

IIFT General Knowledge Sample Paper – 9

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Instructions

- This paper contains **20 questions** to be attempted in **22 minutes**.
- Maximum marks: **30**.
- Marking scheme: **+1.5** for every correct answer; **–0.5** for every wrong answer; **0** for unattempted questions.
- All questions are **single-correct MCQs** (CBT mode).
- **No calculator** is permitted.
- Click on the question number in the Answer Key to jump to its solution.

SECTION: General Knowledge

- Q1.** PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched on 13 October 2021. Which of the following *best* describes its primary objective?
- (A) To construct 100 smart cities across India under a unified urban development framework.
- (B) To digitise all land records in India under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP).
- (C) To create a unified digital platform integrating infrastructure planning across 16 ministries for last-mile connectivity.
- (D) To link all Indian villages with high-speed broadband under the Bharat-Net programme.
- Q2.** Which constitutional amendment introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India and established the GST Council?
- (A) The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016, which inserted Article 279A establishing the GST Council.



- (B) The 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014, which created the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).
- (C) The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, which provided 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.
- (D) The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011, which gave constitutional status to co-operative societies.

Q3. Which of the following statements about INS Vikrant is *correct*?

- (A) INS Vikramaditya is India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, acquired from Russia and commissioned in 2013.
- (B) The original INS Vikrant was built in the United Kingdom and commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1961.
- (C) INS Viraat was built in the United Kingdom and served as India's premier aircraft carrier until 2017.
- (D) INS Vikrant was commissioned on 2 September 2022; it is India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, constructed at Cochin Shipyard, Kerala.

Q4. Consider the following statements about ISRO's Gaganyaan mission:

- i. It is a joint India–NASA human spaceflight mission with a crew of six astronauts.
- ii. Four Indian Air Force pilots were selected as astronaut-designates (Gaganauts) and trained in Russia; an uncrewed test flight precedes the crewed mission.
- iii. It is a joint ISRO–ESA mission with a crew of two that has already flown in 2023.
- iv. Gaganyaan is a robotic mission with no human crew on board.

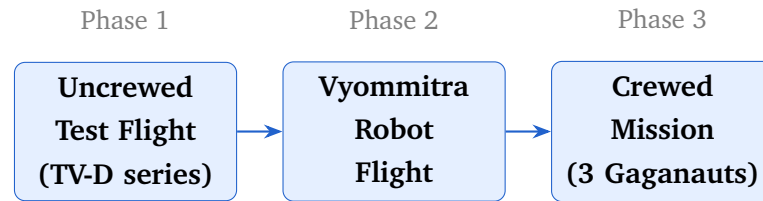
Which statement is *correct*?

- (A) Statement i
- (B) Statement ii



- (C) Statement iii
(D) Statement iv

Gaganyaan Mission Phases:



Q5. The India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) was:

- (A) Signed on 18 February 2022; it was UAE’s first CEPA and was expected to boost bilateral trade to over \$100 billion within five years.
(B) Signed in 2019, focused exclusively on defence procurement and strategic co-operation.
(C) Signed in 2024 by the NDA-3 government as part of its first 100-day agenda.
(D) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), not a full CEPA, signed in 2017 during PM Modi’s UAE visit.

Q6. Which of the following correctly describes the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)?

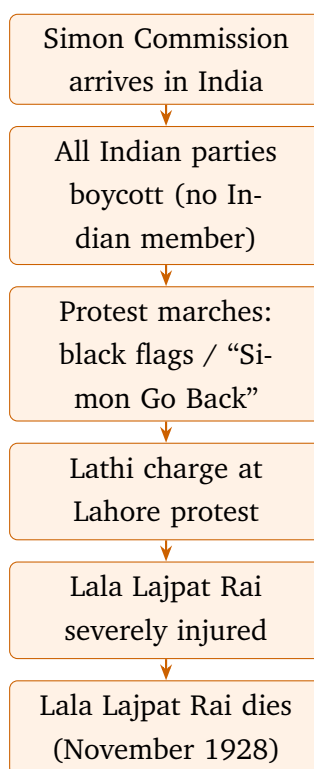
- (A) It provides a health insurance cover of ₹1 lakh per family per year to approximately 10 crore beneficiaries.
(B) It provides a health insurance cover of ₹2 lakh per family per year to approximately 25 crore beneficiaries.
(C) It provides a health insurance cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year to approximately 50 crore beneficiaries from economically weaker sections, making it the world’s largest government-funded health insurance scheme.
(D) It provides a health insurance cover of ₹10 lakh per family per year exclusively to BPL families in 10 States.



Q7. Which of the following statements about the Quit India Movement is *correct*?

- (A) It was launched on 15 August 1947 through a Purna Swaraj resolution at the Lahore session of the Indian National Congress.
- (B) It was launched on 8 August 1942; Gandhi gave the famous ‘Do or Die’ call at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, and the British immediately arrested him along with all major Congress leaders.
- (C) It was launched on 26 January 1930 coinciding with the Purna Swaraj declaration at the Lahore Session.
- (D) It was launched on 1 January 1942 in response to the Chittagong Armoury Raid by Surya Sen.

Q8. Consider the following regarding the Simon Commission (1927):



Which of the following statements about the Simon Commission is *correct*?

- (A) It was boycotted only by the Muslim League because it excluded Muslim members from the commission.

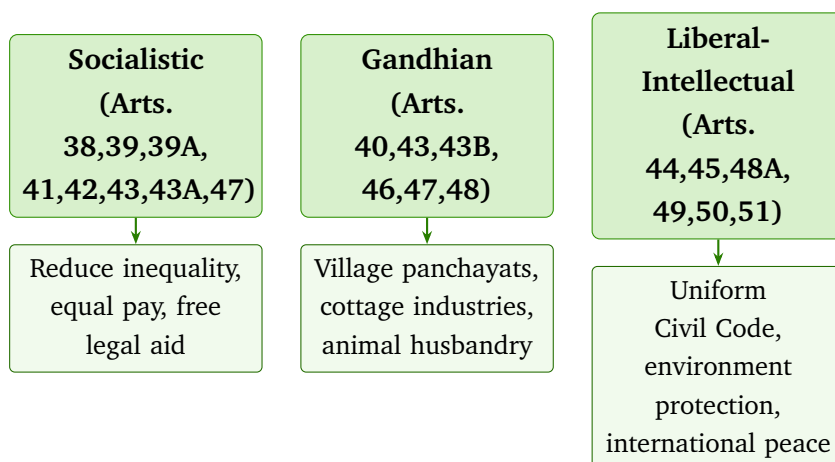


- (B) It was welcomed by the Indian National Congress as it promised Dominion Status to India.
- (C) It was set up to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.
- (D) It was boycotted by all Indian political parties because it had no Indian member; Lala Lajpat Rai led the protest at Lahore and was severely lathi-charged; he died in November 1928.

Q9. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976) is often called the 'Mini-Constitution'. Which of the following changes did it make?

- (A) It added the words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' to the Preamble and inserted Fundamental Duties as Part IVA (Article 51A) of the Constitution.
- (B) It originally inserted the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) into the Constitution as Part IV.
- (C) It restored several provisions that had been curtailed by the 42nd Amendment, including some Fundamental Rights.
- (D) It reduced the voting age from 21 to 18 years for elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Q10. Which of the following correctly describes the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)?



- (A) They are contained in Part III (Articles 12–35), are justiciable in courts, and were borrowed from the US Constitution.



- (B) They are contained in Part IVA (Article 51A), added by the 42nd Amendment, and relate to the fundamental duties of citizens.
- (C) They are contained in Part IV (Articles 36–51), are non-justiciable (cannot be enforced by courts) but are fundamental in governance, and were borrowed from the Irish Constitution.
- (D) They are contained in Part V and deal with the structure and powers of the Union Executive.

Q11. With reference to the Fundamental Duties enshrined in the Indian Constitution, which of the following statements is *correct*?

- (A) They were added by the 44th Constitutional Amendment (1978) and originally numbered 12 duties.
- (B) They were added as Part IVA (Article 51A) by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976) on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee; originally 10 in number, they were increased to 11 by the 86th Amendment (2002).
- (C) They were part of the original Constitution (1950) and initially comprised 8 duties.
- (D) They were introduced by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment (1985) as part of the anti-defection law and number 10 duties.

Q12. Which of the following statements about Chilika Lake is *correct*?

- (A) Wular Lake (Jammu & Kashmir) was India's first Ramsar wetland site, designated in 1990.
- (B) Loktak Lake (Manipur) was India's first Ramsar wetland site, designated in 1990.
- (C) Sambhar Lake (Rajasthan) was India's first Ramsar wetland site, designated in 1990.
- (D) Chilika Lake in Odisha was designated as India's first Ramsar wetland site in 1981; it is also India's largest coastal lagoon and Asia's largest brackish water lagoon, supporting the Irrawaddy dolphin and migratory birds.



Q13. Which of the following correctly describes the Agni-V missile?

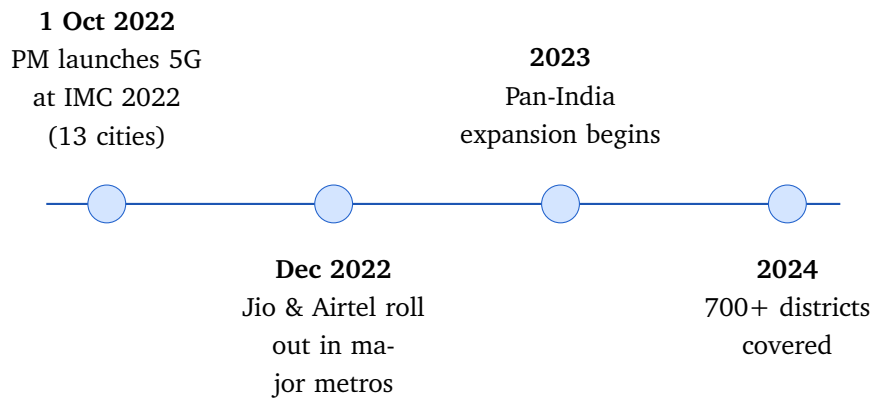
- (A) Agni-V is an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)-class surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of approximately 5,000 km, capable of carrying nuclear warheads; India tested its Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) capability under Mission Divyastra in March 2024.
- (B) Agni-V is a submarine-launched ballistic missile with a range of 8,000 km, tested from INS Arihant.
- (C) Agni-V is a supersonic cruise missile with a range of approximately 1,000 km, jointly developed with Russia.
- (D) Agni-V is an anti-ship ballistic missile designed to target aircraft carriers at a range of 500 km.

Q14. Which of the following statements about the BRICS expansion is *correct*?

- (A) Only Russia and China have the authority to invite new members; three countries joined BRICS in 2022.
- (B) BRICS expanded at the 2024 Kazan Summit, where four countries officially joined.
- (C) At the 2023 BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, six new countries were invited to join: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE; however, Argentina subsequently declined; the remaining five joined on 1 January 2024, making BRICS a 9-member grouping.
- (D) No formal expansion has occurred; the 'BRICS+' format is only an informal dialogue with no new full members.

Q15. India officially launched its 5G services:





- (A) On 15 August 2023 by the Department of Telecommunications; only BSNL provided services in 5 cities initially.
- (B) On 1 October 2022 at the India Mobile Congress in New Delhi; the initial commercial roll-out covered 13 cities, with Jio and Airtel as the first commercial 5G operators.
- (C) On 26 January 2022 with 50 cities covered from the very first day of commercial operations.
- (D) In 2021 during the COVID pandemic as a pilot programme covering 3 metro cities.

Q16. Which of the following correctly describes the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP)?

- (A) It aims to monetize government assets worth ₹1 lakh crore, covering only roads and railways, launched in 2019.
- (B) It is the same as the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) with a target of ₹111 lakh crore.
- (C) It aims to monetize manufacturing assets under the Make in India initiative with a target of ₹20 lakh crore.
- (D) Launched in August 2021, it aims to monetize core government infrastructure assets worth ₹6 lakh crore over FY2022–FY2025; designed by NITI Aayog, it covers roads, railways, airports, ports, power, telecom, and natural gas pipelines.

Q17. Which of the following statements about the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is correct?



- (A) The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, established in 1986, was India's first biosphere reserve; it spans parts of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka, and was the first Indian biosphere reserve to be recognised by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme in 2000.
- (B) The Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve (West Bengal) was India's first biosphere reserve, established in 1987.
- (C) The Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (Uttarakhand), established in 1988, was India's first UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserve.
- (D) The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (Tamil Nadu), established in 1989, was India's first biosphere reserve.

Q18. Which of the following correctly describes a key outcome of the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Summit (9–10 September 2023)?

- (A) Saudi Arabia was admitted as a permanent G20 member; India's theme was 'One World'; the Summit was held in Mumbai.
- (B) Pakistan was invited as a special guest; India's G20 theme was 'Sabka Saath'; the Summit was held in New Delhi.
- (C) The African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20, expanding it from 20 to 21 members; India's G20 Presidency theme was 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- (D) No new permanent member was added; the African Union received only observer status, and the G20 remains a 20-member grouping.

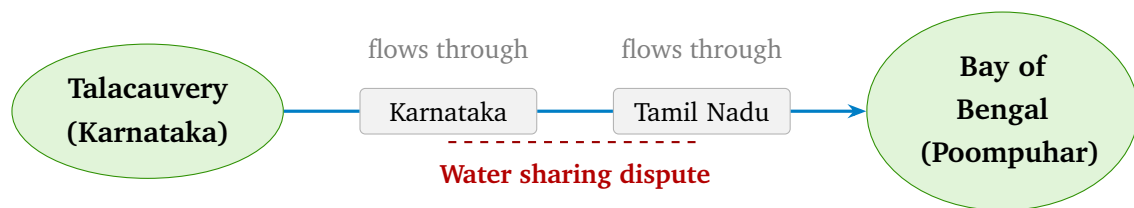
Q19. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is President's Rule imposed in a State, and what is the correct procedure?

- (A) Article 352 – proclaimed by the President on grounds of external aggression or armed rebellion; approved by Parliament by a simple majority.
- (B) Article 356 – imposed by the President on the basis of a report from the Governor (or otherwise) if the constitutional machinery in the State has failed; the proclamation must be approved by both Houses



- of Parliament within two months and can be extended with Parliamentary approval.
- (C) Article 360 – proclaimed by the President when the financial stability or credit of India or any part thereof is threatened.
- (D) Article 356 – requires concurrence of the Supreme Court before the President can impose President's Rule in any State.

Q20. Consider the schematic of the Kaveri (Cauvery) river system:



Which of the following statements about the Cauvery (Kaveri) Water Dispute is *correct*?

- (A) It is a dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over the Krishna river; a tribunal was set up in 2020.
- (B) It is a dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka over the Mahadayi river; an interstate water disputes board was set up in 2010.
- (C) It is a dispute between Rajasthan and Haryana over Yamuna river waters allocated under the Yamuna Water Treaty.
- (D) The Cauvery Water Dispute is primarily between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal gave its final award in 2007; the Supreme Court upheld the award (with modifications) in 2018 and directed the formation of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to oversee water sharing.



DETAILED SOLUTIONS

Solution

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (Q1)

PM GatiShakti National Master Plan was launched on **13 October 2021** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is a digital platform that brings together **16 Central Ministries** – including Railways, Roads, Aviation, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways, and Logistics – on a single unified portal for **integrated and holistic infrastructure planning**. Its goal is to eliminate siloed planning, reduce project delays, and ensure last-mile connectivity.

Key features:

- Q1.
- Integrates National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) of ₹111 lakh crore.
 - Uses GIS-based mapping for real-time data sharing across ministries.
 - Aims at multi-modal connectivity: roads, rail, ports, airports, waterways.
 - Reduces logistics costs and boosts India's competitiveness.

Options (A), (B), and (D) describe other schemes (Smart Cities Mission, DILRMP, BharatNet) – none of these is the primary objective of PM GatiShakti.

Answer: (C)

Solution

101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016 – GST (Q2)

The **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016** brought in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime in India. It:

- Q2.
- Inserted **Article 246A** – empowers both Parliament and State Legislatures to make laws on GST.
 - Inserted **Article 269A** – provides for levy and collection of GST in inter-state trade.
 - Inserted **Article 279A** – constituted the **GST Council** chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

GST was rolled out from **1 July 2017**. The other amendments mentioned in the options serve different purposes:

- 99th Amendment (2014): Created the NJAC – struck down by SC in 2015.
- 103rd Amendment (2019): 10% EWS reservation.
- 97th Amendment (2011): Constitutional status for co-operative societies.



Answer: (A)

Solution

INS Vikrant – India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (Q3)

INS Vikrant (IAC-1) was **commissioned on 2 September 2022** by PM Modi at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, Kerala. Key facts:

- Q3.
- India's **first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier**.
 - Displaces approximately **45,000 tonnes** (full load).
 - Length: 262 m; carries MiG-29K fighters and helicopters.
 - Powered by four General Electric LM2500+ gas turbines.
 - Makes India one of only five nations capable of designing and building an aircraft carrier.

Note: INS Vikramaditya (the other carrier) was purchased from Russia and commissioned in 2013. The original INS Vikrant (R11) was built in the UK and commissioned in 1961 – it was decommissioned in 1997. INS Viraat (ex-HMS Hermes) was also from the UK, decommissioned in 2017.

Answer: (D)

Solution

Gaganyaan – ISRO's Human Spaceflight Mission (Q4)

Gaganyaan is **ISRO's human spaceflight programme** – India's first. Key facts:

- Q4.
- **Four Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots** were selected as astronaut-designates, called **Gaganauts**.
 - They underwent training at **Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC), Russia**.
 - The mission sequence: **Uncrewed test flights (TV-D series) → Vyommitra robot flight → Crewed mission** (3 Gaganauts).
 - It is **entirely an ISRO mission** – not a joint mission with NASA or ESA.
 - The crewed mission has **not yet flown** as of 2025.

Option (A) is wrong (not a joint India-NASA mission; crew is not 6). Option (C) is wrong (no ESA joint mission; not flown in 2023). Option (D) is wrong (it carries human crew, not just robots).

Answer: (B)



Solution**India–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Q5)**

The India–UAE CEPA was **signed on 18 February 2022** in a virtual ceremony between PM Modi and UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Key facts:

- Q5.
- It was **UAE's first CEPA** with any country.
 - Aimed to boost bilateral merchandise trade from \$60 billion to **over \$100 billion** within five years.
 - Entered into **force on 1 May 2022** – the fastest CEPA negotiation for India (88 days).
 - Covers goods, services, investments, and government procurement.
 - Over 90% of Indian goods get **zero-duty** access to the UAE market.

Options (B), (C), and (D) are factually incorrect regarding the date, nature, and scope of the agreement.

Answer: (A)

Solution**Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY (Q6)**

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) was **launched on 23 September 2018** by PM Modi. Key facts:

- Q6.
- Provides health insurance cover of **₹5 lakh per family per year**.
 - Covers approximately **50 crore (500 million) beneficiaries** from poor and vulnerable families – the bottom 40% of India's population.
 - Identified through the **Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011**.
 - Cashless and paperless treatment at **empanelled public and private hospitals**.
 - Recognised as the world's **largest government-funded health insurance scheme**.
 - In 2024, PM Modi extended it to cover all citizens **above 70 years of age**.

Answer: (C)



Solution**Quit India Movement, 1942 (Q7)**

The Quit India Movement (also called the **August Kranti**) was launched by the Indian National Congress at the **Bombay Session on 8 August 1942**. Key facts:

- Q7.
- Mahatma Gandhi gave his famous **“Do or Die”** (Karo Ya Maro) call at **Gowalia Tank Maidan, Bombay** (now August Kranti Maidan).
 - The British government reacted immediately – **Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, and all major Congress leaders were arrested** the very next morning (9 August 1942).
 - The movement was largely **leaderless** thereafter, turning into a mass spontaneous uprising.
 - Parallel governments (Prati Sarkar) were established in Satara (Maharashtra), Tamluk (Bengal), and Ballia (UP).
 - The backdrop: failure of the **Cripps Mission (1942)** and World War II pressure.

Options (A), (C), and (D) contain incorrect dates and descriptions.

Answer: (B)

Solution**Simon Commission, 1927–28 (Q8)**

The **Simon Commission** was appointed by the British government in **November 1927** under Sir John Simon to review the working of the Government of India Act, 1919. Key facts:

- Q8.
- All **seven members were British** – no Indian member was included.
 - All **major Indian political parties** – the INC, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, and others – **boycotted** the commission on grounds of racial discrimination.
 - The commission was greeted with **black flags** and the slogan **“Simon Go Back”** wherever it went.
 - At **Lahore**, **Lala Lajpat Rai** led the protest; police Superintendent James Scott ordered a **lathi charge**.
 - Lala Lajpat Rai was severely injured and **died on 17 November 1928**. His death inspired Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev to plan the killing of Scott (they killed Saunders by mistake).



Option (A) is wrong – the boycott was universal, not just by the Muslim League. Option (B) is wrong – Congress boycotted it. Option (C) is wrong – the Hunter Commission investigated Jallianwala Bagh.

Answer: (D)

Solution

42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 (Q9)

The **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)**, passed during the **Emergency period** by the Indira Gandhi government, is the most sweeping amendment to the Indian Constitution. It:

- Q9.
- Added the words “**Socialist**” and “**Secular**” to the Preamble (also added “integrity”).
 - Inserted **Fundamental Duties** as **Part IVA (Article 51A)** – on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee.
 - Curtailed the **Supreme Court’s power of judicial review**.
 - Made Directive Principles **prevail over Fundamental Rights** (Articles 14 and 19).
 - Extended the term of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies from 5 to 6 years.
 - Many of its provisions were later reversed by the **44th Amendment (1978)**.

Option (D) is incorrect – the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18 by the **61st Amendment (1988)**.

Answer: (A)

Solution

Directive Principles of State Policy (Q10)

The **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)** are contained in **Part IV (Articles 36–51)** of the Indian Constitution. Key features:

- Q10.
- They are **non-justiciable** – i.e., they cannot be enforced in a court of law.
 - However, they are **fundamental in governance** of the country and it shall be the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws (Article 37).
 - Borrowed from the **Constitution of Ireland** (Bunreacht na hÉireann, 1937).
 - Broadly classified into: **Socialistic** (e.g., equal pay, free legal aid), **Gandhian**



(e.g., village panchayats, cottage industries), and **Liberal-Intellectual** (e.g., uniform civil code, environment protection).

Option (A) describes Fundamental Rights (Part III, justiciable). Option (B) describes Fundamental Duties (Part IVA, Article 51A). Option (D) is incorrect (Part V deals with the Union Executive).

Answer: (C)

Solution

Fundamental Duties – Article 51A (Q11)

Fundamental Duties were **not part of the original Constitution (1950)**. They were added by:

- Q11.
- **42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976:** Inserted **Part IVA** (containing only **Article 51A**) with **10 Fundamental Duties**, on the recommendation of the **Swaran Singh Committee**.
 - **86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002:** Added the **11th duty** – “to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward between the age of six and fourteen years.”

Current status: **11 Fundamental Duties** under Article 51A (Parts a to k).

Option (A) is wrong (44th Amendment is about other matters). Option (C) is wrong (they were not in the original Constitution). Option (D) is wrong (52nd Amendment introduced the Tenth Schedule / anti-defection law).

Answer: (B)

Solution

Ramsar Sites – Chilika Lake (Q12)

Chilika Lake in Odisha holds the distinction of being **India’s first Ramsar Wetland site**, designated in **1981** along with Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) – both listed on 1 October 1981. Key facts:

- Q12.
- **India’s largest coastal lagoon** and **Asia’s largest brackish water lagoon**.
 - Area: approximately **1,100 sq km** (varying seasonally).
 - Located on the eastern coast of India (Bay of Bengal).
 - Home to the **Irrawaddy dolphin** (endangered), flamingos, and thousands of migratory birds.



- The Nalabana Island inside Chilika is also a Bird Sanctuary.

Options (A), (B), and (C) incorrectly attribute “first Ramsar site” status to Wular Lake, Loktak Lake, and Sambhar Lake respectively – none of which was the first.

Answer: (D)

Solution

Agni-V – ICBM-Class Ballistic Missile and Mission Divyastra (Q13)

Agni-V is India’s most advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile. Key facts:

- Q13.
- Classification: **ICBM-class** (Intercontinental Ballistic Missile) ballistic missile with a range of approximately **5,000–8,000 km**.
 - Can reach targets across **most of Asia, Europe, and Africa**.
 - Capable of carrying **nuclear warheads**.
 - Developed by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
 - **Mission Divyastra (11 March 2024)**: India successfully tested Agni-V with **Multiple Independently targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV)** – making India the **sixth country** to have MIRV capability (after USA, Russia, China, France, UK).

Option (B) is wrong – submarine-launched missiles in India’s arsenal include K-4/K-5 (not Agni-V). Option (C) describes BrahMos. Option (D) is entirely incorrect.

Answer: (A)

Solution

BRICS Expansion 2023–2024 (Q14)

At the **15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa (22–24 August 2023)**, the five founding BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) invited **six new countries** to join:

- Q14.
- **Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE** – all invited effective 1 January 2024.
 - However, **Argentina** (under new President Javier Milei) **declined** the invitation in December 2023.
 - **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE** joined from **1 January 2024**.



- BRICS thus became a **9-member grouping**: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia (UAE joined but later status needs verification in official sources – Saudi Arabia's full membership also pending activation).

This is often referred to as **BRICS+**. No further expansion at the 2024 Kazan Summit was formally executed.

Answer: (C)

Solution

India's 5G Rollout (Q15)

India officially launched **5G services on 1 October 2022** during the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022** held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Key facts:

- Q15.
- **PM Narendra Modi** launched the services, simultaneously activating 5G in **13 cities** across India.
 - **Reliance Jio** and **Bharti Airtel** were the first commercial 5G operators in India.
 - By **December 2022**: 5G available in most major metros.
 - By **2023**: Pan-India expansion underway with rapid rollout.
 - By **2024**: 5G networks cover **700+ districts** across India.
 - India used **Non-Standalone (NSA)** architecture initially, transitioning to Standalone (SA) 5G.

BSNL is developing its own 4G/5G network but was **not** the first commercial 5G operator.

Answer: (B)

Solution

National Monetization Pipeline (NMP) (Q16)

The **National Monetization Pipeline (NMP)** was **launched in August 2021** by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. Key facts:

- Q16.
- **Target**: Monetize brownfield (existing) infrastructure assets worth **₹6 lakh crore (approximately \$81 billion)** over **FY2022–FY2025**.
 - Designed by **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with the Department of Economic Affairs.



- Sectors covered: **Roads, Railways, Power transmission lines, Natural gas pipelines, Telecom, Airports, Ports, Mining, Stadiums, Warehouses.**
- **Roads** (NHAI) is the largest contributor (₹1.6 lakh crore), followed by Railways (₹1.52 lakh crore) and Power (₹0.85 lakh crore).
- Assets are **leased** to private operators (not sold outright) – ownership remains with the government.

Note: The **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)** is a different scheme targeting ₹111 lakh crore in *new* infrastructure investment – not to be confused with NMP.

Answer: (D)

Solution

Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve – India's First (Q17)

The **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR)** holds the distinction of being **India's first biosphere reserve**, established in **1986** under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme. Key facts:

- Q17. • Spans **5,520 sq km** across three states: **Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.**
- Includes: **Mudumalai (TN), Wayanad (Kerala), Nagarhole and Bandipur (Karnataka)** national parks, and Mukurthi NP.
- **First Indian biosphere reserve to receive UNESCO recognition** under the MAB programme – in the year **2000.**
- Harbours endangered species: Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, gaur, Nilgiri tahr, Lion-tailed macaque.
- The **Toda** tribal community resides in this biosphere reserve.

As of 2025, India has **18 UNESCO-recognised biosphere reserves**. Options (B), (C), and (D) have incorrect establishment years and descriptions.

Answer: (A)

Solution

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Summit, 2023 (Q18)

India held the **G20 Presidency from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.** The **New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** was adopted at the Summit held on **9–10 September 2023** at Bharat Mandapam. Key outcomes:

- Q18. • **African Union (AU)** was admitted as a **permanent member** of the G20,



expanding it from 20 to **21 members**.

- India's G20 Presidency theme: "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future**" (from the Maha Upanishad).
- The Summit achieved consensus on the New Delhi Declaration – a significant diplomatic achievement.
- Key issues: Global debt restructuring, climate finance, digital public infrastructure, food security.
- **India proposed and the G20 endorsed** the Global Biofuels Alliance.

Options (A), (B), and (D) contain factually incorrect details about membership changes, themes, and venue.

Answer: (C)

Solution

Article 356 – President's Rule (Q19)

Article 356 of the Indian Constitution deals with **President's Rule** (also called State Emergency or Constitutional Emergency). Key provisions:

- Q19.**
- The President may impose President's Rule if satisfied *on the report of the Governor* of a State or *otherwise* that the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.
 - The proclamation must be **approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months**.
 - Once approved, it operates for **6 months**; can be extended up to a **maximum of 3 years** (with Parliamentary approval every 6 months; after 1 year, requires a special majority + EC certification of national emergency or difficulty in holding elections).
 - The **44th Amendment (1978)** added that the Lok Sabha must approve even if it has been dissolved.
 - **Bommai Case (1994)**: SC held President's Rule is subject to **judicial review** – courts can strike down if imposed on mala fide grounds.

Option (A) is **Article 352** (National Emergency). Option (C) is **Article 360** (Financial Emergency). Option (D) is wrong – there is no requirement for SC concurrence before imposing President's Rule.

Answer: (B)



Solution**Cauvery (Kaveri) Water Dispute (Q20)**

The **Cauvery Water Dispute** is one of India's longest-running inter-state water disputes. Key facts:

- Q20.**
- **States involved:** Primarily **Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**; also involve Kerala and Puducherry.
 - **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal:** Set up in **1990** under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.
 - **Final Award (2007):** The Tribunal allocated water among the states – Tamil Nadu: 419 TMC ft, Karnataka: 270 TMC ft, Kerala: 30 TMC ft, Puducherry: 7 TMC ft.
 - **Supreme Court Verdict (2018):** Upheld the Tribunal's award with modifications; increased Karnataka's share by 14.75 TMC ft (reducing TN's share accordingly).
 - **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA):** Established in 2018 on SC's direction to monitor and implement water sharing.
 - River source: **Talacauvery**, Kodagu district, Karnataka; meets Bay of Bengal at **Poompuhar**, Tamil Nadu.

Option (A) refers to the Krishna dispute (AP & Telangana). Option (B) refers to Mahadayi dispute (Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra). Option (C) incorrectly names a Rajasthan–Haryana Yamuna dispute in this context.

Answer: (D)



ANSWER KEY

Quick Answer Key (click Q number to jump to solution)									
1	C	2	A	3	D	4	B	5	A
6	C	7	B	8	D	9	A	10	C
11	B	12	D	13	A	14	C	15	B
16	D	17	A	18	C	19	B	20	D

Marking Scheme	Marks	Attempts
Correct	+1.5	
Wrong	-0.5	
Unattempted	0	
Maximum Marks	30	20 Qs
Time Allowed	22 minutes	

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