

YASASVI General Awareness

Sample Paper – 9

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. In 2023, India unveiled the “Horizon 2047” strategic partnership roadmap to deepen cooperation in defence, space, nuclear energy, and trade over the coming 25 years. This roadmap was signed with which country?

- (A) Germany
- (B) France
- (C) Japan
- (D) United Kingdom

Q2. Which ancient work is considered the oldest surviving literary composition in Tamil, classified as a grammar text, and is believed to have been composed during the Sangam Age?

- (A) Thirukkural



- (B) Cilappatikaram
- (C) Tolkappiyam
- (D) Manimegalai

Q3. According to the Indian Constitution, how can the Speaker of the Lok Sabha be removed from office?

- (A) By a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha, after giving at least 14 days' advance notice of the intention to move the resolution
- (B) By a two-thirds majority of members present and voting in a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament
- (C) By the President of India acting on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers
- (D) By a simple majority of members of the Rajya Sabha presenting a petition to the President

Q4. Which of the following statements correctly describes the comparison between the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats of India?

- (A) The Eastern Ghats are higher in elevation and form a more continuous range than the Western Ghats
- (B) Both mountain ranges are roughly equal in elevation and continuity, running parallel along the respective coastlines
- (C) The Western Ghats are lower in elevation but form a more continuous unbroken range than the Eastern Ghats
- (D) The Western Ghats are higher in elevation and form a more continuous range than the Eastern Ghats

Q5. India's all-time leading international goal scorer and football captain, who was the second-highest goal scorer among active international footballers at the time of his farewell, retired from international football in which year?



- (A) 2022
- (B) 2024
- (C) 2023
- (D) 2025

Q6. The Union Cabinet of India approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in 2023 to advance quantum computing, communication, and sensing in India. What is the approved financial outlay and duration of this mission?

- (A) Rs. 4,500 crore over 5 years
- (B) Rs. 7,200 crore over 8 years
- (C) Rs. 6,003 crore over 6 years
- (D) Rs. 10,000 crore over 10 years

Q7. PM POSHAN Abhiyaan (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman), formerly known as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, is a centrally sponsored scheme run by the Ministry of Education. What is its primary objective?

- (A) To improve the nutritional status of children studying in government and government-aided schools by providing one hot cooked meal per school day
- (B) To provide free residential accommodation to economically weaker section students in government schools
- (C) To offer cash scholarships to meritorious girl students who clear Class 10 board examinations with distinction
- (D) To distribute free uniforms and study materials to all children enrolled in primary schools across India

Q8. Who was the brilliant statesman, philosopher, and royal advisor who guided Chandragupta Maurya in overthrowing the Nanda dynasty, trained him in statecraft, and authored the political treatise *Arthashastra*?



- (A) Ashvaghosa
- (B) Vishakhadatta
- (C) Megasthenes
- (D) Chanakya (Kautilya)

Q9. India held the G20 Presidency from December 2022 to November 2023, hosting the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi in September 2023. What was the official theme of India's G20 Presidency?

- (A) "Together for Tomorrow: One People, One Planet"
- (B) "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future"
- (C) "Recovering Together, Recovering Stronger"
- (D) "Sustainable World for Sustainable Development"

Q10. Fundamental Duties were incorporated into the Indian Constitution as Part IV-A under Article 51A on the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee. By which Constitutional Amendment Act were they added?

- (A) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978
- (B) 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985
- (C) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976
- (D) 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002

Q11. Which lake, located in Jammu and Kashmir and fed by the Jhelum River, is recognised as the largest freshwater lake in India?

- (A) Wular Lake
- (B) Sambhar Lake
- (C) Vembanad Lake
- (D) Dal Lake



- Q12.** In 2022, a Hindi novel became the first work originally written in any Indian language to win the International Booker Prize. Which author's work achieved this historic distinction, and what was its English title?
- (A) Amitav Ghosh for "The Hungry Tide"
 - (B) Arundhati Roy for "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness"
 - (C) Jhumpa Lahiri for "The Namesake"
 - (D) Geetanjali Shree for "Tomb of Sand" (original Hindi: *Ret Samadhi*)
- Q13.** The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 – India's first comprehensive legislation governing digital personal data – establishes which statutory body to adjudicate complaints and impose penalties on data fiduciaries?
- (A) National Cyber Security Authority
 - (B) Digital Privacy Ombudsman of India
 - (C) Data Protection Board of India
 - (D) Internet Regulatory Commission of India
- Q14.** Who became the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for and compete in the Olympic Games, performing the extremely difficult "Produnova" vault and finishing fourth in the Women's Vault event at the Rio 2016 Olympics?
- (A) Dipa Karmakar
 - (B) Aruna Budda Reddy
 - (C) Pranati Nayak
 - (D) Raksha Patra
- Q15.** The Ryotwari Settlement was a colonial land revenue system under which the government collected revenue directly from individual peasant cultivators (ryots), bypassing zamindars. It was primarily introduced by:



- (A) Lord Cornwallis – in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa regions
- (B) John Shore – in the North-Western Provinces
- (C) Lord Dalhousie – in Punjab and Central India
- (D) Thomas Munro – primarily in the Madras (Tamil Nadu) and Bombay (Maharashtra) regions

Q16. Which of the following is a type of malicious software (malware) that encrypts a victim's data or locks their system and demands a payment – typically in cryptocurrency – to restore access?

- (A) Firewall
- (B) Ransomware
- (C) Antivirus software
- (D) VPN (Virtual Private Network)

Q17. The Planning Commission of India, established in 1950 to oversee Five Year Plans, was dissolved and replaced by NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India). When was NITI Aayog formally established?

- (A) January 2014
- (B) August 2014
- (C) January 2015
- (D) March 2016

Q18. The FAME India scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India) was launched by the Government of India. What is the primary objective of this scheme?

- (A) To promote the manufacture of fuel-efficient CNG-powered commercial vehicles
- (B) To build a nationwide network of highways dedicated exclusively to heavy transport vehicles



- (C) To provide direct cash subsidies on petrol and diesel for two-wheelers used by delivery workers
- (D) To encourage adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower vehicular emissions

Q19. Lonar Lake, situated in Buldhana district of Maharashtra, is considered one of the world's most remarkable geological features. What makes this lake scientifically unique?

- (A) It is a rare saline (saltwater) crater lake formed by a large meteorite impact approximately 50,000 years ago
- (B) It is the deepest lake in peninsular India, formed entirely by tectonic plate movement
- (C) It is a freshwater lake created by a volcanic eruption within the Deccan Trap basalt region
- (D) It is a man-made reservoir constructed during the rule of the Yadava dynasty of Maharashtra

Q20. Under India's National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), the first indigenously developed supercomputer named PARAM Shivay was built by C-DAC and installed in 2019. At which institution was PARAM Shivay installed?

- (A) IIT Bombay, Mumbai
- (B) IIT (BHU) Varanasi
- (C) IIT Madras, Chennai
- (D) IISc Bengaluru

Q21. Which Indian boxer created history by winning gold medals at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in consecutive years – 2022 and 2023 – defending her world title successfully?

- (A) Mary Kom



- (B) Lovlina Borgohain
- (C) Pooja Rani
- (D) Nikhat Zareen

Q22. India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme transfers government subsidies and welfare benefits directly into beneficiaries' Aadhaar-linked bank accounts, eliminating middlemen. Since its launch, the cumulative DBT transfers have crossed approximately:

- (A) Rs. 10 lakh crore
- (B) Rs. 20 lakh crore
- (C) Rs. 38 lakh crore
- (D) Rs. 55 lakh crore

Q23. Which ruler of the Gupta dynasty assumed the title "Vikramaditya" and is celebrated for presiding over a brilliant court of nine scholars and artists – the "Navratnas" – which included the renowned poet Kalidasa?

- (A) Samudragupta
- (B) Chandragupta I
- (C) Skandagupta
- (D) Chandragupta II

Q24. The Right to Property was originally a Fundamental Right under the Indian Constitution. By which Constitutional Amendment was it removed from the list of Fundamental Rights and made a mere constitutional right, now found under Article 300A?

- (A) 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978 – now a constitutional right under Article 300A
- (B) 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 – now a constitutional right under Article 300A



- (C) 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 – now a directive principle under Article 45
- (D) 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985 – now a legal right under Article 301

Q25. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 legally entitles eligible households to receive subsidised foodgrains from the Public Distribution System (PDS). What percentage of the rural and urban populations does the Act cover?

- (A) Up to 50% of the rural population and up to 25% of the urban population
- (B) Up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population
- (C) 100% of the rural population and up to 75% of the urban population
- (D) Up to 60% of the rural population and up to 40% of the urban population



Solutions & Explanations

Solution

Concept: India–France Diplomatic Relations – Horizon 2047 Strategic Partnership Roadmap

Step 1: During Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit to France in July 2023, India and France jointly unveiled the “Horizon 2047” roadmap to guide their bi-lateral strategic partnership over the next 25 years – up to the centenary of India’s independence. The two countries have maintained a strategic partnership since 1998.

Step 2: The Horizon 2047 roadmap covers enhanced cooperation across multiple domains: defence (including Rafale jets, submarines, and joint production), civil nuclear energy, space exploration, digital technology, climate action, and people-to-people ties. France was one of the few countries that did not impose sanctions on India after the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests, cementing their strategic trust.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q1.**
- **(A) Germany** – India has a strategic partnership with Germany, but the “Horizon 2047” roadmap is specific to the India–France relationship.
 - **(B) France** – Correct. The Horizon 2047 roadmap was signed between India and France in 2023 to deepen their strategic partnership.
 - **(C) Japan** – India and Japan have a “Special Strategic and Global Partnership,” but the Horizon 2047 document does not pertain to Japan.
 - **(D) United Kingdom** – India and the UK are engaged in Free Trade Agreement negotiations, but the Horizon 2047 roadmap is exclusive to France.

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Q1](#)

Solution

Concept: Sangam Age Literature – Tolkappiyam (Oldest Tamil Grammar Text)

Step 1: Tolkappiyam is the oldest surviving work of Tamil literature and the earliest extant grammar of the Tamil language. It was composed by the sage Tolkappiyar and belongs to the early Sangam period (approximately 300 BCE to 200 CE). It is divided into three books dealing with phonology (Ezhuttatikaram), vocabulary and morphology (Collatikaram), and poetics/subject matter (Porulatikaram).

Step 2: The Sangam Age (roughly 300 BCE – 300 CE) produced a remarkable



body of classical Tamil literature. Among all surviving texts, Tolkappiyam is the oldest because it is a foundational grammar – it predates the epic and devotional compositions that came later. It is considered the “Panini of Tamil” in terms of its role in codifying the language.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q2.**
- **(A) Thirukkural** – Thirukkural is a celebrated ethical-philosophical text by Thiruvalluvar (estimated 200 BCE – 500 CE), but Tolkappiyam, as a grammar work, is considered the oldest surviving Tamil composition.
 - **(B) Cilappatikaram** – Cilappatikaram is one of the Five Great Epics of Tamil literature, composed later (circa 2nd–5th century CE) by Ilango Adigal; it is not a grammar text.
 - **(C) Tolkappiyam** – Correct. Tolkappiyam is the oldest surviving Tamil grammar text from the Sangam Age.
 - **(D) Manimegalai** – Manimegalai is a later Sangam epic (sequel to Cilappatikaram) by Sattanar dealing with Buddhist philosophy; it is not a grammar text.

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Q2](#)

Solution

Concept: Indian Constitution – Removal of Lok Sabha Speaker (Article 94)

Step 1: Under Article 94 of the Indian Constitution, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha may be removed from office by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the House. Crucially, no resolution for the removal of the Speaker can be moved unless at least 14 days’ advance notice has been given of the intention to move such a resolution.

Step 2: The phrase “majority of all the then members” means more than half the total current strength of the Lok Sabha – a higher bar than a simple majority of those present and voting. During the period when the resolution is under consideration, the Speaker does not preside over the House but may speak and vote. This safeguard protects the Speaker’s independence from political pressures.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q3.**
- **(A) Resolution by majority of all then members, with 14 days’ notice** – Correct. This is the exact constitutional procedure under Article 94.
 - **(B) Two-thirds majority in a joint sitting** – The Constitution does not pre-



scribe a joint sitting or a two-thirds majority for removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker.

- **(C) Presidential order on PM's advice** – The President of India has no constitutional role in the removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker.
- **(D) Rajya Sabha petition to the President** – The Rajya Sabha has no authority over the Lok Sabha Speaker's removal; the power rests solely with the Lok Sabha.

Answer: (A)

[Go Back to Q3](#)

Solution

Concept: Indian Geography – Comparison of Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats

Step 1: The Western Ghats (also called Sahyadri) run almost continuously along India's western coast for about 1,600 km, from the Tapti River (Gujarat-Maharashtra border) to Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu). Their highest peak is Anamudi (2,695 m) in Kerala. They act as a barrier to the southwest monsoon, causing heavy orographic rainfall on the windward western slopes.

Step 2: The Eastern Ghats, by contrast, are discontinuous and broken by the river valleys of the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri rivers. Their highest peak is Jindhagada Peak (1,690 m) in Andhra Pradesh – significantly lower than Anamudi. This clearly confirms that the Western Ghats are both higher in elevation and more continuous as a mountain range than the Eastern Ghats.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q4.**
- **(A) Eastern Ghats are higher and more continuous** – Incorrect on both counts. The Eastern Ghats are lower in elevation and are discontinuous (broken by major rivers).
 - **(B) Both are equal in elevation and continuity** – Incorrect. There is a significant difference: Western Ghats are higher (Anamudi 2,695 m vs Jindhagada 1,690 m) and far more continuous.
 - **(C) Western Ghats lower but more continuous** – Partially wrong. The Western Ghats are MORE continuous (correct) but they are also HIGHER in elevation (not lower), making this option incorrect.
 - **(D) Western Ghats are higher and more continuous** – Correct. This accurately reflects both the elevation and structural continuity of the Western Ghats compared to the Eastern Ghats.



Answer: (D)[Go Back to Q4](#)**Solution****Concept:** Sports – Sunil Chhetri Retires from International Football (2024)

Step 1: Sunil Chhetri, India's all-time leading international goal scorer and captain of the Indian national football team, announced his retirement from international football in May 2024. His farewell international match was played against Kuwait on 6 June 2024 in a FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) stadium in Kolkata.

Step 2: At the time of his retirement, Chhetri had scored 94 international goals, making him the second-highest active international goal scorer in the world (after Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal). He captained India in over 150 matches and was an iconic figure who elevated the standard of Indian club and national football over nearly two decades of international career.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q5.**
- **(A) 2022** – Sunil Chhetri was actively playing for India in 2022 and had not yet announced retirement.
 - **(B) 2024** – Correct. Sunil Chhetri announced his retirement from international football in May 2024 and played his farewell match in June 2024.
 - **(C) 2023** – He was still captaining India in 2023 in various competitions; no retirement was announced that year.
 - **(D) 2025** – Chhetri had already retired before 2025; this date is after his actual farewell.

Answer: (B)[Go Back to Q5](#)**Solution****Concept:** Science and Technology – National Quantum Mission (NQM) Approved 2023

Step 1: The Union Cabinet of India approved the National Quantum Mission (NQM) in April 2023. The mission is designed to seed, nurture, and scale up scientific and industrial research in quantum technology – covering quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing and metrology, and quantum



materials.

Step 2: The NQM has an approved financial outlay of Rs. 6,003 crore over a period of 6 years. The mission will be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and will create a thriving ecosystem of quantum start-ups, trained manpower, and research infrastructure. India aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers and a quantum communication network linking key cities by the end of the mission period.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q6.**
- **(A) Rs. 4,500 crore over 5 years** – This figure does not match the approved NQM financial outlay; Rs. 4,500 crore is the NSM (National Supercomputing Mission) budget.
 - **(B) Rs. 7,200 crore over 8 years** – This is an incorrect figure; neither the amount nor the duration matches the approved NQM.
 - **(C) Rs. 6,003 crore over 6 years** – Correct. This is the approved financial outlay and duration of India's National Quantum Mission.
 - **(D) Rs. 10,000 crore over 10 years** – This figure significantly overstates the approved NQM budget.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Government Schemes – PM POSHAN Abhiyaan (Formerly Mid-Day Meal Scheme)

Step 1: PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) Abhiyaan was launched in September 2021 as a revamped and rechristened version of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which had been running since 1995. It is administered by the Ministry of Education and provides one hot cooked meal per school day to children in government and government-aided schools (Classes I to VIII), including pre-primary Bal Vatikas.

Step 2: The primary objective is to improve the nutritional and educational status of school children. By ensuring a daily cooked meal, the scheme simultaneously addresses hunger and malnutrition, boosts school enrolment, reduces absenteeism, and encourages children – especially girls – to continue their education rather than drop out. It covers over 11 crore children across India.

Why other options are wrong:



- Q7.
- **(A) Improve nutritional status of school children** – Correct. This is the primary and core objective of PM POSHAN Abhiyaan.
 - **(B) Provide free housing to EWS families** – Free housing in rural areas is the objective of PM Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), not PM POSHAN.
 - **(C) Cash scholarships to girl students clearing Class 10** – Various scholarship schemes such as NMMS serve academic merit purposes; PM POSHAN focuses on nutrition through cooked meals.
 - **(D) Distribute free uniforms and study materials** – While some state governments distribute uniforms, this is not the objective of PM POSHAN; the scheme provides cooked meals, not stationery or uniforms.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Chanakya (Kautilya) and the Founding of the Maurya Empire

Step 1: Chanakya, also known as Kautilya or Vishnugupta (circa 350–275 BCE), was one of ancient India's greatest political thinkers. He served as the chief minister and principal advisor to Chandragupta Maurya. He authored the celebrated treatise *Arthashastra*, which covers statecraft, economic policy, military strategy, and diplomacy in remarkable detail.

Step 2: Chanakya played a decisive role in identifying and training the young Chandragupta Maurya, building him an army, and using brilliant strategy to overthrow the powerful Nanda dynasty of Magadha (around 321 BCE). He then helped establish the vast Maurya Empire – the first large-scale empire unifying most of the Indian subcontinent. Without Chanakya's guidance, this political transformation might not have been possible.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q8.
- **(A) Ashvaghosa** – Ashvaghosa was a Buddhist philosopher and Sanskrit poet (1st–2nd century CE) who wrote *Buddhacharita*; he lived centuries after Chandragupta Maurya.
 - **(B) Vishakhadatta** – Vishakhadatta was the Sanskrit playwright who wrote *Mudrarakshasa* (circa 4th–9th century CE) dramatising Chanakya's role; he was a later author, not the historical advisor.
 - **(C) Megasthenes** – Megasthenes was a Greek diplomat sent by Seleucus I



to the Maurya court; he wrote *Indica* describing India but was not an Indian advisor – he was a foreign envoy.

- **(D) Chanakya (Kautilya)** – Correct. Chanakya was the brilliant advisor who strategically guided Chandragupta Maurya in founding the Maurya Empire and authored the *Arthashastra*.

Answer: (D)

[Go Back to Q8](#)

Solution

Concept: Current Affairs – G20 India Presidency 2023 Theme

Step 1: India assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 and held it through 30 November 2023. Under India's presidency, the G20 Leaders' Summit was hosted in New Delhi on 9–10 September 2023. India adopted the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future" for its G20 Presidency.

Step 2: The phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (Sanskrit: the world is one family) is drawn from the ancient text *Maha Upanishad*. This theme reflects India's civilisational philosophy of universal brotherhood and its emphasis on inclusive, human-centric development. The theme inspired the agenda for global cooperation on climate change, sustainable development, digital transformation, and multilateral reform during India's presidency.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q9.**
- **(A) "Together for Tomorrow: One People, One Planet"** – This is a fabricated theme and was not the official theme of any G20 presidency.
 - **(B) "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future"** – Correct. This was the official and globally recognised theme of India's G20 Presidency 2023.
 - **(C) "Recovering Together, Recovering Stronger"** – This was the theme of Indonesia's G20 Presidency in 2022, not India's.
 - **(D) "Sustainable World for Sustainable Development"** – This is a fictitious theme not associated with any G20 presidency.

Answer: (B)

[Go Back to Q9](#)



Solution

Concept: Indian Polity – Fundamental Duties Added by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)

Step 1: Fundamental Duties were not part of the original Indian Constitution (1950). They were added on the basis of the Swaran Singh Committee's recommendations during the Emergency period under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976 inserted a new Part IV-A in the Constitution with Article 51A, which originally listed ten Fundamental Duties of every citizen of India.

Step 2: The Fundamental Duties are inspired by the Constitution of the former USSR and the moral codes found in Indian philosophical traditions. They are not justiciable (not directly enforceable by courts) but serve as constitutional moral obligations. An eleventh Fundamental Duty was later added by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, relating to providing opportunities for education to children between 6–14 years.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q10.**
- **(A) 44th Constitutional Amendment, 1978** – The 44th Amendment (1978, Janata Party government) removed the Right to Property from Fundamental Rights and inserted Article 300A; it did NOT add Fundamental Duties.
 - **(B) 52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985** – The 52nd Amendment added the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law) to the Constitution; it has no connection with Fundamental Duties.
 - **(C) 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976** – Correct. The 42nd Amendment inserted Part IV-A (Article 51A) with the original ten Fundamental Duties.
 - **(D) 86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002** – This amendment added only the eleventh Fundamental Duty (relating to education) and also inserted Article 21A (Right to Education); the original Fundamental Duties were added by the 42nd Amendment.

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Q10](#)

Solution

Concept: Indian Geography – Wular Lake, Largest Freshwater Lake in India

Step 1: Wular Lake, located in the Bandipore district of Jammu and Kashmir, is the largest freshwater lake in India. It is fed primarily by the Jhelum River. The



lake's area varies seasonally – from about 24 sq km in dry months to as much as 260 sq km or more during floods – owing to the fluctuation of the Jhelum's flow.

Step 2: Wular Lake is ecologically significant: it is a Ramsar Convention wetland site (designated in 1990) and a habitat for numerous migratory birds. The lake also supports local communities through fishing and reed (reeds for basket-weaving). It is sometimes called the “lifeline of Kashmir” because it regulates the water levels of the Jhelum River in the Kashmir Valley.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q11.**
- **(A) Wular Lake** – Correct. Wular Lake in Jammu & Kashmir is the largest freshwater lake in India.
 - **(B) Sambhar Lake** – Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan is the largest saltwater (saline) lake in India, not a freshwater lake.
 - **(C) Vembanad Lake** – Vembanad Lake in Kerala is the longest lake in India and is often cited as the largest by area in some contexts, but it is a brackish water coastal lagoon connected to the sea – not a purely freshwater lake.
 - **(D) Dal Lake** – Dal Lake is also in Jammu & Kashmir (near Srinagar), but it is far smaller than Wular Lake in area.

Answer: (A)

[Go Back to Q11](#)

Solution

Concept: Books and Literature – Geetanjali Shree's “Ret Samadhi” Wins International Booker Prize 2022

Step 1: In May 2022, Geetanjali Shree became the first Indian and the first Hindi-language author to win the International Booker Prize. Her novel *Ret Samadhi* (written in Hindi) was translated into English by Daisy Rockwell as “Tomb of Sand.” The International Booker Prize is awarded annually to the best work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

Step 2: *Ret Samadhi* tells the story of an 80-year-old woman in northern India who, after her husband's death, revives her spirit and embarks on a journey to Pakistan – touching on themes of the Partition of India, identity, womanhood, grief, and resilience. Geetanjali Shree is a celebrated Hindi author; this prize brought her international recognition and spotlighted Indian-language literature on a global stage.

Why other options are wrong:



- Q12.**
- **(A) Amitav Ghosh for “The Hungry Tide”** – Amitav Ghosh writes in English and is a renowned author; “The Hungry Tide” (2004) is one of his novels, but it did not win the International Booker Prize.
 - **(B) Arundhati Roy for “The Ministry of Utmost Happiness”** – Arundhati Roy’s second novel (2017) was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2017 but did not win the International Booker Prize.
 - **(C) Jhumpa Lahiri for “The Namesake”** – Jhumpa Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Interpreter of Maladies* (1999); “The Namesake” is a different novel and did not win the International Booker Prize.
 - **(D) Geetanjali Shree for “Tomb of Sand”** – Correct. This was the first Hindi novel (and first work in any Indian language) to win the International Booker Prize, in 2022.

Answer: (D)

[Go Back to Q12](#)

Solution

Concept: Current Affairs – Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023

Step 1: The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 was passed by the Indian Parliament in August 2023 and received Presidential assent. It is India’s first comprehensive legislation governing the collection, processing, storage, and transfer of digital personal data, replacing the earlier IT (Amendment) Act provisions on data protection.

Step 2: The DPDP Act, 2023 establishes the **Data Protection Board of India** as the statutory body to adjudicate complaints, investigate violations, and impose financial penalties on “data fiduciaries” (entities that determine the purpose and means of data processing). The Board can impose penalties of up to Rs. 250 crore per instance of certain violations, making it one of the most significant enforcement mechanisms in India’s digital governance framework.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q13.**
- **(A) National Cyber Security Authority** – No such authority is established under the DPDP Act; the National Cyber Security Coordinator is a different existing role under the National Security Council Secretariat.
 - **(B) Digital Privacy Ombudsman of India** – This is a fictitious name; no such body exists under Indian law or the DPDP Act.
 - **(C) Data Protection Board of India** – Correct. The DPDP Act 2023 creates



the Data Protection Board of India to handle data protection disputes and impose penalties.

- **(D) Internet Regulatory Commission of India** – This is a fictitious name; no such commission exists under the DPDP Act or any other Indian legislation.

Answer: (C)

[Go Back to Q13](#)

Solution

Concept: Sports – Dipa Karmakar, First Indian Woman Gymnast at the Olympics (Rio 2016)

Step 1: Dipa Karmakar, from Agartala, Tripura, made history at the Rio 2016 Olympics by becoming the first Indian woman gymnast – and the first Indian gymnast in 52 years – to qualify for and compete in the Olympic Games. She competed in the Women's Vault event and finished in fourth place with a score of 15.066, narrowly missing the bronze medal.

Step 2: Dipa's performance was globally celebrated because she executed the Produnova vault – one of the most technically demanding and dangerous vaults in gymnastics (nicknamed the "vault of death"), attempted by very few gymnasts worldwide. She had earlier won a bronze medal at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, becoming the first Indian woman to win a gymnastics medal at the Commonwealth Games.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q14.**
- **(A) Dipa Karmakar** – Correct. She was the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for the Olympics and became renowned for performing the Produnova vault at Rio 2016.
 - **(B) Aruna Budda Reddy** – She is a talented Indian gymnast who has won medals at the Gymnastics World Cup events but did not qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
 - **(C) Pranati Nayak** – She is another skilled Indian gymnast (also from Tripura) who qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021), not the Rio 2016 Games.
 - **(D) Raksha Patra** – She is an Indian gymnast but is not associated with Olympic qualification or the historic Produnova vault performance.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Ryotwari Settlement and Thomas Munro

Step 1: The Ryotwari Settlement was a British colonial land revenue system where the government directly assessed and collected land revenue from individual peasant cultivators (ryots), without the intermediary of zamindars or village headmen. Under this system, the government recognised the ryot as the owner of the land, who paid taxes directly to the state.

Step 2: The Ryotwari Settlement was primarily introduced by Sir Thomas Munro (later Governor of Madras, 1820–1827) in the Madras Presidency (covering present-day Tamil Nadu and parts of Andhra Pradesh). It was also extended to the Bombay Presidency by Mountstuart Elphinstone. Together these two presidencies covered the bulk of the Ryotwari areas, accounting for about 51% of British India's cultivated area.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q15.**
- **(A) Lord Cornwallis – Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa** – Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent (Zamindari) Settlement in 1793 in Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa, not the Ryotwari Settlement. Under this, zamindars were recognised as landowners and paid a fixed perpetual revenue.
 - **(B) John Shore – North-Western Provinces** – The Mahalwari Settlement (village-based collective revenue settlement) was introduced in the North-Western Provinces and Punjab. John Shore was associated with the Permanent Settlement, not the Ryotwari.
 - **(C) Lord Dalhousie – Punjab and Central India** – Lord Dalhousie (1848–1856) is primarily associated with the Doctrine of Lapse (annexations) and modernisation; he did not introduce the Ryotwari Settlement.
 - **(D) Thomas Munro – Madras and Bombay regions** – Correct. Thomas Munro introduced the Ryotwari Settlement primarily in the Madras (Tamil Nadu) and Bombay (Maharashtra) regions.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Computer Basics – Ransomware as a Type of Malware

Step 1: Malware (malicious software) is any software intentionally designed to disrupt, damage, or gain unauthorised access to computer systems. Common types of malware include viruses, worms, trojans, spyware, adware, and ransomware.



Each type works differently but all aim to compromise the target's data, privacy, or finances.

Step 2: Ransomware is a particularly dangerous type of malware that encrypts the victim's files or locks their entire system, rendering data inaccessible. The attacker then demands a ransom payment (usually in cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin) in exchange for the decryption key. Notable ransomware attacks include WannaCry (2017) – which affected over 200,000 computers in 150 countries – and REvil and LockBit in subsequent years.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q16.**
- **(A) Firewall** – A firewall is a security device (hardware or software) that monitors and filters incoming and outgoing network traffic based on predefined rules. It is a protective tool, not malware.
 - **(B) Ransomware** – Correct. Ransomware is a type of malware that encrypts data or locks systems and demands payment to restore access.
 - **(C) Antivirus software** – Antivirus is a protective security application that detects, prevents, and removes malware from computer systems. It is the opposite of malware – designed to fight it.
 - **(D) VPN (Virtual Private Network)** – A VPN creates a secure encrypted tunnel for internet traffic to protect user privacy and bypass geographic restrictions. It is a legitimate security tool, not malware.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Polity and Governance – Establishment of NITI Aayog (1 January 2015)

Step 1: The Planning Commission of India was established in March 1950 to formulate Five Year Plans and oversee planned economic development. However, in the era of a liberalised and globalised economy, the top-down centralised planning model was seen as outdated and insufficiently responsive to India's diverse regional needs and market dynamics.

Step 2: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government dissolved the Planning Commission and, on **1 January 2015**, formally established NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) as a policy think-tank and advisory body. NITI Aayog promotes cooperative federalism ("Team India"), facilitates state-level learning and innovation, and serves as a platform for evidence-based policy design



– rather than dictating central planning targets from above.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q17.**
- **(A) January 2014** – In January 2014, the Planning Commission still existed; the BJP-led government came to power only in May 2014.
 - **(B) August 2014** – While the new government had announced intent to restructure the Planning Commission by mid-2014, NITI Aayog was formally established later, in January 2015.
 - **(C) January 2015** – Correct. NITI Aayog was formally established on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission of India.
 - **(D) March 2016** – This date is over a year after NITI Aayog was actually set up and is factually incorrect.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Government Schemes – FAME India (Electric Vehicle Promotion Scheme)

Step 1: FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India) is a flagship government scheme launched in April 2015 under the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP 2020). Phase I ran from 2015 to 2019, and FAME India Phase II was approved in February 2019 with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore over three years, later extended.

Step 2: The primary objectives of FAME India are: (i) to encourage demand for electric and hybrid vehicles through upfront purchase incentives and subsidies; (ii) to support the development of EV charging infrastructure across cities, highways, and public transport hubs; and (iii) to reduce India's dependence on crude oil imports (India imports about 85% of its oil needs) and lower vehicular greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q18.**
- **(A) Promote fuel-efficient CNG-powered commercial vehicles** – FAME India specifically targets electric and hybrid vehicles; CNG vehicles fall under a different policy framework.
 - **(B) Build highways dedicated to heavy transport vehicles** – Road construction is governed by programmes under MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways), not FAME India.



- **(C) Subsidise petrol and diesel for two-wheelers** – FAME India works in the opposite direction – it aims to reduce fossil fuel dependence, not subsidise petrol/diesel.
- **(D) Encourage adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles** – Correct. FAME India's core purpose is to foster EV adoption to cut fossil fuel use and vehicular emissions.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Geography – Lonar Lake, Maharashtra (Meteorite Crater Lake)

Step 1: Lonar Lake is located in the Buldhana district of Maharashtra, on the Deccan Plateau. It is one of only four known hypervelocity meteorite impact craters in basaltic rock in the entire world, making it exceptionally rare. A large chondritic meteorite struck the basalt plateau approximately 50,000 years ago (some estimates place this at around 570,000 years ago), creating a crater roughly 1.8 km in diameter.

Step 2: Lonar Lake is both saline and alkaline – a unique chemical characteristic resulting from the mineralogy of the basalt rock and the absence of an outflow. The lake has been declared a Wildlife Sanctuary and is also a Ramsar wetland site. Scientists study its extremophile microbes (bacteria thriving in high alkalinity and salinity) as analogues for potential life in extreme environments on other planets – making it important for astrobiology research.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q19.**
- **(A) A rare saline crater lake formed by a meteorite impact** – Correct. Lonar Lake is a saline (saltwater/alkaline) crater lake formed by a hypervelocity meteorite impact approximately 50,000 years ago.
 - **(B) Deepest lake in peninsular India formed by tectonic movement** – Lonar Lake is not particularly deep and was formed by meteorite impact, not tectonic activity.
 - **(C) Freshwater lake created by volcanic eruption in the Deccan Trap region** – Lonar Lake is saline/alkaline (not freshwater) and was formed by meteorite impact, not volcanic activity. The Deccan Traps are volcanic basalts, but the lake was formed by an impact into that basalt.
 - **(D) Man-made reservoir from the Yadava dynasty period** – Lonar Lake is an entirely natural feature formed millennia before the Yadava dynasty



(12th–14th century CE); it is not artificial.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Science and Technology – PARAM Shivay, First NSM Supercomputer (IIT-BHU, 2019)

Step 1: India's National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) was launched jointly by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in 2015 with a budget of Rs. 4,500 crore over seven years. The mission is implemented by C-DAC (Centre for Development of Advanced Computing) with the goal of building and deploying 70+ high-performance computing (HPC) facilities across academic and research institutions.

Step 2: PARAM Shivay was the first supercomputer developed and deployed under the NSM. It was installed at IIT (BHU) – the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) – in Varanasi in 2019, with a peak computing capacity of 833 teraflops (833 trillion floating-point operations per second). Subsequent PARAM systems were installed at IIT Kharagpur (PARAM Shakti), IISER Pune (PARAM Brahma), IIT Madras, and other institutions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q20.**
- **(A) IIT Bombay, Mumbai** – PARAM Shivay was not installed at IIT Bombay. IIT Bombay received a later PARAM system under the NSM.
 - **(B) IIT (BHU) Varanasi** – Correct. PARAM Shivay, the first supercomputer built under the National Supercomputing Mission, was installed at IIT (BHU) Varanasi in 2019.
 - **(C) IIT Madras, Chennai** – IIT Madras has received a PARAM supercomputer under the NSM, but it was not PARAM Shivay – the first one.
 - **(D) IISc Bengaluru** – While IISc is one of the premier science institutions and does host HPC facilities, PARAM Shivay (the first NSM supercomputer) was installed at IIT (BHU) Varanasi, not IISc.

Answer: (B)

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Solution

Concept: Sports – Nikhat Zareen Wins IBA Women’s World Boxing Championship 2022 and 2023

Step 1: Nikhat Zareen is an Indian professional boxer from Nizamabad, Telangana. She won the gold medal at the IBA Women’s World Boxing Championships held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2022 – competing in the 52 kg category. The following year, she defended her world championship status by winning gold again at the IBA Women’s World Boxing Championships held in New Delhi in March 2023, this time competing in the 50 kg category.

Step 2: With back-to-back world titles in 2022 and 2023, Nikhat Zareen cemented her status as one of India’s finest boxers. She is only the fifth Indian female boxer to win the IBA Women’s World Boxing Championship. She is known for her technical skill and aggressive style. She has also been a strong contender on the international boxing circuit and is recognised as one of India’s bright prospects for international medals.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q21.**
- **(A) Mary Kom** – Mary Kom is the greatest Indian woman boxer ever, having won the IBA Women’s World Boxing Championship a record six times (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2018). However, she did not win the world title in 2022 or 2023.
 - **(B) Lovlina Borgohain** – Lovlina Borgohain won an Olympic bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (welterweight, 69 kg) and has won multiple international medals, but has not won the IBA Women’s World Boxing Championship in consecutive years 2022 and 2023.
 - **(C) Pooja Rani** – Pooja Rani won the gold medal at the 2021 Asian Boxing Championships (75 kg) and represented India at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, but has not won consecutive IBA World Championship golds in 2022 and 2023.
 - **(D) Nikhat Zareen** – Correct. Nikhat Zareen won gold medals at the IBA Women’s World Boxing Championships in both 2022 (52 kg) and 2023 (50 kg), becoming a back-to-back world champion.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Economy and Governance – Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme Cumulative Transfers

Step 1: The Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme was launched by the Government of India in January 2013 to transfer government subsidies, pensions, scholarships, and other welfare benefits directly into the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries using Aadhaar-based identity authentication. The goal was to eliminate leakages, reduce corruption, cut out intermediaries, and ensure timely delivery of benefits to intended recipients.

Step 2: Over the years, DBT has expanded to cover over 300 central government schemes across ministries including agriculture (PM-Kisan), health (Ayushman Bharat), education (scholarships), and social welfare (pensions). The government has reported that since DBT's launch, cumulative transfers have crossed Rs. 38 lakh crore (approximately 38 trillion rupees), and the scheme has generated estimated savings of over Rs. 3.5 lakh crore through elimination of ghost beneficiaries and leakages.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q22.**
- **(A) Rs. 10 lakh crore** – This significantly understates the cumulative DBT transfers since the scheme's 2013 launch through 2023–24.
 - **(B) Rs. 20 lakh crore** – While a very large figure, this is less than the actual reported cumulative DBT transfer amount.
 - **(C) Rs. 38 lakh crore** – Correct. The DBT scheme has cumulatively transferred over Rs. 38 lakh crore to beneficiaries since its launch, as reported by the government.
 - **(D) Rs. 55 lakh crore** – This figure overstates the reported cumulative DBT transfer amount.

Answer: (C)

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Solution

Concept: Indian History – Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) and the Gupta Golden Age

Step 1: Chandragupta II, who ruled the Gupta Empire from approximately 375 to 415 CE, is one of the most celebrated emperors in Indian history. He assumed the title "Vikramaditya" (meaning "sun of valour"), a title associated with legendary conquests and imperial grandeur. He extended the Gupta Empire's boundaries



through both military conquest and diplomatic marriages, bringing most of the Indian subcontinent under one umbrella.

Step 2: The reign of Chandragupta II represents the zenith of the Gupta Golden Age – a period of extraordinary achievement in literature, mathematics, astronomy, art, and philosophy. His court was adorned by the famous “Navratnas” (Nine Gems): nine scholars and artists, most famously the poet-playwright Kalidasa (author of *Abhijnanasakuntalam* and *Meghaduta*), along with Aryabhata, Varahamihira, Amarasimha, Vararuchi, Vetala Bhatta, Ghatakarpara, Dhanvantari, and Shanku.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q23.**
- **(A) Samudragupta** – Samudragupta (335–375 CE), known as the “Napoleon of India” for his extensive military campaigns, was Chandragupta II’s father. He did not bear the title “Vikramaditya” and is not associated with the Navratnas.
 - **(B) Chandragupta I** – Chandragupta I (320–335 CE) was the founder of the imperial Gupta dynasty. He bore the title “Maharajadhiraja” and established the Gupta kingdom, but he did not patronise the Navratnas or use the title “Vikramaditya.”
 - **(C) Skandagupta** – Skandagupta (455–467 CE) is known for successfully repelling the Hun (Huna) invasions, but his reign marked the beginning of the Gupta Empire’s decline, not the golden age of the Navratnas.
 - **(D) Chandragupta II** – Correct. Chandragupta II bore the title “Vikramaditya” and presided over the Gupta golden age, patronising the Navratnas including the great poet Kalidasa.

Answer: (D)

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Solution

Concept: Indian Polity – Right to Property Removed from Fundamental Rights by 44th Amendment, Now Article 300A

Step 1: Originally, the Indian Constitution (1950) recognised the Right to Property as a Fundamental Right under Articles 19(1)(f) (right to acquire, hold, and dispose of property) and Article 31 (protection against deprivation of property without legal authority and without compensation). However, this right repeatedly conflicted with the government’s land acquisition and nationalisation programmes, leading to numerous constitutional challenges.



Step 2: The 44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978 (enacted by the Janata Party government under PM Morarji Desai) deleted Articles 19(1)(f) and 31 from the list of Fundamental Rights. In their place, Article 300A was inserted in Part XII of the Constitution, stating: “No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law.” Right to Property is now a constitutional (legal) right – not a Fundamental Right – meaning it cannot be enforced through Article 32 (Supreme Court) but only through ordinary courts.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q24.**
- **(A) 44th Constitutional Amendment, 1978 – Article 300A** – Correct. The 44th Amendment (1978) removed Right to Property from Fundamental Rights and placed it under Article 300A as a constitutional right.
 - **(B) 42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976** – The 42nd Amendment (1976, during the Emergency) made numerous changes – adding Fundamental Duties, inserting “Socialist” and “Secular” in the Preamble – but did NOT remove Right to Property from Fundamental Rights. That was done by the 44th Amendment.
 - **(C) 86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002 – Article 45** – The 86th Amendment (2002) added Article 21A (Right to Education as a Fundamental Right) and the 11th Fundamental Duty. Article 45 (directive principle) was amended to focus on pre-school care for children under six.
 - **(D) 52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985 – Article 301** – The 52nd Amendment (1985) added the Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law). Article 301 deals with freedom of trade, commerce, and intercourse – not property rights.

Answer: (A)

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Solution

Concept: Economy – National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013: Coverage of Rural and Urban Population

Step 1: The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted in September 2013 to provide a legal entitlement to subsidised foodgrains for a large section of India’s population. It operates through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). The Act was a landmark step in converting food security from a welfare policy into a legal right.

Step 2: Under the NFSA 2013, coverage extends to **up to 75% of the rural pop-**



ulation and up to 50% of the urban population – covering approximately two-thirds of India's total population (about 81 crore people). Eligible Priority Household members receive 5 kg of foodgrains (rice at Rs. 3/kg, wheat at Rs. 2/kg, coarse cereals at Rs. 1/kg) per person per month. AAY households (the poorest of the poor) receive 35 kg per household per month at the same subsidised rates.

Why other options are wrong:

- Q25.**
- **(A) 50% rural and 25% urban** – These figures are lower than the actual coverage mandated by the NFSA 2013 and would leave out a large proportion of India's vulnerable rural population.
 - **(B) Up to 75% rural and up to 50% urban** – Correct. The NFSA 2013 mandates coverage of up to 75% of the rural population and up to 50% of the urban population for subsidised foodgrains.
 - **(C) 100% rural and 75% urban** – The NFSA does not cover 100% of the rural population; the Act specifies a maximum of 75% of rural population to ensure targeting of the most vulnerable.
 - **(D) 60% rural and 40% urban** – These figures are incorrect; the law specifically mandates 75% rural coverage and 50% urban coverage, not 60% and 40%.

Answer: (B)

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Answer Key

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

