

# YASASVI General Awareness

## Sample Paper – 10

Duration: 38 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 100

### Instructions

- This paper contains **25** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the General Awareness portion of the **YASASVI** entrance test.
- Each correct answer carries **+4 marks**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **Class 8–9 level — current affairs (national), Indian history, polity and constitution, Indian geography, sports and awards, science and technology, economy and government schemes, books/culture, and computer basics.**
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

**Q1.** As of 2023, India holds which position globally in terms of the number of unicorn startups (privately held companies valued at over \$1 billion)?

- (A) 3rd
- (B) 5th
- (C) 2nd
- (D) 4th

**Q2.** Harappa, one of the two major cities of the Indus Valley Civilisation, is located in which present-day country and region?

- (A) Present-day Rajasthan, India
- (B) Present-day Punjab province, Pakistan



(C) Present-day Sindh province, Pakistan

(D) Present-day Gujarat, India

**Q3.** Under Article 108 of the Indian Constitution, a Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament may be called in case of deadlock over a Bill. Who presides over such a Joint Session?

(A) Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Vice-President of India)

(B) Chief Justice of India

(C) President of India

(D) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

**Q4.** Which of the following correctly describes the geological origin of the Himalayan mountain system?

(A) Block mountains formed by faulting and rifting of the Earth's crust

(B) Volcanic mountains formed by the outpouring of lava over millions of years

(C) Young fold mountains formed by the collision of the Indo-Australian and Eurasian tectonic plates

(D) Residual mountains formed by the erosion of an ancient plateau

**Q5.** Saikhom Mirabai Chanu brought India its first Olympic medal of the Tokyo 2020 Games in weightlifting. Which of the following statements about her achievement is correct?

(A) She won a gold medal in the 55 kg weightlifting event at Tokyo 2020

(B) She won a bronze medal in the 49 kg weightlifting event at Tokyo 2020

(C) She won a gold medal in the 49 kg weightlifting event at Tokyo 2020

(D) She won a silver medal in the 49 kg weightlifting event at Tokyo 2020



- Q6.** India officially announced its No First Use (NFU) nuclear doctrine, committing that India would not be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict, in which year and month?
- (A) January 2003
  - (B) May 1998
  - (C) June 2008
  - (D) August 1999
- Q7.** PM Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 was launched by the Government of India to expand coverage of cooking gas connections. Which of the following best describes PM Ujjwala Yojana 2.0?
- (A) Launched in 2016, it provided free LPG connections to women from below-poverty-line rural households
  - (B) Launched in 2021, it extended LPG connections to migrants and beneficiaries left out during Phase 1
  - (C) Launched in 2019, it provided piped cooking gas connections to urban low-income households
  - (D) Launched in 2022, it offered subsidized LPG refills to all families living below the poverty line
- Q8.** Which of the following accurately describes Din-i-Ilahi, introduced by the Mughal Emperor Akbar?
- (A) A tax reform that replaced multiple levies across the empire with a single unified revenue code
  - (B) A military ranking system that graded Mughal nobles according to the size of their cavalry contingent
  - (C) A syncretic religious movement that blended elements from Islam, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, and Christianity
  - (D) A military strategy developed by Akbar for the conquest and administration of the Deccan region



- Q9.** The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE was a landmark bilateral trade deal. When did it officially come into effect?
- (A) February 2021, making it India's first trade agreement with a Gulf nation
  - (B) June 2022, signed during Prime Minister Modi's state visit to the UAE
  - (C) January 2022, as India's first bilateral free trade agreement after a decade
  - (D) May 2022
- Q10.** According to Article 155 of the Indian Constitution, by whom is the Governor of a state appointed?
- (A) President of India
  - (B) Prime Minister of India
  - (C) Chief Minister of the concerned State
  - (D) Parliament of India by a special majority vote
- Q11.** The Himalayan mountain system is broadly divided into three parallel ranges. Which of the following correctly identifies the Shivalik Hills?
- (A) The highest and northernmost range of the Himalayas, home to the tallest peaks
  - (B) The southernmost and lowest range of the Himalayan system, also called the Outer Himalayas
  - (C) The middle range of the Himalayas, also known as the Himachal or Lesser Himalayas
  - (D) A trans-Himalayan range located to the north of the main Great Himalayan range



**Q12.** Which of the four Vedas is considered the oldest, and is regarded as one of the oldest known religious texts in the world?

- (A) Yajur Veda, which contains procedures and formulas for performing Vedic rituals
- (B) Atharva Veda, which contains hymns, spells, and incantations for everyday life
- (C) Rig Veda, a collection of 1028 hymns dedicated to various deities
- (D) Sama Veda, a collection of musical chants and melodies used in worship

**Q13.** What is “Viksit Bharat @2047,” a key vision articulated by the Government of India?

- (A) India’s vision to become a fully developed nation by 2047, coinciding with the centenary of its independence
- (B) A scheme to achieve 100% electrification of all villages and households by the year 2047
- (C) A United Nations resolution recognising India as a global leader in sustainable development by 2047
- (D) A 25-year national education plan aimed at achieving universal literacy across all states by 2047

**Q14.** Manika Batra created history in table tennis by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. At which edition of the Commonwealth Games did she achieve this feat?

- (A) She won India’s first table tennis medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics in the mixed doubles event
- (B) Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, in the women’s singles table tennis event
- (C) Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, winning gold in the women’s singles category



(D) She won a bronze medal in women's singles table tennis at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

**Q15.** The British East India Company, which later expanded its influence over the Indian subcontinent, was originally established to conduct trade in Asia. How was it formally established?

- (A) Established by King James I in 1613 through the Treaty of Surat with the Mughal Emperor Jahangir
- (B) Established by Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1599 as an informal trading partnership
- (C) Established in 1608 by an Act of Parliament under the reign of King Charles I
- (D) Established by a Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1600

**Q16.** In computing, what is a Database Management System (DBMS)?

- (A) A hardware component that physically stores all the programs and files used by a computer
- (B) A programming language specifically used to design and develop web-based applications
- (C) Software that enables the creation, management, and querying of structured data stored in a database
- (D) A network protocol that governs the transfer of data files between computers over the internet

**Q17.** The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution divides legislative subjects into three lists. Which of the following is true about the Concurrent List (List III)?

- (A) Only Parliament has the exclusive power to make laws on subjects in the Concurrent List



- (B) Only State Legislatures can make laws on subjects included in the Concurrent List
- (C) Only the President can issue ordinances on matters listed in the Concurrent List
- (D) Both Parliament and State Legislatures can make laws on subjects in the Concurrent List

**Q18.** The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, launched by the Government of India, is aimed at reforming how welfare subsidies are delivered. Which of the following best describes the DBT scheme?

- (A) A scheme that provides free smartphones to below-poverty-line beneficiaries to enable digital access
- (B) A scheme that transfers government subsidies and welfare benefits directly to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-linked bank account
- (C) A scheme under which the government directly constructs permanent houses for homeless and displaced families
- (D) A scheme providing interest-free agricultural loans directly to small and marginal farmers via rural banks

**Q19.** Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary is an ecologically significant protected area in India known for its rich biodiversity. Which of the following correctly describes it?

- (A) Located in Odisha, it is India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem and a designated Ramsar wetland site
- (B) Located in West Bengal, it is India's largest mangrove reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- (C) Located in Andhra Pradesh, it is a coral reef sanctuary that has also been designated as a Ramsar site
- (D) Located in Gujarat, it is renowned for its flamingo breeding grounds and extensive mangrove forests



- Q20.** India's 5G telecom services were officially launched, marking a major milestone in the country's digital infrastructure. Which of the following is correct regarding this launch?
- (A) Launched in January 2022 in Mumbai by the Union Minister for Telecommunications
  - (B) Launched in August 2022 in Bengaluru during the India Mobile Congress event
  - (C) Launched in October 2022 in New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi
  - (D) Launched in February 2023 in Chennai, making it India's first 5G-enabled city
- Q21.** Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat made headlines at the Paris 2024 Olympics for a heartbreaking reason just before the gold medal bout. Why was she disqualified from the final?
- (A) She tested positive for a banned performance-enhancing substance before the gold medal bout
  - (B) She withdrew from the final due to a serious knee injury sustained during her semifinal match
  - (C) She was disqualified by the referee for executing an illegal hold during the gold medal match
  - (D) She was found to be 100 grams over the prescribed weight limit for the 50 kg freestyle category
- Q22.** The Sagarmala Programme is a flagship initiative of the Government of India. Which of the following correctly identifies its nature and the ministry that launched it?
- (A) A port-led development initiative launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to modernise India's ports and coastal infrastructure





- (B) A coastal highway construction project launched by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to connect all coastal states
- (C) A welfare scheme for fisherfolk launched by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- (D) A naval modernisation programme under the Ministry of Defence to strengthen India's maritime security

**Q23.** The *Harshacharita* is an important literary and historical source for the 7th century CE in India. Who authored this biography of Emperor Harshavardhana?

- (A) Kalidasa, the celebrated Sanskrit poet and playwright of the Gupta period
- (B) Banabhatta, the court poet of Emperor Harshavardhana
- (C) Hiuen Tsang, the Chinese Buddhist pilgrim who visited Harsha's court
- (D) Harisena, the court poet who composed the Allahabad Pillar Inscription of the Gupta era

**Q24.** The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) provides free legal aid and services to marginalised sections of society in India. Under which legislation was it constituted?

- (A) The National Human Rights Commission Act, 1993
- (B) The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
- (C) The 44th Amendment to the Constitution of India, 1978
- (D) The Advocates Act, 1961, which regulates the legal profession in India

**Q25.** Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) were introduced by the Government of India as a financial instrument to reduce the demand for physical gold. Who issues these bonds?



- (A) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) as a regulated gold-backed investment product
- (B) Commercial banks under a special scheme framed by the Reserve Bank of India guidelines
- (C) The Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Government of India, as a substitute for holding physical gold
- (D) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to provide rural investors a gold savings option



## Solutions & Explanations

### Solution

**Concept:** India's global ranking in unicorn startups (as of 2023)

**Step 1:** A unicorn startup is a privately held company with a valuation of over \$1 billion. India's startup ecosystem has grown rapidly, producing a large number of such companies within a short span.

**Step 2:** As of 2023, India ranks 3rd globally in the number of unicorn startups, behind only the United States (ranked 1st) and China (ranked 2nd). India has over 100 unicorns, reflecting the strength of its technology and innovation ecosystem.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q1.**
- (A) **3rd** – This is correct. India is the world's third-largest unicorn hub as of 2023.
  - (B) **5th** – Incorrect. Countries like the UK and Germany rank below India; India holds 3rd place.
  - (C) **2nd** – Incorrect. China ranks 2nd, ahead of India.
  - (D) **4th** – Incorrect. India's large and growing startup base has secured it the 3rd position globally.

**Answer: (A)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Location of Harappa, a major Indus Valley Civilisation city

**Step 1:** The Indus Valley Civilisation (c. 3300–1300 BCE) had two major urban centres – Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. Harappa gave its name to the civilisation, which is also called the Harappan Civilisation.

**Step 2:** Harappa is located on the banks of the Ravi River in the present-day Punjab province of Pakistan. Mohenjo-daro, the other great city, is located in Sindh province of Pakistan. Both sites were excavated in the early 20th century.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q2.**
- (A) **Present-day Rajasthan, India** – Incorrect. Rajasthan does have Harappan sites (like Kalibangan) but Harappa itself is in Pakistan.
  - (B) **Present-day Punjab province, Pakistan** – Correct. Harappa is in Punjab province, Pakistan.



- (C) **Present-day Sindh province, Pakistan** – Incorrect. Sindh is where Mohenjo-daro is located, not Harappa.
- (D) **Present-day Gujarat, India** – Incorrect. Gujarat has major Harappan sites like Dholavira, but Harappa itself is in Pakistan.

**Answer: (B)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Presiding officer of a Joint Session of Parliament (Article 108)

**Step 1:** Article 108 of the Indian Constitution provides for a Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament when there is a deadlock over an ordinary Bill (not Constitution Amendment Bills or Money Bills). The President summons such a Joint Sitting.

**Step 2:** The Joint Sitting is presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. In the Speaker's absence, the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides. This was notably convened in 2002 for the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q3.**
- (A) **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** – Incorrect. The Vice-President chairs the Rajya Sabha in regular sessions but does not preside over Joint Sittings.
  - (B) **Chief Justice of India** – Incorrect. The CJI has no role in presiding over Parliamentary sessions.
  - (C) **President of India** – Incorrect. The President summons the Joint Sitting but does not preside over it.
  - (D) **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** – Correct. The Speaker presides over the Joint Sitting of both Houses.

**Answer: (D)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Geological classification and formation of the Himalayas

**Step 1:** Mountains are classified based on how they were formed. Fold mountains are created when tectonic plates collide and compress rock layers, causing them to fold upward. Block mountains result from faulting, while volcanic mountains



result from volcanic activity.

**Step 2:** The Himalayas are young fold mountains. They were formed approximately 40–50 million years ago when the northward-moving Indo-Australian Plate collided with the Eurasian Plate. The sediments of the ancient Tethys Sea were compressed and folded upward to form the Himalayan ranges. They are called “young” because they are relatively recent in geological time and are still rising.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q4.**
- **(A) Block mountains formed by faulting** – Incorrect. The Vindhya and Rhine Graben are examples of block mountains; not the Himalayas.
  - **(B) Volcanic mountains** – Incorrect. The Himalayas have no volcanic origin; they are fold mountains.
  - **(C) Young fold mountains formed by the Indo-Australian and Eurasian plates** – Correct. This is the accurate geological description.
  - **(D) Residual mountains formed by erosion** – Incorrect. The Aravallis are an example of residual mountains; the Himalayas are fold mountains.

**Answer: (C)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Mirabai Chanu’s achievement at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

**Step 1:** Saikhom Mirabai Chanu is an Indian weightlifter from Manipur who has been a consistent performer on the international stage. The Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021) was a landmark event for Indian sports.

**Step 2:** Mirabai Chanu won a **silver medal** in the **49 kg** weightlifting category at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics on 24 July 2021. She was the first Indian athlete to win a medal at those Games. She lifted a combined total of 202 kg (87 kg in snatch + 115 kg in clean and jerk).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q5.**
- **(A) Gold medal in the 55 kg event** – Incorrect on both the medal colour and the weight category.
  - **(B) Bronze medal in the 49 kg event** – The weight category is correct but she won silver, not bronze.
  - **(C) Gold medal in the 49 kg event** – The weight category is correct but she won silver, not gold.



- **(D) Silver medal in the 49 kg event** – Correct. She won silver in the 49 kg weightlifting event.

**Answer: (D)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** India's No First Use (NFU) nuclear doctrine – announcement date

**Step 1:** India conducted its nuclear tests (Pokhran-II / Operation Shakti) in May 1998. Following this, India began articulating its nuclear doctrine. A draft nuclear doctrine was released in August 1999.

**Step 2:** India's official nuclear doctrine, including the No First Use (NFU) commitment, was formally adopted and announced by the Cabinet Committee on Security in **January 2003**. The NFU policy means India will not use nuclear weapons first in any conflict; it reserves the right to retaliate only if attacked with nuclear weapons.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q6.**
- **(A) January 2003** – Correct. The Cabinet Committee on Security formalised India's nuclear doctrine in January 2003.
  - **(B) May 1998** – This was when Pokhran-II nuclear tests were conducted, not when the NFU doctrine was announced.
  - **(C) June 2008** – Incorrect. No significant nuclear doctrine announcement was made in June 2008.
  - **(D) August 1999** – This was when a draft nuclear doctrine was released, but the official doctrine was formalised in January 2003.

**Answer: (A)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** PM Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 – purpose and launch year

**Step 1:** PM Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) Phase 1 was launched in May 2016 to provide free LPG connections to women belonging to below-poverty-line households. It successfully covered a large number of beneficiaries across rural India.

**Step 2:** PM Ujjwala Yojana 2.0 was launched in August **2021** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was designed to extend LPG connections to migrant workers



and those households that were left out during Phase 1 of the scheme. A key feature was that migrant beneficiaries did not need to submit address proof of their current residence.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q7.**
- **(A) Launched in 2016 for rural BPL households** – This describes Phase 1 (PMUY 1.0), not Phase 2.
  - **(B) Launched in 2021 to extend to migrants and left-out beneficiaries** – Correct. This accurately describes PM Ujjwala Yojana 2.0.
  - **(C) Launched in 2019 for piped gas in urban areas** – Incorrect. Piped gas in urban areas is covered by a different scheme; PMUY 2.0 focused on LPG cylinders.
  - **(D) Launched in 2022 for all BPL families** – Incorrect in both the year and the description.

**Answer: (B)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Akbar's Din-i-Ilahi – a syncretic religious initiative

**Step 1:** Emperor Akbar (r. 1556–1605) was known for his policies of religious tolerance and synthesis. He held regular discussions with scholars of various faiths at the Ibadat Khana (House of Worship) he built at Fatehpur Sikri.

**Step 2:** Din-i-Ilahi ("Divine Faith") was a syncretic religious movement introduced by Akbar around 1582. It drew elements from Islam, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Jainism, aiming to create a universal spiritual path. It was not a mass religion and had very few followers – mostly Akbar's close courtiers. It did not survive after Akbar's death.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q8.**
- **(A) A tax reform system** – Incorrect. Akbar's revenue reforms (like Todar Mal's Zabti/Dahsala system) are separate from Din-i-Ilahi.
  - **(B) A military ranking system** – Incorrect. This describes the Mansabdari system, not Din-i-Ilahi.
  - **(C) A syncretic movement blending Islam, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, and Christianity** – Correct. This is the accurate description of Din-i-Ilahi.
  - **(D) A military strategy for the Deccan** – Incorrect. Akbar's Deccan cam-



paigms are unrelated to Din-i-Ilahi.

**Answer: (C)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) – effective date

**Step 1:** India and the United Arab Emirates signed their Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on 18 February 2022. It was negotiated in a record time of about 88 days and was seen as a major milestone in bilateral trade relations.

**Step 2:** The India-UAE CEPA came into force (i.e., officially came into effect) on **1 May 2022**. Under this agreement, tariffs on a large number of goods were reduced or eliminated, benefiting Indian exporters in sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles, engineering goods, and pharmaceuticals.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q9.**
- **(A) February 2021** – Incorrect. Formal negotiations began in 2021 but the CEPA was signed and came into effect in 2022.
  - **(B) Signed in June 2022 during PM Modi's UAE visit** – Incorrect on the date; the CEPA was signed in February 2022 in Abu Dhabi.
  - **(C) Came into effect in January 2022** – Incorrect. The CEPA came into effect in May 2022, not January.
  - **(D) Came into effect in May 2022** – Correct. The India-UAE CEPA was operationalised on 1 May 2022.

**Answer: (D)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Article 155 of the Indian Constitution – appointment of Governor

**Step 1:** The Governor is the constitutional head of a state in India, functioning in a manner analogous to the President at the Union level. The Constitution clearly specifies the authority responsible for the Governor's appointment.

**Step 2:** Article 155 states: "The Governor of a State shall be appointed by the





President by warrant under his hand and seal.” This means the President of India appoints the Governor, though in constitutional practice this is done on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President (Article 156).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q10.**
- **(A) President of India** – Correct. Article 155 explicitly vests the power of appointing the Governor in the President.
  - **(B) Prime Minister of India** – Incorrect. Though the PM advises the President, the constitutional authority to appoint is the President's.
  - **(C) Chief Minister of the concerned State** – Incorrect. The Governor is not appointed by the state government.
  - **(D) Parliament by a majority vote** – Incorrect. Parliament does not elect or appoint the Governor.

**Answer: (A)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Shivalik Hills – position in the Himalayan system

**Step 1:** The Himalayas can be broadly divided into three parallel ranges from north to south: (1) the Greater Himalayas (Himadri), (2) the Lesser Himalayas (Himachal), and (3) the Shivalik Hills (Outer Himalayas). Some geographers add the Trans-Himalayan ranges to the north.

**Step 2:** The Shivalik Hills (also known as the Sub-Himalayan Range or Outer Himalayas) are the **southernmost and lowest range** of the Himalayan system. Their elevation typically ranges from 600 to 1500 metres. The Shivaliks run from the Indus River in the west to the Brahmaputra River in the east and are known for their fertile Doon valleys (Doons).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q11.**
- **(A) Highest and northernmost range** – Incorrect. That describes the Greater Himalayas (Himadri), which contains Everest and other highest peaks.
  - **(B) Southernmost and lowest range, also called the Outer Himalayas** – Correct. This is the accurate description of the Shivalik Hills.
  - **(C) Middle range, also known as the Lesser Himalayas** – Incorrect. That describes the Himachal Range (Lesser Himalayas), which lies between the



Shivaliks and the Greater Himalayas.

- **(D) Trans-Himalayan range north of the main Himalayan range** – Incorrect. The trans-Himalayan range (Karakoram, Ladakh) lies to the north of the Greater Himalayas; it is a separate classification.

**Answer: (B)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** The Rig Veda as the oldest of the four Vedas

**Step 1:** The Vedas are the oldest scriptural texts of the Hindu tradition, composed in Vedic Sanskrit. There are four Vedas: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharva Veda. They were transmitted orally for centuries before being written down.

**Step 2:** The **Rig Veda** is universally considered the oldest of the four Vedas, composed roughly between 1500 BCE and 1200 BCE (some scholars place it even earlier). It consists of 1028 hymns (suktas) arranged in 10 mandalas (books), primarily addressed to deities such as Agni, Indra, and Varuna. It is one of the oldest known religious texts in the world.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q12.**
- **(A) Yajur Veda as oldest** – Incorrect. The Yajur Veda is younger than the Rig Veda and contains ritual procedures and mantras for ceremonies.
  - **(B) Atharva Veda as oldest** – Incorrect. The Atharva Veda is generally considered the most recent of the four Vedas.
  - **(C) Rig Veda as oldest, a collection of 1028 hymns** – Correct. This is the accurate description.
  - **(D) Sama Veda as oldest** – Incorrect. The Sama Veda contains musical chants mostly drawn from the Rig Veda and is not the oldest.

**Answer: (C)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Viksit Bharat @2047 – India's development vision

**Step 1:** The year 2047 marks the centenary (100th anniversary) of India's inde-



pendence, which was achieved on 15 August 1947. The Government of India has set this as a key milestone for national development aspirations.

**Step 2:** “Viksit Bharat @2047” (Developed India @2047) is India’s vision to transform into a fully developed nation by 2047. The initiative, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focuses on achieving high economic growth, elimination of poverty, quality healthcare and education, and becoming a leading global power, all by the 100th year of independence. Citizens and states have been invited to contribute ideas under this vision.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q13.**
- **(A) Vision to become a developed nation by 2047, centenary of independence** – Correct. This is the accurate description of Viksit Bharat @2047.
  - **(B) 100% village electrification scheme by 2047** – Incorrect. Village electrification was targeted under the Saubhagya scheme and was largely completed by 2019.
  - **(C) UN resolution recognising India’s global leadership** – Incorrect. Viksit Bharat @2047 is a domestic Government of India vision, not a UN resolution.
  - **(D) 25-year education plan for universal literacy** – Incorrect. Education reforms are covered under the National Education Policy 2020, which is a separate initiative.

**Answer: (A)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Manika Batra – first Indian woman to win gold in table tennis at Commonwealth Games

**Step 1:** Manika Batra is one of India’s most celebrated table tennis players. The Commonwealth Games is a major multi-sport event held every four years among Commonwealth nations.

**Step 2:** At the **2018 Commonwealth Games** held in Gold Coast, Australia, Manika Batra created history by becoming the **first Indian woman to win a gold medal in table tennis** at the Commonwealth Games. She won gold in the women’s singles event, defeating world No. 4 Feng Tianwei of Singapore in the final. She also won gold in the team event at the same Games.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q14.**
- **(A) First medal at 2016 Rio Olympics in mixed doubles** – Incorrect. India



did not win a table tennis medal at Rio 2016; the Commonwealth Games gold was at Gold Coast 2018.

- **(B) Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, women's singles** – Correct. This is where she won India's historic gold medal.
- **(C) Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games** – Incorrect. At Birmingham 2022, Manika Batra won mixed doubles gold and women's singles bronze, but the historic first women's singles gold was at Gold Coast 2018.
- **(D) Bronze medal at 2020 Tokyo Olympics** – Incorrect. India did not win a table tennis medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

**Answer: (B)**

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### Solution

**Concept:** Establishment of the British East India Company (1600)

**Step 1:** The East India Company (EIC), originally called the Governor and Company of Merchants of London Trading into the East Indies, was formed by a group of English merchants who sought to trade with the East Indies (South and South-east Asia).

**Step 2:** The British East India Company was formally established by a **Royal Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1600**. This charter gave it a 15-year monopoly on trade with the East Indies. The Company later became the dominant force in trade with India and, over time, transformed into a political and military power that controlled large parts of the Indian subcontinent before the Crown took over in 1858.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q15.**
- **(A) King James I in 1613 via Treaty of Surat** – Incorrect. The Treaty of Surat (1613) gave the EIC trading rights at Surat, but the Company was established earlier, in 1600, by Queen Elizabeth I.
  - **(B) Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1599** – The year is incorrect; the charter was granted on 31 December 1600, not 1599.
  - **(C) Parliamentary Act under King Charles I in 1608** – Incorrect. The EIC was established by royal charter, not a parliamentary act, and King Charles I reigned from 1625, long after 1600.
  - **(D) Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1600** – Correct. This is the accurate account of the EIC's establishment.



**Answer: (D)**[Go Back to Q15](#)**Solution**

**Concept:** Database Management System (DBMS) – definition and function

**Step 1:** In the field of computer science, data is organised and stored in various ways. A database is a structured collection of data that can be easily accessed, managed, and updated. To interact with databases effectively, specialised software is needed.

**Step 2:** A **Database Management System (DBMS)** is software that provides a systematic way to create, store, retrieve, update, and manage data in a database. It acts as an interface between the end user and the database. Common examples of DBMS software include MySQL, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and PostgreSQL. DBMSs support structured query languages (like SQL) for querying data.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q16.**
- **(A) Hardware that stores programs** – Incorrect. Hardware storage devices (like hard drives, SSDs) store data physically; a DBMS is software, not hardware.
  - **(B) Programming language for web applications** – Incorrect. Web programming uses languages like HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Python; a DBMS is database management software.
  - **(C) Software for creation, management, and querying of structured data** – Correct. This is the standard and accurate definition of a DBMS.
  - **(D) A network protocol for data transfer** – Incorrect. Network protocols (like TCP/IP, HTTP) govern data communication; a DBMS manages databases.

**Answer: (C)**[Go Back to Q16](#)**Solution**

**Concept:** Concurrent List (List III, Seventh Schedule) – legislative powers

**Step 1:** The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution divides legislative powers between the Union and States through three lists: Union List (List I), State List (List II), and Concurrent List (List III). Currently, the Union List has 98 subjects,



the State List has 59 subjects, and the Concurrent List has 52 subjects.

**Step 2:** The Concurrent List contains subjects on which **both Parliament and State Legislatures** can make laws. Examples of subjects in the Concurrent List include education (after the 42nd Amendment), forests, trade unions, marriage and divorce, adoption, and criminal law and procedure. In case of conflict between a central and state law on the same Concurrent subject, the central law prevails (Article 254).

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q17.**
- **(A) Only Parliament can legislate on Concurrent List** – Incorrect. Concurrent means both Parliament and state legislatures can legislate.
  - **(B) Only State Legislatures can legislate on Concurrent List** – Incorrect. The State List (not Concurrent List) has subjects for exclusive state legislation.
  - **(C) Only the President can issue ordinances on Concurrent subjects** – Incorrect. The President can issue ordinances on Union or Concurrent subjects, but state subjects also involve Governors; in any case, both Parliament and states can legislate on Concurrent subjects.
  - **(D) Both Parliament and State Legislatures can legislate on Concurrent List subjects** – Correct. This is the defining feature of the Concurrent List.

**Answer: (D)**

[Go Back to Q17](#)

### Solution

**Concept:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme – mechanism and purpose

**Step 1:** Before DBT, government subsidies in India were often delivered through a chain of intermediaries, leading to leakages, delays, and corruption. The government sought to reform this delivery mechanism to ensure benefits reached the intended beneficiaries efficiently.

**Step 2:** The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, launched in January 2013 and expanded significantly thereafter, transfers government subsidies, scholarships, welfare payments, and other benefits **directly into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts** of beneficiaries. By bypassing intermediaries, it reduces leakage, ensures timely delivery, and promotes financial inclusion. Over 300 central schemes operate under the DBT framework, benefiting hundreds of millions of Indians.

**Why other options are wrong:**



- Q18.**
- **(A) Free smartphones for BPL beneficiaries** – Incorrect. This describes a separate scheme; DBT is about cash or subsidy transfer to bank accounts.
  - **(B) Transfers subsidies directly to Aadhaar-linked bank accounts** – Correct. This is an accurate description of the DBT scheme.
  - **(C) Government directly constructs houses** – Incorrect. House construction is covered under PM Awas Yojana; DBT is a financial transfer mechanism.
  - **(D) Interest-free agricultural loans to farmers** – Incorrect. Kisan Credit Card and other agri-credit schemes address farm credit; DBT is a direct transfer of existing benefits/subsidies.

**Answer: (B)**

[Go Back to Q18](#)

### Solution

**Concept:** Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary – location, mangrove rank, and Ramsar status

**Step 1:** India has several important mangrove ecosystems along its coastline. The Sundarbans in West Bengal is the largest mangrove forest in India (and the world's largest mangrove delta). India also has many Ramsar wetland sites – internationally recognised wetlands of global importance.

**Step 2:** Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Kendrapara district of Odisha, is the **second-largest mangrove ecosystem in India**. It was declared a **Ramsar wetland site** in 2002. It is also a National Park (Bhitarkanika National Park) and is known for its saltwater crocodiles, Olive Ridley sea turtles, and rich avifauna.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q19.**
- **(A) Odisha, second-largest mangroves, Ramsar wetland** – Correct. This is the accurate description of Bhitarkanika.
  - **(B) West Bengal, India's largest mangrove, UNESCO World Heritage** – Incorrect. This describes the Sundarbans in West Bengal, not Bhitarkanika.
  - **(C) Andhra Pradesh, coral reef sanctuary, Ramsar site** – Incorrect. Bhitarkanika is a mangrove sanctuary in Odisha, not a coral reef site in Andhra Pradesh.
  - **(D) Gujarat, flamingo breeding grounds** – Incorrect. The Rann of Kutch and Great Rann are famous for flamingos in Gujarat; Bhitarkanika is in Odisha.





**Answer: (A)**[Go Back to Q19](#)**Solution****Concept:** India's 5G launch – date and location

**Step 1:** 5G (fifth-generation) technology is the latest standard for cellular networks, offering significantly higher data speeds, lower latency, and the capacity to connect many more devices than 4G. Several countries began rolling out 5G networks around 2019–2022.

**Step 2:** India officially launched its 5G telecom services on **1 October 2022** in **New Delhi**, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Mobile Congress 2022 held at Pragati Maidan. Initially, Airtel and Jio launched services in select cities, with rapid expansion planned across the country.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q20.**
- **(A) January 2022 in Mumbai by the Telecom Minister** – Incorrect on both the date and the location; the launch was in October 2022 in New Delhi by the PM.
  - **(B) August 2022 in Bengaluru during India Mobile Congress** – Incorrect. The India Mobile Congress 2022 was held in New Delhi in October, not in Bengaluru in August.
  - **(C) October 2022 in New Delhi by PM Modi** – Correct. India's 5G was launched on 1 October 2022 by Prime Minister Modi.
  - **(D) February 2023 in Chennai as first 5G city** – Incorrect. The 5G launch was in October 2022, not February 2023, and it was inaugurated in New Delhi, not Chennai.

**Answer: (C)**[Go Back to Q20](#)**Solution****Concept:** Vinesh Phogat's disqualification at Paris 2024 Olympics

**Step 1:** Vinesh Phogat is a celebrated Indian wrestler who has won multiple medals at the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. At the Paris 2024 Olympics, she made history by defeating multiple opponents, including world champion and defending Olympic champion Yui Susaki of Japan, to reach the gold





medal bout.

**Step 2:** On the morning of the gold medal final (7 August 2024), Vinesh Phogat was found to be **100 grams over the prescribed weight limit of 50 kg** for her weight category during the official weigh-in. As a result, she was **disqualified** from the competition per World Wrestling regulations. She was subsequently listed as having finished in joint last place, losing even the silver medal she had secured by reaching the final. She later filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) seeking at least a joint silver, which was also rejected.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q21.**
- **(A) Tested positive for banned substances** – Incorrect. There was no doping violation; the disqualification was due to exceeding the weight limit.
  - **(B) Withdrew due to knee injury** – Incorrect. She did not withdraw due to injury; she was disqualified for being overweight.
  - **(C) Disqualified for an illegal hold** – Incorrect. The disqualification happened before the final due to the weigh-in failure, not during the bout.
  - **(D) Found 100 grams over the 50 kg weight limit** – Correct. This is the accurate reason for her disqualification.

**Answer: (D)**

[Go Back to Q21](#)

### Solution

**Concept:** Sagarmala Programme – nature and implementing ministry

**Step 1:** India has a long coastline of approximately 7,500 km and numerous ports. However, for a long time, port infrastructure was underdeveloped, leading to high logistics costs and inefficient freight movement. The government launched an initiative to address this gap.

**Step 2:** The **Sagarmala Programme** is a **port-led development initiative** launched by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** of India. It aims to modernise India's ports, develop new ports, enhance port connectivity (through roads, rail, and coastal shipping), enable port-led industrialisation, and promote coastal community development. It was launched in 2015 with the vision of harnessing India's 7,516 km coastline and extensive network of rivers and waterways for economic development.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q22.**
- **(A) Port-led development by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**



- Correct. This accurately describes the Sagarmala Programme.
- **(B) Coastal highway construction by Road Transport Ministry** – Incorrect. Sagarmala is under the Ports Ministry and focuses on port-led development, not just highway construction.
- **(C) Fishermen welfare scheme under Fisheries Ministry** – Incorrect. While Sagarmala has a coastal community development component, it is primarily a port-led development initiative, not a fisheries welfare scheme.
- **(D) Naval modernisation by Ministry of Defence** – Incorrect. Sagarmala is a civilian economic development programme, not a defence initiative.

**Answer: (A)**

[Go Back to Q22](#)

### Solution

**Concept:** Harshacharita – author and significance

**Step 1:** Emperor Harshavardhana (r. 606–647 CE) was one of the last great Hindu emperors of northern India, ruling from his capital Kanauj. His reign is known from several historical sources, including the account of the Chinese pilgrim Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) and the literary biography Harshacharita.

**Step 2:** The *Harshacharita* (“Deeds of Harsha”) was written by **Banabhatta** (also known as Bana), who was the **court poet (Asthana Kavi)** of Emperor Harshavardhana. It is written in ornate Sanskrit prose and is one of the earliest biographical prose works in Sanskrit literature. Bana also wrote the celebrated romance *Kadambari*.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q23.**
- **(A) Written by Kalidasa** – Incorrect. Kalidasa was a poet of the Gupta period (4th–5th century CE), not the 7th century. He is famous for *Abhijnanasakuntalam* and *Meghaduta*.
  - **(B) Written by Banabhatta, court poet of Harsha** – Correct. Banabhatta authored the Harshacharita.
  - **(C) Written by Hiuen Tsang** – Incorrect. Hiuen Tsang wrote his own travel account (*Si-Yu-Ki*), not the Harshacharita.
  - **(D) Written by Harisena** – Incorrect. Harisena was the court poet of Samudragupta (Gupta era) who composed the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, not the Harshacharita.



**Answer: (B)**[Go Back to Q23](#)**Solution**

**Concept:** National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) – constituting legislation

**Step 1:** Access to justice is a fundamental right in India. However, many marginalised groups – including women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, workers, children, and people with disabilities – cannot afford legal representation. To address this, a statutory body was created to provide free legal aid.

**Step 2:** The **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** was constituted under the **Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987**, which came into force on 9 November 1995. NALSA is headed by the Chief Justice of India and provides free and competent legal services to eligible persons, organises Lok Adalats (People's Courts) for pre-litigation and pending case settlements, and undertakes legal awareness programmes. The Chief Justice of India is its Patron-in-Chief.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q24.**
- **(A) National Human Rights Commission Act, 1993** – Incorrect. The NHRC Act, 1993 established the National Human Rights Commission, not NALSA.
  - **(B) Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987** – Correct. This is the legislation under which NALSA was constituted.
  - **(C) 44th Amendment to the Constitution, 1978** – Incorrect. The 44th Amendment dealt with fundamental rights and property rights; it did not constitute NALSA.
  - **(D) Advocates Act, 1961** – Incorrect. The Advocates Act, 1961 regulates the legal profession and enrolment of advocates; it did not create NALSA.

**Answer: (B)**[Go Back to Q24](#)**Solution**

**Concept:** Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) – issuing authority and purpose

**Step 1:** India is one of the world's largest consumers of gold. A significant portion of savings is held in physical gold (jewellery, coins, bars), which carries risks of theft, storage costs, and does not earn any interest. The government sought to channelise these savings into financial instruments.



**Step 2:** Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) were introduced in November 2015 under the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme. They are issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India**. SGBs are denominated in grams of gold, earn a fixed annual interest of 2.5% on the issue price, and can be redeemed at the prevailing gold price on maturity (8 years). They serve as a substitute for holding physical gold while offering the benefit of gold price appreciation plus interest income.

**Why other options are wrong:**

- Q25.**
- **(A) Issued by SEBI** – Incorrect. SEBI regulates securities markets; it does not issue Sovereign Gold Bonds. SGBs are issued by the RBI.
  - **(B) Issued by commercial banks under RBI guidelines** – Incorrect. While commercial banks and post offices act as distribution channels for SGBs, the bonds are *issued* by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India, not by commercial banks themselves.
  - **(C) Issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India** – Correct. This is the accurate description of who issues Sovereign Gold Bonds.
  - **(D) Issued by NABARD to rural investors** – Incorrect. NABARD focuses on agricultural and rural development financing; it does not issue Sovereign Gold Bonds.

**Answer: (C)**

[Go Back to Q25](#)



**Answer Key**

| Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans | Q  | Ans |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1  | A   | 2  | B   | 3  | D   | 4  | C   | 5  | D   |
| 6  | A   | 7  | B   | 8  | C   | 9  | D   | 10 | A   |
| 11 | B   | 12 | C   | 13 | A   | 14 | B   | 15 | D   |
| 16 | C   | 17 | D   | 18 | B   | 19 | A   | 20 | C   |
| 21 | D   | 22 | A   | 23 | B   | 24 | B   | 25 | C   |

