it is not the green hydrogen pilot location.

Final Answer: NTPC's first green hydrogen plant is at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh ⇒

Answer: (D) [Go Back to Q 19](#)



Q20.

Solution

Concept — Major Port Authorities Act, 2021: India's major ports (currently 13 in number) have historically been governed under a trust-based legislative framework. The 2021 Act was a significant legislative modernisation replacing decades-old legislation.

Step 1 — Earlier legislation replaced: The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 replaced the **Major Port Trusts Act, 1963**. The 1963 Act governed major ports through Port Trust boards with government nominees. The 2021 Act reconstituted the Port Trusts as **Board of Major Port Authorities** with greater autonomy, a professional board structure, and the power to enter into public-private partnerships and fix tariffs independently — transitioning from a trust model to a corporate-governance model.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (B): The Indian Ports Act, 1908 deals with minor ports (not major ports) and continues to govern non-major ports; it was not replaced by the 2021 Act.
- Option (C): The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 governs the registration, safety, and operation of ships; it is a separate maritime law unrelated to port governance.
- Option (D): There is no significant legislation called the Coastal Shipping Act, 1976 that was replaced by the 2021 Act; coastal shipping is regulated under the Merchant Shipping Act.

Final Answer: Major Port Authorities Act 2021 replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 ⇒ A

Answer: (A) [Go Back to Q 20](#)



Answer Key

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

