AILET Current Affairs & General Knowledge

Sample Paper – 9

Duration: 21 Minutes **Maximum Marks: 35**

Instructions

- This paper contains **35** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the Current Affairs & General Knowledge portion of **AILET** entrance.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **a deduction of 0.25 marks per wrong answer. Unattempted questions carry no penalty**.
- Only **one** option is correct. Choose carefully.
- Syllabus level: **National and international current affairs (last 18 months); Indian Polity and Constitution; Geography; Economy; Science and Technology; Sports and Awards.**
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. Article 21A was inserted into the Constitution of India by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 operationalises it. Which of the following statements most accurately describes the scope and provisions of the RTE Act, 2009?

(A) The Act guarantees free and compulsory education to children aged 6 to 14 years; Section 12(1)(c) mandates that private unaided schools reserve at least 25% of seats in Class I for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.

(B) The Act guarantees free and compulsory education to children aged 5 to 14 years; private unaided schools are required to reserve 20% of seats for EWS children, who are reimbursed by the State.

(C) The Act covers children from 6 to 18 years of age; private schools are required to reserve 25% of seats for EWS children at all class levels, not just entry-level classes.

(D) Article 21A was inserted by the 85th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2001, and the RTE Act mandates 30% seat reservation for EWS children in all private schools including minority institutions.

Q2. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, brought about a landmark change in urban governance in India. Which of the following statements correctly describes its key provisions regarding urban local bodies and their functional domain?

(A) The 74th Amendment deals with Panchayati Raj institutions and schedules 29 functions in the Eleventh Schedule that may be devolved to rural local bodies.

(B) The Act inserted Part IX-A into the Constitution; the Twelfth Schedule appended to it lists 18 functions that may be entrusted to municipalities; Ward Committees are mandatory for cities with a population of 3 lakh or more.

(C) The Twelfth Schedule lists 29 functions for urban local bodies, and Ward Committees are required to be constituted in all urban local bodies irrespective of population.

(D) The 74th Amendment established State Finance Commissions exclusively for rural local bodies and provided for elections to municipalities on the basis of proportional representation.

Q3. COP28, the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, was held in Dubai, UAE, in late 2023. Which of the following statements about COP28 and its outcomes is correct?

(A) COP28 was held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2023; it produced the "Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan" calling for a complete phase-out of fossil fuels by 2035.

(B) The UAE Consensus at COP28 called for a formal "phase-out" of all fossil fuels by 2050 and established a new Loss and Damage fund for the first time.

(C) COP28 Dubai (November–December 2023) concluded with the "UAE Consensus," which completed the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement and called for "transitioning away" from fossil fuels in energy systems, stopping short of a full phase-out.

(D) COP28 was the first COP at which the Global Stocktake was initiated; it resulted in a binding agreement for all parties to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

Q4. Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) was launched in April 2015 to provide institutional finance to micro and small enterprises. Which of the following correctly describes the three loan categories under PMMY along with their loan amount ranges?

(A) Shishu: loans up to Rs. 1 lakh; Kishore: Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh; Tarun: Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh — all disbursed exclusively through RBI-regulated scheduled commercial banks.

(B) Shishu: loans up to Rs. 25,000; Kishore: Rs. 25,001 to Rs. 2 lakh; Tarun: Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh — for farm-based income-generating activities.

(C) Shishu: loans up to Rs. 50,000; Kishore: Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 2 lakh; Tarun: Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh — with interest subsidy of 2% provided by the Central Government.

(D) Shishu: loans up to Rs. 50,000; Kishore: Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 5 lakh; Tarun: Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh — for non-farm income-generating micro and small enterprises, disbursed through MFIs, NBFCs, banks, and other eligible intermediaries.

Q5. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a constitutional body that plays a pivotal role in GST administration in India. Which of the following statements about the GST Council and its voting mechanism is accurate?

(A) The GST Council is constituted under Article 279A (inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016); decisions require a three-fourths majority of votes cast, with the Centre's votes carrying one-third weight and the votes of all States together carrying two-thirds weight.

(B) The GST Council is established under Article 280 of the Constitution; it requires a two-thirds majority of all members present for any decision and the Centre has a 50% vote share.

(C) The GST Council was set up by the 100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016; the Centre and all States together have equal (50:50) vote weight, and a simple majority is sufficient for all decisions.

(D) Under Article 279A, decisions of the GST Council require a unanimous vote; the quorum is two-thirds of the total membership, and the President of India chairs the Council.

Q6. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) created a consolidated framework for insolvency resolution of companies, partnerships, and individuals. Which of the following statements accurately describes the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) under IBC?

(A) The adjudicating authority for companies under IBC is the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT); CIRP must be completed within 180 days, extendable by another 180 days with NCLAT approval.

(B) CIRP under IBC must ordinarily be completed within 180 days before the NCLT (extendable to 270 days with approval); courts have fixed 330 days as the outer time limit including litigation; an Insolvency Professional (IP) manages the corporate debtor's affairs during this period.

(C) The resolution professional under IBC is appointed by the Reserve Bank of India; once appointed, no extension of the 180-day CIRP period is permissible under any circumstance.

(D) IBC 2016 mandates that CIRP be completed in 330 days from initiation after which liquidation automatically begins; the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) is the adjudicating authority for companies.

Q7. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 was launched as the second phase of the urban sanitation campaign. Which of the following statements correctly describes its objectives and coverage period?

(A) SBM-Urban 2.0 was launched in January 2019 with a primary focus on constructing individual household toilets and eliminating open defecation from all urban local bodies by December 2021.

(B) SBM-Urban 2.0 aims to make all cities "Garbage Free" by 2025 with a focus on 100% collection and recycling of plastic waste; solid waste management is handled under a separate mission.

(C) SBM-Urban 2.0, launched in October 2021 to run through 2025–26, focuses on making all urban local bodies ODF+ and ODF++ certified, achieving 100% scientific processing of all municipal solid waste, managing grey water and faecal sludge, and promoting source segregation.

(D) SBM-Urban 2.0 was launched under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with a target of constructing 2 crore new community and public toilets and achieving complete elimination of landfill sites by 2024.

Q8. The National Health Mission (NHM) is the Government of India's flagship programme for strengthening healthcare delivery. Which of the following statements accurately describes NHM's structure and funding pattern?

(A) NHM comprises three sub-missions: National Rural Health Mission, National Urban Health Mission, and National Tribal Health Mission; all funds are borne by the Central Government with no State contribution.

(B) NHM was launched in 2005 under the Ministry of Health; it has a

75:25 Centre-State funding ratio applicable to all States including North-Eastern and special category States.

(C) NHM includes only the National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) as its sub-mission; the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) functions independently under a separate Act of Parliament.

(D) NHM, launched in 2013, comprises two sub-missions — NRHM (launched 2005) and NUHM; the Centre-State funding ratio is 60:40 for general category States and 90:10 for special category and North-Eastern States.

Q9. The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 provided for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal for the Union. Which of the following correctly states the composition and eligibility criteria for the Chairperson of the Lokpal?

(A) The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson and up to 8 members (at least 50% to be judicial members); the Chairperson must be a former Chief Justice of India, a former Judge of the Supreme Court, or an eminent person of impeccable integrity and outstanding ability with knowledge in anti-corruption policy.

(B) The Lokpal consists of a Chairperson and up to 10 members, of whom at least one-third must be judicial members; the Chairperson must be a sitting Chief Justice of India.

(C) The Lokpal Act, 2013, excludes the Prime Minister from Lokpal's jurisdiction entirely; only Group A officers of the Central Government fall within its purview.

(D) The Lokpal Act received Presidential assent in 2015; it applies both to the Union and State Governments, and the President appoints the Chairperson without any search committee.

Q10. The Environment Protection Act, 1986 (EPA) serves as an umbrella legislation for environmental protection in India. Which of the following accurately describes the Act's background, scope, and key powers?

(A) EPA 1986 was enacted to implement the commitments made at the Stockholm Conference (1972) and vests in State Governments the power under Section 5 to issue directions for closure or regulation of industries.

(B) EPA 1986 is an umbrella enabling legislation enacted in the aftermath of the Bhopal gas tragedy (1984); Section 5 empowers the Central Government to issue directions for closure, prohibition, or regulation of any industry, process, or operation; the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification is issued under this Act.

(C) EPA 1986 was enacted to implement the Nairobi Convention and delegates power to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to issue Section 5 directions to polluting industries.

(D) Under Section 5 of EPA 1986, only State Governments can issue directions to industries; Environmental Impact Assessment is conducted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, not under EPA.

Q11. HAL Tejas Mk-1A is an upgraded variant of India's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas. Which of the following statements about the Tejas Mk-1A programme is correct?

(A) The IAF contract for 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets was signed in December 2023; the aircraft is powered by the Kaveri engine indigenously developed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE).

(B) HAL Tejas Mk-1A is equipped with the Rolls-Royce Adour Mk 871 engine, and the IAF placed an order for 40 aircraft in 2021 with an option for 40 more.

(C) The IAF signed a contract with HAL in February 2021 for 83 Tejas Mk-1A aircraft (with an additional follow-on order of 97 aircraft in 2024); the jets are powered by the American GE-F404-GE-IN20 engine and are intended to replace the phasing-out MiG-21 fleet.

(D) HAL Tejas Mk-1A features the domestically developed Kaveri-M engine and an order for 108 aircraft was signed with HAL in 2022 under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

Q12. India's National Mineral Policy 2019 replaced the earlier National Mineral Policy of 2008. Which of the following statements correctly describes a key innovative feature introduced by the 2019 Policy?

(A) The National Mineral Policy 2019 replaced the 2012 Mineral Policy and abolished the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) that had been set up under the earlier framework.

(B) The 2019 Policy mandates that 60% of DMF funds be used for local community welfare and introduced a Platinum-rating system for mines based on production output.

(C) The National Mineral Policy 2019 requires Environmental Impact Assessment for all mines regardless of size and established a Green Rating mechanism separate from the existing star-rating system.

(D) The National Mineral Policy 2019 introduced a star-rating system for mines based on scientific, efficient, and sustainable mining practices; the District Mineral Foundation (DMF), established under the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015, collects contributions from mining leaseholders for the welfare of mining-affected communities.

Q13. India transitioned to Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) emission norms for vehicles. Which of the following statements about the implementation and significance of BS-VI norms is accurate?

(A) India leapfrogged directly from BS-IV to BS-VI emission standards (skipping BS-V), with BS-VI becoming mandatory for all new vehicles sold across the country from April 1, 2020; BS-VI fuel has a sulphur content of only 10 ppm compared to 50 ppm in BS-IV fuel, significantly reducing particulate matter and nitrogen oxide emissions.

(B) BS-VI norms were implemented from April 1, 2022, making India the first country in South Asia to adopt Euro-6 equivalent standards; BS-VI followed BS-V norms that were in force since 2018.

(C) India implemented BS-VI norms from April 1, 2019 in all cities simultaneously; the sulphur content of BS-VI fuel is 50 ppm, the same as BS-IV, but limits on particulate matter are stricter.

(D) BS-VI norms were introduced in phases — first in Delhi from 2017 and then in the rest of India from April 1, 2021 — replacing BS-V standards that had been in force since 2019.

Q14. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the earlier Act of 1986 and introduced several new provisions for modern commerce. Which of the following statements about the 2019 Act is correct?

(A) The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 established the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) for the first time, with pecuniary jurisdiction over disputes exceeding Rs. 50 crore.

(B) The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 replaced the 1986 Act, introduced specific provisions for e-commerce transactions, established the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), and set pecuniary limits as: District Commission (up to Rs. 1 crore), State Commission (Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 10 crore), and National Commission (above Rs. 10 crore).

(C) Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the CCPA can issue advisories and prohibit misleading advertisements but has no power to impose financial penalties or recall hazardous products.

(D) The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, applies only to goods and explicitly excludes services and e-commerce transactions from its ambit.

Q15. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a government-backed accident insurance scheme. Which of the following correctly states the key features of PMSBY?

(A) PMSBY provides accidental death and total disability cover of Rs. 4 lakh and partial disability cover of Rs. 2 lakh at an annual premium of Rs. 12, for individuals aged 18 to 60 years.

(B) PMSBY offers life insurance coverage of Rs. 2 lakh at an annual premium of Rs. 330, for individuals aged 18 to 70 years, administered by the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(C) PMSBY provides accidental death and total permanent disability cover of Rs. 2 lakh (and Rs. 1 lakh for partial permanent disability) at a revised annual premium of Rs. 20 (revised in June 2022 from the original Rs. 12), available to individuals aged 18 to 70 years with a savings bank account.

(D) PMSBY is a life insurance scheme providing coverage of Rs. 2 lakh at an annual premium of Rs. 20 for individuals aged 18 to 55 years with mandatory Aadhaar linking required for enrolment.

Q16. The 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13) was held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. Which of the following statements accurately describes India's position at MC13?

(A) At MC13, held in Geneva in February 2024, India agreed to cap its agricultural subsidies at 10% of the value of production as part of a permanent solution to the public stockholding issue.

(B) India's primary concern at MC13 was seeking removal of anti-dumping duties on Indian textiles; India agreed to new disciplines on fisheries subsidies for the first time at this conference.

(C) At MC13, India successfully negotiated a permanent solution replacing the interim "peace clause" on public stockholding, allowing unlimited procurement at administered prices for domestic food security.

(D) At WTO MC13 held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024, India insisted on maintaining the interim peace clause for public stockholding for food security, opposed new disciplines on domestic agricultural support without a permanent solution, and blocked consensus on certain e-commerce issues.

Q17. Parliamentary privileges under Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution are a cornerstone of legislative independence. Which of the following statements most accurately describes these privileges?

(A) Under Article 105, Members of Parliament enjoy freedom of speech in Parliament and no member is liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by them in Parliament or any committee thereof; Article 194 confers similar privileges on members of State Legislatures.

(B) Articles 105 and 194 grant MPs and MLAs absolute immunity from arrest during Parliamentary/Legislative sessions in both civil and criminal matters, including for acts committed outside the House.

(C) Parliamentary privileges constitute Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Constitution and can be enforced by the Supreme Court under Article 32 or High Courts under Article 226.

(D) Under Articles 105 and 194, the privileges of Parliament and State Legislatures are fully codified by law, and MPs enjoy absolute criminal immunity even for offences committed outside Parliament in the discharge of their duties.

Q18. The doctrine of Basic Structure is a judicially evolved principle that limits Parliament's power to amend the Constitution. Which of the following statements about this doctrine is correct?

(A) The Basic Structure doctrine was first enunciated in Golaknath v. State of Punjab (1967), where the Supreme Court held unanimously that Fundamental Rights are beyond the amending power of Parliament.

(B) In Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973), a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court held by a 7:6 majority that while Parliament has wide constituent power under Article 368, it cannot abrogate or damage the basic structure or essential features of the Constitution.

(C) The doctrine of Basic Structure was first articulated in Minerva Mills Ltd. v. Union of India (1980) by a unanimous 9-judge bench, which identified Articles 14, 19, and 21 as the inviolable "golden triangle."

(D) The Basic Structure doctrine was established in the Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975) case, where the Supreme Court struck down the 39th Constitutional Amendment for the first time on grounds of basic structure violation.

Q19. In November 2021, a scheme was launched to facilitate direct investment in Government Securities by retail individual investors in India. Which of the following statements about this scheme is correct?

(A) SEBI's Retail Direct platform was launched in November 2021 to allow retail investors to directly purchase equity shares of listed companies without a stockbroker intermediary.

(B) The scheme launched in November 2021 allows retail investors to invest in corporate bonds and debentures through a SEBI-regulated online platform called Retail Direct.

(C) The RBI Retail Direct Scheme, launched in November 2021, allows retail individual investors to open a Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account with the Reserve Bank of India and directly buy and sell Central Government Securities (G-Secs) and State Development Loans (SDLs) without a broker.

(D) The Retail Direct scheme was launched jointly by SEBI and RBI in November 2021, allowing retail investors to invest in mutual funds directly without distributors, targeting financial inclusion in rural areas.

Q20. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory body that plays a key role in implementing India's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Which of the following is correct about the NBA?

(A) The NBA was established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and is headquartered in New Delhi; it grants approvals for access to Indian biological resources by foreign entities.

(B) The NBA was set up under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and is headquartered in Hyderabad; it oversees the National Biodiversity Register maintained by Gram Panchayats.

(C) The National Biodiversity Authority is a statutory body established under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, and is headquartered in Bengaluru; it regulates access to genetic resources.

(D) The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and is headquartered in Chennai; it regulates access to biological resources, approves IP-related applications involving Indian biological resources, and advises the Central and State Governments on biodiversity-related matters.

Q21. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) was set up to create and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level in India. Which of the following statements about AIM is correct?

(A) AIM was established under NITI Aayog in 2016; its key programmes include Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools to foster innovation, Atal Incubation Centres (AIC) to support startups, and Atal New India Challenges (ANIC) to address national development problems through technology.

(B) AIM was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2015 and focuses exclusively on establishing innovation labs in engineering colleges and IITs across India.

(C) AIM functions under the Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education; its mandate is restricted to establishing Atal Incubation Centres for school-level entrepreneurs in rural areas.

(D) AIM was established under the erstwhile Planning Commission in 2014 and has set up Atal Tinkering Labs in exactly 100 select government schools in metropolitan cities.

Q22. The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 significantly expanded the scope of India's cyber law. Which of the following statements about the Amendment Act and judicial developments around it is accurate?

(A) Section 66A of the IT (Amendment) Act, 2008 was upheld by the

Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015) as a reasonable restriction on free speech permissible under Article 19(2).

(B) The IT (Amendment) Act, 2008 amended the Information Technology Act, 2000, adding new cyber offences; Section 66A, which penalised sending "grossly offensive" or "menacing" electronic messages, was struck down as unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (2015) for violating Article 19(1)(a).

(C) Section 66A was introduced by a separate IT (Amendment) Act in 2013 and was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2017 as violating Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty).

(D) The IT (Amendment) Act, 2008 introduced mandatory prior government approval for social media platforms before publishing any content and established the Cyber Regulatory Appellate Tribunal.

Q23. The Government of India renamed a major school nutrition scheme in 2021. Which of the following correctly describes the renaming and the current scope of the scheme?

(A) The Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed PM POSHAN in 2019 and extended to cover children in Class IX and Class X for the first time, alongside the existing Class I–VIII coverage.

(B) PM POSHAN was renamed from the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in September 2021; it covers all anganwadi beneficiaries including pregnant and lactating mothers.

(C) The Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman in September 2021 (with Cabinet approval); it provides hot cooked meals to students from Classes I–VIII in government and government-aided schools, and was extended as a pilot to include pre-primary (Bal Vatika) children at these schools.

(D) PM POSHAN, renamed from the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 2022, is now administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with State Governments instead of the Ministry of Education.

Q24. Minimum Support Price (MSP) and the role of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are central to India's agricultural policy. Which of the following statements is correct?

(A) The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is recommended by CACP for all 23 agricultural commodities that receive MSP; FCI is mandated by statute to procure all produce at MSP from every farmer.

(B) FCI procures food grains directly from farmers at MSP and also fixes the MSP for various crops independently, subject to final Central Government approval.

(C) CACP recommends MSP for 50 crops; the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is the same as MSP but is used only for coarse cereals like jowar and bajra.

(D) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends MSP for 23 crops to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs; the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is a distinct mechanism applicable specifically to sugarcane; FCI, established under the Food Corporations Act, 1964, procures, stores, and distributes food grains as part of the Public Distribution System.

Q25. India signed a bilateral trade agreement with Australia in 2022. Which of the following statements about the India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) is correct?

(A) The India–Australia ECTA was signed on April 2, 2022, granting India duty-free access on over 96% of its exports (by value) to Australia; it was widely described as the first trade agreement India concluded with a major developed country in over a decade.

(B) India–Australia ECTA was signed in June 2023 and grants tariff concessions on 100% of Australian goods entering India immediately upon the agreement coming into force.

(C) The India–Australia ECTA signed in 2022 covers only trade in goods; services and investment provisions were explicitly excluded from the agreement's scope.

(D) India–Australia ECTA was signed in 2021, granting Australia duty-free access for 90% of its exports to India and giving India tariff concessions on agricultural products from the first year.

Q26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the "Panch Pran" (five pledges) as India's guiding commitments for the journey to 2047 (India@100). Which of the following correctly identifies when and where they were announced and what they comprise?

(A) The Panch Pran pledges were announced by PM Modi at the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, in November 2022, as India's foreign policy objectives for the next 25 years.

(B) PM Modi announced the five Panch Pran from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day (August 15, 2022); the pledges include building a Developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, eliminating vestiges of the colonial mindset, taking pride in India's heritage and traditions, strengthening unity and solidarity, and fulfilling the duties of citizens.

(C) The Panch Pran were announced on Republic Day (January 26, 2022) and include pledges to make India a permanent member of the UN Security Council, achieve 100% renewable energy, and eliminate corruption by 2047.

(D) The five Panch Pran pledges include: universal literacy, zero poverty, 100% renewable energy, cashless economy, and digital governance for all citizens — to be achieved by 2047.

Q27. Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) plays a pivotal role in promoting biotech innovation in India. Which of the following statements about BIRAC is accurate?

(A) BIRAC is a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry that funds large pharmaceutical corporations for drug development and clinical trials.

(B) BIRAC was established as a regulatory authority under the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act and oversees the approval of genetically modified organisms.

(C) BIRAC is a not-for-profit Section 8 company set up by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, to strengthen and empower the emerging biotech enterprise in India; it implements multiple funding schemes and the PM BioInitiative (2023) to accelerate India's position as a global biotech hub.

(D) BIRAC functions under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and is exclusively focused on developing vaccines and therapeutic drugs for public health emergencies declared by WHO.

Q28. India submitted its Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) to the UNFCCC as part of its climate commitments. Which of the following statements about India's LT-LEDS is correct?

(A) India submitted its LT-LEDS at COP26 in Glasgow (November 2021), pledging to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060 and to phase out all coal-based power by 2040.

(B) India's LT-LEDS, submitted at COP27, commits to a phase-out of all fossil fuels by 2050 and to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2065.

(C) India's LT-LEDS was formally presented at the G20 Bali Summit in November 2022 and sets a target of 50% non-fossil fuel installed electricity capacity by 2030 as its headline commitment.

(D) India submitted its Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) to the UNFCCC at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh (November 2022); it outlines pathways to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 and covers low-carbon transitions across energy, transportation, urban development, industry, and the forest and land-use sectors.

Q29. The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act, 2001 provides a sui generis system for plant variety protection. Which of the following correctly describes the "farmers' privilege" under this Act?

(A) Under the PPV&FR Act, 2001, farmers have the right to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share, or sell their farm produce of a protected variety; however, they are prohibited from selling such produce under the brand name of the registered variety as seed in a commercial marketing arrangement.

(B) The PPV&FR Act, 2001 prohibits farmers from saving or reusing seeds of any registered plant variety; farmers must purchase fresh certified seed each season to maintain legal compliance.

(C) Under the PPV&FR Act, the Plant Varieties Protection and Farmers' Rights Authority is established under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and is headquartered in Hyderabad.

(D) The PPV&FR Act, 2001, grants plant variety protection certificates valid for 5 years (renewable to a maximum of 10 years) for all crop species, including trees and vines.

Q30. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Which of the following statements about the CCPA is accurate?

(A) The CCPA was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, and has been operational since 1990 with powers to penalise manufacturers of defective goods.

(B) The CCPA, established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, is empowered to protect and promote consumer rights, prevent unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, issue recall orders for hazardous goods and services, and impose penalties on entities that violate consumer rights.

(C) The CCPA operates under the Ministry of Law and Justice and can take suo motu cognisance only of complaints that involve a threat to national security or public health emergencies.

(D) The CCPA established under the 2019 Act can only issue advisories to industries and trade bodies; it has no power to impose financial penalties, recall defective products, or initiate suo motu proceedings.

Q31. India and the United Kingdom have been engaged in Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations since January 2022. Which of the following correctly describes the status and key contentious issues as of 2024?

(A) India and the UK concluded their FTA in January 2024; India agreed to eliminate all tariffs on Scotch whisky over 10 years in exchange for the UK granting greater visa-free access to Indian IT professionals.

(B) India–UK FTA negotiations were formally abandoned in March 2024 after the UK government refused to provide meaningful market access for Indian generic pharmaceutical products.

(C) As of 2024, India–UK FTA negotiations remained inconclusive after multiple rounds; key contentious areas include tariff reductions on Scotch whisky (which India has been reluctant to phase out quickly), mobility provisions for Indian professionals, and the UK's demands on intellectual property, labour, and environmental standards.

(D) The India–UK FTA was initialled in mid-2023 and is pending parliamentary ratification; it eliminates duties on 90% of goods traded and includes a bilateral social security (totalization) agreement.

Q32. The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was given constitutional status by a constitutional amendment. Which of the following correctly describes that amendment and the constitutional provisions it introduced?

(A) The NCBC was given constitutional status by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016, the same amendment that introduced the Goods and Services Tax framework.

(B) Article 338 of the Constitution was amended to include the NCBC; the 102nd Amendment transferred the exclusive power to maintain OBC lists from States to the Centre.

(C) The NCBC was constituted under the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, which simultaneously introduced 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in education and government employment.

(D) The 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018, conferred constitutional status on the NCBC by inserting Article 338B; it also inserted Article 342A, which empowers the President to specify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes for the purposes of the Central Government, with Parliament having the power to include or exclude entries in the Central List.

Q33. International Yoga Day is observed globally on June 21 each year. Which of the following correctly describes how this day came to be recognised and when it was first observed?

(A) The United Nations General Assembly declared June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in December 2014, following a proposal made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UNGA in September 2014; the first International Yoga Day was observed worldwide on June 21, 2015, with record-breaking mass participation.

(B) International Yoga Day was first observed on June 21, 2014, after India proposed it at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva in June 2013.

(C) The United Nations declared June 21 as International Yoga Day at the UNGA in June 2015; the resolution was co-sponsored by 75 nations at the time of adoption.

(D) International Yoga Day is observed on June 22 every year; the UN designated this day in 2013, and India's proposal received co-sponsorship from 177 nations — the highest for a non-binding UNGA resolution at that time.

Q34. Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2024 was the fifth edition of this national multi-sport event for young athletes. Which of the following correctly describes the host, sports featured, and the nodal ministry?

(A) KIYG 2024 was hosted by Tamil Nadu with Chennai as the primary venue; it featured 35 sports disciplines and athletes below the age of 18 years competed across all disciplines.

(B) KIYG 2024 (5th edition) was hosted by Uttarakhand, with venues across Dehradun, Haridwar, and other cities; it was organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and featured both traditional summer sports and winter sports disciplines.

(C) KIYG 2024 was held in Madhya Pradesh and featured 40 sports disciplines; it was the first edition to include e-sports as a demonstration event alongside traditional sports.

(D) KIYG 2024 was hosted by Goa and organised jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Sports Authority of India (SAI), with a focus on promoting indigenous Indian sports.

Q35. The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was launched as a major international initiative to promote biofuels as a sustainable clean energy source. Which of the following statements about the GBA is correct?

(A) The GBA was launched at the COP28 Dubai summit in December 2023 with 20 founding members; the Alliance is secretariated in Washington DC, with the USA as the chair.

(B) The GBA was launched at the G7 Summit in Hiroshima in May 2023; India joined as an observer state, while Brazil and the USA serve as founding co-chairs.

(C) The Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was launched at the G20 New Delhi Summit on September 9, 2023, with India, the United States, and Brazil as key founding members; it aims to accelerate global biofuel adoption, facilitate technology transfer, develop global standards for biofuels, and position biofuels as a key component of the clean energy transition.

(D) The GBA was launched at the G20 Bali Summit in 2022; India co-chairs the Alliance with the USA and has pledged to produce 20% of its total energy from biofuels by 2030.

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Article 21A and Right to Education Act, 2009: Article 21A was inserted by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, making free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 a Fundamental Right. The RTE Act, 2009, operationalises this right and contains specific provisions regarding private school admissions.

Step 1 — Key provisions of Article 21A and RTE Act:

- Article 21A: inserted by the 86th (not 85th) Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002.
- Age group covered: 6 to 14 years (not 5–14 or 6–18).
- Section 12(1)(c) RTE Act: private unaided schools must admit at least 25% (not 20% or 30%) of children from EWS/disadvantaged groups at the entry-level class.
- Reimbursement: State Governments reimburse private schools for these admissions at the rate of per-child expenditure or the school's actual fee, whichever is lower.
- The 25% reservation applies only to entry-level class, not all classes simultaneously.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — all key facts (86th Amendment, age 6–14, 25% EWS at entry-level class) are accurate.
- Option (B): Wrong on two counts — age coverage is stated as 5–14 (incorrect; it is 6–14) and the reservation percentage is stated as 20% (incorrect; it is 25%).
- Option (C): Wrong — the age range 6–18 is incorrect (it is 6–14); also, 25% reservation applies only to entry-level class, not all class levels.
- Option (D): Wrong — Article 21A was inserted by the 86th (not 85th) Amendment; the EWS reservation is 25%, not 30%; minority institutions are partially exempt.

Final Answer: The RTE Act mandates free and compulsory education for children aged 6–14 with 25% EWS reservation in private unaided schools under Section 12(1)(c). $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (Nagarpalika Act): The 74th Amendment inserted Part IX-A into the Constitution to give constitutional status to urban local bodies (municipalities). It appended the Twelfth Schedule listing functions for municipalities and mandated the creation of Ward Committees in larger cities.

Step 1 — Key provisions of the 74th Amendment:

- Inserted Part IX-A (Articles 243P to 243ZG) dealing with municipalities.
- The Twelfth Schedule lists 18 functions (not 29) that may be transferred to municipalities by State law.
- Ward Committees are mandatory for cities with a population of 3 lakh or more.
- The Eleventh Schedule (not Twelfth) lists 29 functions related to Panchayati Raj (rural local bodies) under the 73rd Amendment.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the 74th Amendment deals with urban (not rural) local bodies; 29 functions in the Eleventh Schedule relate to Panchayati Raj (73rd Amendment).
- Option (B): Correct — Part IX-A, Twelfth Schedule with 18 functions, and Ward Committees for cities with population of 3 lakh or more are all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — the Twelfth Schedule lists 18 (not 29) functions; Ward Committees are not required for all urban local bodies, only cities with 3 lakh or more population.
- Option (D): Wrong — the 74th Amendment does not deal with State Finance Commissions for rural local bodies; it provides for State Finance Commissions for urban local bodies; it does not introduce proportional representation for municipal elections.

Final Answer: The 74th Amendment inserted Part IX-A, with the Twelfth Schedule listing 18 functions and Ward Committees mandatory for cities above 3 lakh population. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$\boxed{\textbf{Answer: (B)}}$ Go Back to Q2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — COP28 Dubai 2023 and the UAE Consensus: COP28 was held at Expo City Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023. It was the first Conference of Parties to conduct a formal Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement (2015) and produced the landmark "UAE Consensus" document.

Step 1 — Key outcomes of COP28:

- Location: Dubai, UAE (not Sharm el-Sheikh, which was COP27 in 2022).
- First Global Stocktake (GST): assessed collective progress toward Paris Agreement goals.
- UAE Consensus language: "transitioning away" from fossil fuels (not "phase-out"), avoiding the more absolute language demanded by small island states.
- Loss and Damage Fund: operationalised at COP28 (after COP27 agreed in principle) — not established for the first time at COP28.
- Net-zero target date: 2050 is a global aspiration; the agreement is non-binding, not a legally binding treaty.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — COP28 was in Dubai, UAE, not Sharm el-Sheikh (that was COP27); the outcome document was the UAE Consensus, not the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan.
- Option (B): Wrong — the UAE Consensus used "transitioning away," not a formal "phase-out"; also the Loss and Damage Fund was operationalised (not established for the first time) at COP28.
- Option (C): Correct — COP28 Dubai, UAE Consensus, first Global Stocktake, and "transitioning away" language are all factually accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — the Global Stocktake is concluded (not initiated) at COP28; the agreement is non-binding and does not set a mandatory net-zero date.

Final Answer: COP28 Dubai 2023 produced the UAE Consensus completing the first Global Stocktake and calling for "transitioning away" from fossil fuels. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) Loan Categories: PMMY was launched on April 8, 2015, to provide institutional credit to non-farm micro and small enterprises. Loans are channelled through banks, NBFCs, MFIs, and other intermediaries under three categories based on loan amount.

Step 1 — Correct loan thresholds under PMMY:

- Shishu: loans up to Rs. 50,000 (for very early-stage enterprises).
- Kishore: loans from Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 5 lakh (for growing micro enterprises).
- Tarun: loans from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh (for established micro enterprises seeking upgrades).
- PMMY covers non-farm income-generating activities; farm loans are covered separately.
- Loans disbursed through multiple channels: banks, NBFCs, MFIs, small finance banks — not exclusively through scheduled commercial banks.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — Shishu limit is Rs. 50,000, not Rs. 1 lakh; loans are not disbursed only through scheduled commercial banks.
- Option (B): Wrong — Shishu limit is Rs. 50,000 (not Rs. 25,000); Kishore upper limit is Rs. 5 lakh (not Rs. 2 lakh); PMMY covers non-farm activities, not farm-based activities.
- Option (C): Wrong — Kishore upper limit is Rs. 5 lakh, not Rs. 2 lakh; there is no 2% interest subsidy scheme embedded in PMMY's core structure.
- Option (D): Correct — Shishu up to Rs. 50,000, Kishore Rs. 50,001–Rs. 5 lakh, Tarun Rs. 5 lakh–Rs. 10 lakh, for non-farm activities, through multiple intermediaries.

Final Answer: PMMY's three categories are: Shishu (up to Rs. 50,000), Kishore (Rs. 50,001 to Rs. 5 lakh), Tarun (Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh). $\Rightarrow \boxed{D}$

$\boxed{\text{Answer: (D)}}$ Go Back to Q4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — GST Council under Article 279A: The GST Council is a constitutional body created by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016, which inserted Article 279A. It is a federal body comprising representatives of the Centre and all States, with a unique weighted voting mechanism to balance Centre-State interests.

Step 1 — Key structural and voting features of the GST Council:

- Constitutional provision: Article 279A (not Article 280, which deals with the Finance Commission).
- Amendment: 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016.
- Voting weight: Centre's votes = one-third; all States combined votes = two-thirds of votes cast.
- Decision threshold: three-fourths majority of votes cast (not simple majority or two-thirds).
- Quorum: one half of the total membership of the Council.
- Chairperson: Union Finance Minister (not the President of India).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — Article 279A, 101st Amendment, three-fourths majority, Centre one-third and States two-thirds weight are all accurate.
- Option (B): Wrong — the Council is under Article 279A (not Article 280); the Centre's vote share is one-third (not 50%); decisions require three-fourths majority (not two-thirds).
- Option (C): Wrong — the 101st (not 100th) Amendment established the GST framework; Centre and States do not have equal 50:50 weight; simple majority is insufficient.
- Option (D): Wrong — the 101st Amendment created the GST Council; decisions require three-fourths majority (not unanimity); quorum is half of total members; the Union Finance Minister chairs the Council.

Final Answer: GST Council is under Article 279A (101st Amendment), requires three-fourths majority, with Centre holding one-third and States two-thirds vote weight. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 — CIRP timeline and institutions: The IBC 2016 provides a time-bound insolvency resolution framework. For corporate debtors, CIRP is conducted before the NCLT (adjudicating authority), with an Insolvency Professional managing company affairs during the process.

Step 1 — CIRP timelines and key institutional features:

- Adjudicating authority: NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) for companies/LLPs — not NCLAT (which is the appellate body).
- CIRP must be completed within 180 days from admission; extendable by 90 days (to 270 days total) by NCLT order.
- Supreme Court has held the outer time limit for CIRP including litigation at 330 days.
- During CIRP, the Resolution Professional (IP) manages the corporate debtor (not appointed by RBI).
- DRT (Debt Recovery Tribunal) is adjudicating authority for individuals and partnership firms under IBC, not for companies.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the adjudicating authority is NCLT (not NCLAT, which is the appellate authority); maximum extendable period is 270 days (180+90), not 360 days.
- Option (B): Correct — 180 days extendable to 270, outer limit of 330 days including litigation, NCLT as adjudicating authority, IP managing affairs — all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — the IP/Resolution Professional is appointed by the Committee of Creditors, not by RBI; extensions of 180-day period are permissible by NCLT.
- Option (D): Wrong — 330 days is the judicial outer limit including litigation (not the initial statutory period); automatic liquidation at 330 days is not the rule; DRT adjudicates individual insolvencies, not corporate ones.

Final Answer: CIRP must be completed within 180 days (extendable to 270 days) before NCLT, with a 330-day outer limit; the IP manages the corporate debtor. $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0: SBM-Urban 2.0 is the second phase of the urban sanitation mission, building on the achievements of Phase 1 (2014–2019). It was launched on October 1, 2021, with a focus on sustainability and solid waste management beyond basic ODF status.

Step 1 — Key features and targets of SBM-U 2.0:

- Launch: October 1, 2021; coverage period: 2021–2025–26.
- Targets: all ULBs to achieve ODF+ and ODF++ certification (sustained sanitation); 100% scientific processing of all municipal solid waste.
- New focus areas: grey water management, faecal sludge management, and source segregation of waste.
- Implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- Not about constructing new individual toilets (that was the primary focus of Phase 1).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — SBM-U 2.0 was launched in October 2021 (not January 2019); Phase 1 focused on individual toilet construction and basic ODF; Phase 2 targets are different.
- Option (B): Wrong — the "Garbage Free Cities" target and 100% plastic waste recycling is an incomplete and distorted description; solid waste management is very much a core component of SBM-U 2.0, not a separate mission.
- Option (C): Correct — October 2021 launch, ODF+/ODF++ certification, 100% scientific processing of solid waste, wastewater/grey water treatment, and source segregation are all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — SBM-U 2.0 is not primarily about constructing 2 crore new toilets; that was a Phase 1 metric; there is no target to eliminate all landfill sites by 2024.

Final Answer: SBM-Urban 2.0 (launched October 2021) targets ODF+/ODF++ certification and 100% scientific solid waste processing by 2025–26. $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — National Health Mission (NHM) structure and funding: NHM was launched in April 2013 as an overarching health mission that subsumed the earlier National Rural Health Mission (NRHM, 2005) and the newly launched National Urban Health Mission (NUHM). It operates through a differentiated Centre-State funding pattern.

Step 1 — Structure and funding of NHM:

- NHM was launched in 2013, subsuming NRHM (2005) and adding NUHM as a new sub-mission.
- Two sub-missions: NRHM (for rural areas) and NUHM (for urban areas) — not three sub-missions.
- Funding ratio for general States: Centre 60% : State 40%.
- Funding ratio for special category/North-Eastern States: Centre 90% : State 10%.
- NRHM was launched in 2005 independently; NHM (2013) brought it under a common umbrella.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — NHM has two (not three) sub-missions; there is no "National Tribal Health Mission" as a separate NHM sub-mission; funding is shared (not entirely Central).
- Option (B): Wrong — NHM was launched in 2013 (not 2005); the 75:25 ratio is not universally applicable; North-Eastern/special category States have a 90:10 ratio.
- Option (C): Wrong — NRHM is a sub-mission of NHM, not an independent entity under a separate Act; NHM includes both NRHM and NUHM.
- Option (D): Correct — NHM (2013), two sub-missions (NRHM and NUHM), 60:40 for general States and 90:10 for special category/NE States — all accurate.

Final Answer: NHM (2013) has two sub-missions (NRHM and NUHM) with 60:40 Centre-State funding for general States and 90:10 for NE/special category States. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q8

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013: The Lokpal Act was a landmark anti-corruption legislation. It received Presidential assent on January 1, 2014. The Act prescribes specific qualifications for the Chairperson and detailed composition rules for the Lokpal.

Step 1 — Composition and eligibility under the Lokpal Act:

- Composition: one Chairperson and not more than 8 Members (at least 50% must be judicial members).
- Chairperson eligibility: must be (a) former Chief Justice of India, (b) former Judge of Supreme Court, OR (c) a person of impeccable integrity and outstanding ability with expertise in matters relating to anti-corruption, public administration, vigilance, finance, etc.
- Appointment: by the President on recommendation of a Search Committee.
- Jurisdiction: covers the Prime Minister (with exceptions), Ministers, MPs, Group A, B, C, D Central Government officials.
- The Lokpal Act does not make Lokayuktas mandatory; States enact their own Lokayukta laws.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — up to 8 members, at least 50% judicial, Chairperson can be former CJI, former SC Judge, or eminent person — all accurate.
- Option (B): Wrong — Lokpal has up to 8 members (not 10); at least 50% (not one-third) must be judicial; the Chairperson need not be a sitting CJI.
- Option (C): Wrong — Lokpal's jurisdiction extends beyond Group A officers and includes the Prime Minister (with certain restrictions), Ministers, and MPs; the PM is not entirely excluded.
- Option (D): Wrong — Lokpal Act received Presidential assent on January 1, 2014 (not 2015); the Act does not apply to State Government officers; the Lokayukta provision is not mandatory on States.

Final Answer: Lokpal has up to 8 members (50% judicial); Chairperson must be former CJI, former SC Judge, or an eminent person with prescribed qualifications. $\Rightarrow \boxed{A}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Environment Protection Act, 1986 (EPA): EPA 1986 is India's principal umbrella environmental legislation enacted following the Bhopal gas tragedy of December 1984. It gives the Central Government broad powers to protect and improve the environment and serves as the parent statute for many subordinate notifications including the EIA Notification.

Step 1 — Background and key powers under EPA 1986:

- Background: Enacted in 1986 in the wake of the Bhopal gas tragedy (1984); also fulfils India's commitments from the Stockholm Conference (1972) but is primarily a post-Bhopal response.
- Section 3: Central Government may take measures for the purpose of protecting and improving environmental quality.
- Section 5: Central Government (not State Government) is empowered to issue directions for closure, prohibition, or regulation of any industry, process, or operation.
- EIA Notification (2006) is issued under EPA 1986 (specifically under Section 3 read with Section 23).
- NGT has its own independent power under the NGT Act, 2010 — it does not derive Section 5 powers from EPA 1986.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — Section 5 powers vest in the Central Government (not State Governments); while EPA also fulfils Stockholm (1972) commitments, the immediate trigger was the Bhopal tragedy.
- Option (B): Correct — umbrella enabling legislation, Bhopal gas tragedy context, Section 5 empowering the Central Government, and EIA Notification under EPA — all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — EPA is not linked to the Nairobi Convention; the NGT has its own statutory powers under the NGT Act, 2010, and does not issue Section 5 directions under EPA.
- Option (D): Wrong — Section 5 powers vest in the Central Government, not State Governments; EIA is conducted under EPA 1986 (not the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972).

Final Answer: EPA 1986 is an umbrella enabling Act post-Bhopal; Section 5 empowers the Central Government to issue closure/regulation directions; EIA Notifications are issued under this Act. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — HAL Tejas Mk-1A Light Combat Aircraft: Tejas Mk-1A is the improved production variant of India's LCA Tejas with enhanced avionics, AESA radar, and better electronic warfare capabilities. It is a key component of India's air power modernisation under the AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

Step 1 — Contract details and technical specifications:

- Initial contract: 83 Tejas Mk-1A aircraft signed between IAF and HAL on February 3, 2021, valued at approximately Rs. 48,000 crore.
- Follow-on order: additional 97 aircraft order signed in 2024, taking the total to 180 Tejas Mk-1A jets.
- Engine: GE-F404-GE-IN20 engine manufactured by General Electric (USA) — not Kaveri (indigenously developed) or Rolls-Royce Adour.
- Purpose: primarily to replace the ageing MiG-21 fleet being phased out by the IAF.
- GTRE's Kaveri engine is still under development and is not yet fitted on Tejas aircraft.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the 83-aircraft contract was signed in February 2021 (not December 2023); the Kaveri engine is not fitted on Tejas Mk-1A (it is under development).
- Option (B): Wrong — Tejas Mk-1A uses the GE-F404 engine (not Rolls-Royce Adour); the IAF order was for 83 (not 40) aircraft in 2021.
- Option (C): Correct — February 2021 contract for 83 aircraft, follow-on order of 97 in 2024, GE-F404 engine, MiG-21 replacement — all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — the Kaveri-M engine is not fitted on Tejas Mk-1A; the order was for 83 (not 108) aircraft in 2021, with a separate 97-aircraft order in 2024.

Final Answer: IAF signed a contract for 83 Tejas Mk-1A in February 2021 (97 more in 2024); aircraft powered by GE-F404 engine and intended to replace MiG-21. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — National Mineral Policy 2019 and District Mineral Foundation: The National Mineral Policy 2019 replaced the earlier 2008 policy with a focus on sustainable and scientific mining, transparent auctions, and community welfare. A key feature is the star-rating system for mines based on their performance.

Step 1 — Key features of National Mineral Policy 2019:

- Replaced National Mineral Policy 2008 (not 2012).
- Introduced star-rating system: mines are rated 1 to 5 stars based on scientific mining, environmental compliance, and rehabilitation performance.
- District Mineral Foundation (DMF): established under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 (MMDR Amendment Act); not abolished by the 2019 Policy.
- DMF funds are used for welfare of mining-affected communities under Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY).
- The policy promotes long-term leases through transparent auction mechanisms.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the 2019 Policy replaced the 2008 (not 2012) policy; it did not abolish DMF but rather reinforced its role.
- Option (B): Wrong — there is no "Platinum-rating" system; the star-rating is 1–5 stars; the 60% DMF fund usage figure is not a standard requirement in the 2019 policy.
- Option (C): Wrong — EIA requirement for mines was pre-existing under EPA 1986; there is no separate "Green Rating" system distinct from the star-rating in the 2019 policy.
- Option (D): Correct — star-rating for mines based on sustainable practices, and DMF established under MMDR Amendment 2015 for community welfare — both accurate.

Final Answer: National Mineral Policy 2019 introduced a star-rating system for mines; DMF (under MMDR Amendment 2015) funds welfare for mining-affected communities. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q12

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) Emission Norms: India's emission standards for vehicles (Bharat Stage) are aligned with European Euro norms. India made the remarkable decision to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI, skipping BS-V entirely, to accelerate pollution control.

Step 1 — Key facts about BS-VI norms:

- India skipped BS-V entirely, moving directly from BS-IV to BS-VI.
- Implementation: BS-VI mandatory for all new vehicles sold from April 1, 2020.
- Sulphur content: BS-VI fuel has 10 ppm (parts per million) vs. BS-IV's 50 ppm — a 5-fold reduction.
- BS-VI significantly reduces particulate matter (PM2.5) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx).
- Delhi had BS-IV fuel from 2010; some metro cities adopted BS-IV before the rest of India.
- BS-VI is equivalent to Euro 6 standards.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI, mandatory from April 1, 2020, BS-VI fuel at 10 ppm vs. BS-IV's 50 ppm, reduction in PM and NOx — all accurate.
- Option (B): Wrong — BS-VI was implemented from April 1, 2020 (not 2022); India did not follow BS-V (it was skipped); the leapfrog approach was announced years before 2022.
- Option (C): Wrong — BS-VI was implemented from April 1, 2020 (not 2019); BS-VI fuel has 10 ppm sulphur (not 50 ppm; 50 ppm is BS-IV).
- Option (D): Wrong — BS-VI was implemented uniformly across India from April 1, 2020 (not in phases until 2021); BS-VI replaced BS-IV (not BS-V, which was never formally implemented nationwide).

Final Answer: India leapfrogged from BS-IV to BS-VI (effective April 1, 2020); BS-VI fuel has 10 ppm sulphur vs. BS-IV's 50 ppm, cutting PM and NOx emissions. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$\boxed{\text{Answer: (A)}}$ Go Back to Q13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Consumer Protection Act, 2019: The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 modernised India's consumer protection framework, replacing the 1986 Act. Key innovations include the establishment of the CCPA, e-commerce regulations, product liability provisions, and revised pecuniary limits for the three-tier Redressal Commissions.

Step 1 — Key provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

- Replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (which had already established NCDRC).
- Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA): newly established under the 2019 Act.
- E-commerce provisions: Chapter II (Sections 2(16), 94, etc.) specifically addresses e-commerce.
- Pecuniary limits under the 2019 Act: District Commission (up to Rs. 1 crore), State Commission (Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 10 crore), National Commission (above Rs. 10 crore).
- Product liability: introduced as a new concept in Chapter VI.
- Covers both goods AND services (not goods only).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — NCDRC was established under the 1986 Act (not the 2019 Act); the National Commission's jurisdiction starts above Rs. 10 crore (not Rs. 50 crore) under the original 2019 Act.
- Option (B): Correct — e-commerce provisions, CCPA establishment, and correct pecuniary limits (District up to Rs. 1 crore, State Rs. 1–10 crore, National above Rs. 10 crore) are all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — the CCPA has extensive powers including imposing financial penalties, recalling hazardous goods, and filing class-action suits; it is not limited to issuing advisories only.
- Option (D): Wrong — the 2019 Act expressly covers services and e-commerce; it does not exclude services or online transactions.

Final Answer: The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 introduced CCPA and e-commerce provisions with District/State/National Commission pecuniary limits of up to Rs. 1 cr / Rs. 1–10 cr / above Rs. 10 cr. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): PMSBY is a government-backed personal accident insurance scheme launched in May 2015. It is distinct from PMJJBY (life insurance). PMSBY is available to savings bank account holders and provides accident-related coverage at a very low annual premium.

Step 1 — Key features of PMSBY:

- Type: Accidental death and disability insurance (not life insurance).
- Coverage: Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death or total permanent disability; Rs. 1 lakh for partial permanent disability.
- Original annual premium: Rs. 12/year; revised premium: Rs. 20/year (effective June 1, 2022).
- Eligibility: individuals aged 18 to 70 years with a savings bank/post office account.
- Administered by: public sector general insurance companies and other non-life insurers.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — PMSBY provides Rs. 2 lakh cover for accidental death (not Rs. 4 lakh); age group is 18–70 (not 18–60); premium was revised from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 in 2022.
- Option (B): Wrong — PMSBY is accident insurance (not life insurance); premium is Rs. 20/year (not Rs. 330, which is the PMJJBY premium); it is not administered by LIC.
- Option (C): Correct — Rs. 2 lakh for accidental death/total disability, Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability, Rs. 20 premium (revised June 2022 from Rs. 12), age 18–70 — all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — PMSBY is accident insurance (not life insurance); age group is 18–70 (not 18–55); Aadhaar linking is not mandatory for enrolment.

Final Answer: PMSBY provides Rs. 2 lakh accident cover (Rs. 1 lakh partial disability) at Rs. 20/year premium (revised 2022) for individuals aged 18–70. $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — WTO MC13 Abu Dhabi 2024 and India's agricultural positions: The 13th WTO Ministerial Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from February 26 to March 2, 2024. India's primary concerns centered on preserving its food security-related agricultural support programmes and the public stockholding peace clause.

Step 1 — India's key positions at MC13:

- MC13 was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE (not Geneva).
- India insisted on maintaining the interim peace clause for public stockholding for food security (not a permanent solution — that was not achieved at MC13).
- India opposed new disciplines on domestic agricultural support that could cap MSP-based procurement.
- India also withheld consensus on certain e-commerce moratorium issues.
- MC13 did not produce a permanent solution on public stockholding — India's long-standing demand.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — MC13 was held in Abu Dhabi (not Geneva); India did not agree to a 10% subsidy cap — that is India's position AGAINST such a cap.
- Option (B): Wrong — India's focus at MC13 was agricultural subsidies and public stockholding, not anti-dumping duties on textiles; fisheries subsidies agreement was at MC12 (Geneva 2022).
- Option (C): Wrong — India did NOT secure a permanent solution at MC13; the peace clause continues as an interim measure; the permanent solution remains elusive.
- Option (D): Correct — Abu Dhabi, February 2024, insisting on peace clause continuation, opposing new domestic support disciplines, blocking consensus on e-commerce — all accurate.

Final Answer: At WTO MC13 Abu Dhabi (February 2024), India defended the peace clause on public stockholding and opposed new domestic support disciplines without a permanent solution. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Parliamentary Privileges under Articles 105 and 194: Parliamentary privileges are special rights and immunities enjoyed by each House of Parliament, its committees, and their members. They are essential to the functioning of legislative bodies free from external interference. Article 105 covers Parliament; Article 194 covers State Legislatures.

Step 1 — Key privileges under Articles 105 and 194:

- Freedom of speech: no member of Parliament is liable to any proceedings in any court for anything said or any vote given in Parliament or a committee thereof (Article 105(1)).
- Article 194 confers the same freedom of speech and immunity from court proceedings on members of State Legislatures.
- Immunity from arrest: civil arrest immunity during sessions (40 days before, during, and 40 days after); this does not cover criminal matters.
- Parliamentary privileges are NOT Fundamental Rights; they are distinct constitutional provisions.
- Courts have limited power of judicial review over privilege matters (P.V. Narasimha Rao case, etc.).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — freedom of speech in Parliament, immunity from court proceedings for votes/speeches, and similar Article 194 privileges for State Legislatures — all accurately stated.
- Option (B): Wrong — the immunity from arrest applies only to civil arrest during sessions (and 40 days before/after); it does not extend to criminal matters and does not cover acts outside the House.
- Option (C): Wrong — Parliamentary privileges are not Fundamental Rights under Part III; they cannot be enforced under Article 32 or Article 226 as if they were FRs.
- Option (D): Wrong — Parliamentary privileges are not fully codified (they derive from constitution, statute, and practice); MPs do not have absolute criminal immunity for acts outside Parliament.

Final Answer: Under Article 105, MPs have immunity from court proceedings for speeches/votes in Parliament; Article 194 grants identical privileges to State Legislature members. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Doctrine of Basic Structure (Kesavananda Bharati, 1973): The Basic Structure doctrine is the Supreme Court's judicially created limitation on Parliament's power to amend the Constitution under Article 368. It emerged from one of the most consequential constitutional cases in Indian legal history.

Step 1 — The Kesavananda Bharati judgment:

- Case: Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala, 1973.
- Bench: 13-judge Constitutional Bench (the largest ever assembled for a single case).
- Majority: 7:6 (thin majority) — held that Parliament cannot destroy/abrogate the basic structure.
- Basic structure elements identified include: supremacy of Constitution, republican/democratic form, separation of powers, federalism, unity and integrity of India, judicial review, secular character.
- Golaknath (1967) held FRs were unamendable entirely; Kesavananda overruled Golaknath partially.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — Golaknath (1967) held Fundamental Rights were beyond amendment but did NOT enunciate the "basic structure" doctrine by that name; it was also not unanimous (it was an 11-judge bench, 6:5 majority).
- Option (B): Correct — 13-judge bench, 7:6 majority, Kesavananda Bharati (1973), Parliament cannot abrogate basic structure while retaining wide amending power — all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — the Basic Structure doctrine was NOT first articulated in Minerva Mills (1980); Minerva Mills applied and extended the doctrine established in Kesavananda (1973); it was not a unanimous 9-judge bench.
- Option (D): Wrong — Basic Structure doctrine was NOT first articulated in Indira Gandhi v. Raj Narain (1975); that case applied the doctrine (established in Kesavananda 1973) to strike down the 39th Amendment.

Final Answer: In Kesavananda Bharati (1973), a 13-judge bench by 7:6 majority established that Parliament cannot abrogate the basic structure of the Constitution under Article 368. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q18

Q19.

Solution

Concept — RBI Retail Direct Scheme (November 2021): The RBI Retail Direct Scheme is a landmark initiative by the Reserve Bank of India to democratise access to Government Securities (G-Secs) for retail individual investors in India. Previously, G-Sec investment was largely limited to institutional investors.

Step 1 — Key features of the RBI Retail Direct Scheme:

- Launched: November 12, 2021, by PM Modi; the scheme was developed and is operated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), not SEBI.
- Account type: Retail Direct Gilt (RDG) Account — a separate gilt account opened directly with RBI.
- Investment options: Central Government securities, State Development Loans (SDLs), Treasury Bills, Sovereign Gold Bonds — all Government Securities.
- No broker or intermediary required; investors access the RBI platform directly.
- Target: retail individual investors, making G-Sec investment accessible and affordable for ordinary citizens.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the scheme is by RBI (not SEBI); it enables investment in G-Secs (not equity shares of listed companies); the purpose is fixed-income/government securities investment.
- Option (B): Wrong — the RBI Retail Direct Scheme is for Government Securities, not corporate bonds; it is an RBI initiative, not a SEBI platform.
- Option (C): Correct — RBI (not SEBI), November 2021, RDG Account with RBI, direct investment in Central Government Securities and SDLs, no broker required — all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — it is an RBI initiative (not a SEBI–RBI joint initiative); it covers G-Secs (not mutual funds); the scheme is for all retail investors, not exclusively rural.

Final Answer: The RBI Retail Direct Scheme (November 2021) allows retail investors to open an RDG Account with RBI and directly invest in G-Secs without a broker. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — National Biodiversity Authority (NBA): The NBA was set up under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, India's legislation to implement the obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It regulates access to biological resources and ensures equitable sharing of benefits.

Step 1 — Key facts about the National Biodiversity Authority:

- Established under: Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (not Wildlife Protection Act or EPA 1986).
- Headquarters: Chennai (Tamil Nadu).
- Functions: regulate access to Indian biological resources by foreign nationals/entities; prior approval for IP applications involving Indian biological resources; advice to Central and State Governments on biodiversity conservation.
- Three-tier structure: NBA (national) $\rightarrow$ State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) $\rightarrow$ Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at local level.
- People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) are maintained at local level by BMCs.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — NBA was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (not Wildlife Protection Act, 1972); headquarters are in Chennai (not New Delhi).
- Option (B): Wrong — NBA was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (not Forest Conservation Act, 1980); headquarters are in Chennai (not Hyderabad).
- Option (C): Wrong — NBA was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (not EPA, 1986); headquarters are in Chennai (not Bengaluru).
- Option (D): Correct — Biological Diversity Act 2002, Chennai headquarters, regulating access to biological resources, benefit-sharing, and advisory role to governments — all accurate.

Final Answer: NBA was established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, is headquartered in Chennai, and regulates access to biological resources and benefit-sharing. $\Rightarrow \boxed{D}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under NITI Aayog: AIM was set up in 2016 by the Government of India under NITI Aayog to promote a culture of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship across the country. It operates through multiple programmes targeting different segments of the innovation ecosystem.

Step 1 — Key programmes and structure of AIM:

- Nodal body: NITI Aayog (not Ministry of Science and Technology or Ministry of Education).
- Established: 2016.
- Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL): set up in schools (Classes VI to XII) to foster curiosity and problem-solving.
- Atal Incubation Centres (AIC): support startups and entrepreneurs with funding, mentorship, and infrastructure.
- Atal New India Challenges (ANIC): call for innovators to develop solutions for national development challenges.
- Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACIC): for technology access in underserved areas.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — NITI Aayog, 2016, ATLs in schools, AICs for startups, ANIC for national challenges — all accurate descriptions.
- Option (B): Wrong — AIM was launched in 2016 (not 2015); it is under NITI Aayog (not Ministry of Science and Technology); ATLs are set up in schools (not engineering colleges).
- Option (C): Wrong — AIM functions under NITI Aayog (not Ministry of Education or DST); AICs support startups of all stages, not only school-level entrepreneurs.
- Option (D): Wrong — AIM was established under NITI Aayog (not the Planning Commission, which was dissolved in 2014); ATLs have been set up in thousands of schools (not just 100).

Final Answer: AIM was established under NITI Aayog in 2016; its flagship programmes are ATLs (schools), AICs (startups), and ANIC (national innovation challenges). $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q21

Q22.

Solution

Concept — IT (Amendment) Act 2008 and Section 66A (Shreya Singhal Case): The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 extensively amended the IT Act, 2000, adding new cyber offences and modifying the liability framework. Section 66A, which criminalised sending "offensive" electronic messages, became a landmark provision challenged as unconstitutional.

Step 1 — Section 66A and the Shreya Singhal judgment:

- Section 66A inserted by IT (Amendment) Act, 2008 (not a later 2013 amendment).
- Section 66A penalised sending "grossly offensive," "menacing," or "false" electronic messages with up to 3 years imprisonment.
- Shreya Singhal v. Union of India: decided by the Supreme Court in 2015.
- Outcome: Section 66A struck down as unconstitutional for violating Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression); the Court held the provision was vague and overbroad.
- The striking down was NOT for violating Article 21 (right to life).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — Section 66A was NOT upheld; it was struck down as unconstitutional in Shreya Singhal (2015) for violating Article 19(1)(a).
- Option (B): Correct — IT (Amendment) Act 2008, Section 66A penalising offensive messages, struck down in Shreya Singhal (2015) for violating Article 19(1)(a) — all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — Section 66A was introduced by the IT (Amendment) Act, 2008 (not a 2013 amendment); it was struck down in 2015 (not 2017); the ground was violation of Article 19(1)(a), not Article 21.
- Option (D): Wrong — the IT (Amendment) Act 2008 introduced intermediary liability (Section 79), not mandatory prior government approval for content; no such prior approval requirement exists under the Act.

Final Answer: IT (Amendment) Act 2008 inserted Section 66A; the Supreme Court struck it down in Shreya Singhal (2015) for violating Article 19(1)(a). $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

$\boxed{\text{Answer: (B)}}$ Go Back to Q22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman (renamed Mid-Day Meal Scheme): The Mid-Day Meal Scheme, one of India's oldest and largest school nutrition programmes, was renamed to PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman in September 2021. The scheme aims to improve nutritional outcomes and school attendance among children.

Step 1 — Key facts about PM POSHAN:

- Renamed from: Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- Renamed in: September 2021 (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approval).
- Coverage: students from Class I to Class VIII in government and government-aided schools.
- Extension: a pilot to include pre-primary (Bal Vatika) children at government schools was also announced.
- Administered by: Ministry of Education (not Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- PM POSHAN is distinct from ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services), which covers 0–6 year age group.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the renaming happened in September 2021 (not 2019); the extension to Class IX and X is incorrect; the scheme covers Classes I–VIII.
- Option (B): Wrong — PM POSHAN was renamed from the Mid-Day Meal Scheme (not ICDS); it covers school children (not all anganwadi beneficiaries including pregnant/lactating mothers, which is ICDS).
- Option (C): Correct — renamed from Mid-Day Meal Scheme, September 2021, Classes I–VIII in government/government-aided schools, pilot extension to Bal Vatika — all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — PM POSHAN is administered by the Ministry of Education (not Ministry of Health and Family Welfare); the renaming was in September 2021 (not 2022).

Final Answer: Mid-Day Meal Scheme was renamed PM POSHAN Shakti Nirman in September 2021; it covers Class I–VIII students in government schools under the Ministry of Education. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q23

Q24.

Solution

Concept — FCI, MSP, and the CACP/FRP distinction: India's agricultural support framework involves multiple instruments and agencies. A common area of confusion is the distinction between MSP (Minimum Support Price) for various crops and FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price) which is specific to sugarcane. FCI plays a key role in food grain procurement and distribution.

Step 1 — Key facts about MSP, FRP, and FCI:

- CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices): recommends MSP for 23 crops to the government annually.
- MSP is a price support tool; it does NOT have a statutory backing mandating all farmers receive it.
- FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price): a separate mechanism applicable ONLY to sugarcane; set by the Central Government based on CACP recommendation under the Sugarcane (Control) Order.
- FCI (Food Corporation of India): established under the Food Corporations Act, 1964; procures, stores, moves, and distributes food grains (wheat, rice, coarse grains) under the PDS.
- FCI is not the sole agency and not mandated to procure ALL agricultural produce from every farmer.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — FRP is NOT applicable to all 23 MSP crops; it applies specifically to sugarcane; FCI is not legally mandated to procure produce from every farmer.
- Option (B): Wrong — FCI does not set MSP; CACP recommends and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves MSP.
- Option (C): Wrong — CACP recommends MSP for 23 crops (not 50); FRP is for sugarcane (not coarse cereals like jowar and bajra, which receive MSP).
- Option (D): Correct — CACP recommends MSP for 23 crops; FRP is a distinct mechanism for sugarcane; FCI established under Food Corporations Act 1964 for PDS procurement and storage — all accurate.

Final Answer: CACP recommends MSP for 23 crops; FRP is a distinct mechanism for sugarcane; FCI (established 1964) procures and distributes food grains for the PDS. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q24

Q25.

Solution

Concept — India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA): The India–Australia ECTA was signed as an interim (Early Harvest) agreement to capture immediate trade benefits while a comprehensive FTA is negotiated. It was India's first trade agreement with a major developed economy in over a decade.

Step 1 — Key features of India–Australia ECTA:

- Signed on: April 2, 2022, in New Delhi by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan.
- Entered into force: December 29, 2022.
- India's benefit: duty-free access on over 96.4% of Indian exports (by value) to Australia, including textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering goods.
- Australia's benefit: duty concessions on a range of Australian goods entering India, including coal, certain agricultural products, and wine.
- First such agreement India signed with a major developed country in about 10–12 years.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — April 2, 2022, over 96% duty-free access for Indian exports to Australia, first trade agreement with a major developed country in over a decade — all accurate.
- Option (B): Wrong — ECTA was signed on April 2, 2022 (not June 2023); it does not grant 100% tariff concessions on Australian goods immediately upon coming into force.
- Option (C): Wrong — the ECTA covers both goods AND services trade; services are explicitly included in the agreement.
- Option (D): Wrong — ECTA was signed on April 2, 2022 (not in 2021); it gives India 96% duty-free access to Australia (not 90%); Australia does not get duty-free access for agricultural products from day one.

Final Answer: India–Australia ECTA was signed on April 2, 2022, giving India duty-free access on over 96% of exports to Australia — India's first such deal with a major developed economy in a decade. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

$\boxed{\text{Answer: (A)}}$ Go Back to Q25

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Panch Pran (Five Pledges) for India@100: The Panch Pran represent a set of five commitments that Prime Minister Modi laid out as India's guiding vision for the 25-year journey from India's 75th Independence Day (2022) to its centenary (2047). They form the framework of "Amrit Kaal" (golden era).

Step 1 — The five Panch Pran and when they were announced:

- Announced: August 15, 2022 (Independence Day), from the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- Pledge 1 (Viksit Bharat): Build a Developed India by 2047.
- Pledge 2: Eradicate all traces of colonial mindset and servility.
- Pledge 3: Take pride in India's heritage, traditions, and achievements.
- Pledge 4: Strengthen unity and solidarity, remaining united as a nation.
- Pledge 5: Fulfil duties as citizens (Nagarik Kartavya).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — Panch Pran were announced on Independence Day, August 15, 2022, from the Red Fort — not at the G20 Bali Summit (November 2022); they are domestic commitments, not foreign policy pledges.
- Option (B): Correct — August 15, 2022, Red Fort, five pledges covering Viksit Bharat, colonial mindset removal, pride in heritage, unity, and citizen duties — all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — Panch Pran were announced on Independence Day (August 15, 2022), not Republic Day (January 26, 2022); UN Security Council permanent membership and renewable energy are not among the five pledges.
- Option (D): Wrong — the actual five pledges do not include universal literacy, zero poverty, cashless economy, etc.; these are fabricated descriptions not matching PM Modi's declared Panch Pran.

Final Answer: PM Modi announced the Panch Pran on August 15, 2022, from the Red Fort: Viksit Bharat, no colonial mindset, pride in heritage, unity, and citizen duties. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q26

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC): BIRAC is a unique public sector body that bridges the gap between academia and industry in India's biotechnology sector. It functions as a not-for-profit entity under the Department of Biotechnology to fund and support biotech startups and MSMEs.

Step 1 — Key facts about BIRAC:

- Type: not-for-profit Section 8 company under the Companies Act.
- Parent department: Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Mandate: fund and support biotech startups, SMEs, and research institutions; build biotech innovation ecosystem.
- Key schemes: BIPP (Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme), SBIRI, SPARSH, etc.
- PM BioInitiative (2023): a government initiative to develop India as a global biotech hub — BIRAC implements key programmes under this.
- BIRAC is NOT under Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Health, or a regulatory body.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — BIRAC is under the Department of Biotechnology (not Ministry of Commerce); it supports startups and SMEs (not large pharmaceutical corporations exclusively).
- Option (B): Wrong — BIRAC is not established under the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Act (no such enacted law exists as of now); BIRAC does not regulate GMOs.
- Option (C): Correct — Section 8 company, DBT (Ministry of Science and Technology), supports biotech enterprises, implements PM BioInitiative — all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — BIRAC is under the Department of Biotechnology/Ministry of Science and Technology (not Ministry of Health); it supports a broad range of biotech innovation, not just pandemic vaccines.

Final Answer: BIRAC is a DBT-established not-for-profit Section 8 company that supports India's biotech innovation ecosystem and implements the PM BioInitiative (2023). $\Rightarrow \boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q27

Q28.

Solution

Concept — India's Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy (LT-LEDS): Under the Paris Agreement, parties are invited to submit Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS). India submitted its strategy at COP27 in 2022. This is distinct from India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which set 2030 targets.

Step 1 — Key features of India's LT-LEDS:

- Submitted: November 2022, at COP27, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt (not COP26 Glasgow, which was November 2021).
- Net-zero target: India's LT-LEDS sets a net-zero emissions target of 2070 (not 2060 or 2065).
- Sectors covered: energy transition, transportation, urban development, industry, forests and land use.
- India's LT-LEDS is a guidance document, not a legally binding commitment; it is separate from the NDCs.
- India's 2030 NDC targets (updated in 2022): 50% cumulative installed electric power from non-fossil sources, and 45% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — India's LT-LEDS was submitted at COP27 (November 2022), not COP26 Glasgow (November 2021); net-zero target is 2070 (not 2060); India made its 2070 net-zero pledge at COP26 but the LT-LEDS document was at COP27.
- Option (B): Wrong — India's LT-LEDS does not commit to phase-out of all fossil fuels by 2050; net-zero target is 2070 (not 2065).
- Option (C): Wrong — India's LT-LEDS was submitted to the UNFCCC at COP27 (not at the G20 Bali Summit); the 50% non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030 is part of India's NDC, not the LT-LEDS headline.
- Option (D): Correct — COP27 Sharm el-Sheikh (November 2022), net-zero by 2070, covers energy, transport, urban, industry, and forests — all accurate.

Final Answer: India submitted its LT-LEDS at COP27 (Sharm el-Sheikh, November 2022), outlining net-zero by 2070 pathways across energy, transport, industry, and forest sectors. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q28

Q29.

Solution

Concept — PPV&FR Act, 2001: Farmers' Privilege and Breeders' Rights: The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 is India's unique sui generis system for plant variety protection. Unlike the UPOV Convention, it explicitly protects farmers' traditional rights alongside breeders' commercial rights.

Step 1 — Farmers' Privilege under PPV&FR Act, 2001:

- Section 39: farmers' rights — farmers can save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share, or sell their farm produce including protected variety seed.
- Important restriction: a farmer cannot sell seed of a protected variety in the form of branded seed under a commercial marketing arrangement (i.e., cannot commercially market it as branded seed).
- This is a "farmers' privilege" meaning they retain traditional seed-saving rights.
- Breeders receive plant variety protection certificates valid for 15 years for crops (18 years for trees and vines), extendable by 6 years.
- Authority: Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (not Ministry of Environment).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — farmers can save/use/exchange/sell farm produce of a protected variety but cannot commercially sell it as branded seed — all accurately stated.
- Option (B): Wrong — the PPV&FR Act explicitly grants farmers the right to save and reuse seeds; prohibiting seed saving would violate the Act's core philosophy.
- Option (C): Wrong — the PPV&FR Authority is under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (not Ministry of Environment); it is headquartered in New Delhi (not Hyderabad).
- Option (D): Wrong — protection period is 15 years for crops (not 5 years); trees and vines receive 18 years; no "5-year with 10-year extension" structure exists under the Act.

Final Answer: Under PPV&FR Act 2001, farmers may save/exchange/sell farm produce of protected varieties but cannot commercially sell it as branded seed. $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q29

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA): The CCPA is one of the most significant innovations of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. It is a regulatory authority designed to take up class action-type interventions to protect consumer interests at a systemic level, unlike the quasi-judicial consumer commissions that handle individual disputes.

Step 1 — Powers and functions of the CCPA:

- Established under: Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (not the 1986 Act).
- Headed by: Chief Commissioner, assisted by two Commissioners.
- Powers include: suo motu inquiries; directions to recall unsafe goods or withdraw services; orders for refund; prohibition of misleading advertisements; imposition of penalties up to Rs. 10 lakh (and up to Rs. 50 lakh for repeat offences).
- Can also recommend action against manufacturers, traders, and endorsers (celebrities) of misleading advertisements.
- Operates under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — CCPA was established under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (not the 1986 Act); it has not been operational since 1990.
- Option (B): Correct — protects consumer rights, prevents unfair trade practices and misleading ads, issues recall orders, imposes penalties — all accurately described.
- Option (C): Wrong — CCPA operates under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs (not Ministry of Law); it can take suo motu cognisance of consumer rights violations broadly (not just national security issues).
- Option (D): Wrong — the CCPA has extensive enforcement powers including financial penalties up to Rs. 50 lakh, product recalls, and suo motu proceedings; it is not limited to advisories.

Final Answer: CCPA (established under Consumer Protection Act, 2019) can prohibit misleading ads, recall hazardous goods, impose penalties, and protect consumer rights suo motu. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{B}}$

$\boxed{\textbf{Answer: (B)}}$ Go Back to Q30

Q31.

Solution

Concept — India–UK Free Trade Agreement Negotiations (2022–2024): India and the UK formally launched FTA negotiations in January 2022 after the UK's exit from the EU created space for bilateral trade deals. The negotiations have faced multiple hurdles on both sides, making it one of the most closely watched trade negotiation exercises.

Step 1 — Status and key issues in India–UK FTA negotiations:

- Launched: January 2022.
- Multiple rounds of negotiations have taken place (14+ rounds as of 2024).
- Status as of 2024: not concluded; both sides express intent to conclude but deal remains elusive.
- Key contentious issues on India's side: UK demands for reduced tariffs on Scotch whisky (currently at 150%); India has resisted rapid phase-out.
- UK's demands: stronger IP enforcement, labour and environmental standards, e-commerce rules.
- India's demands: enhanced visa mobility for Indian professionals, recognition of professional qualifications, relaxed visa norms for students.
- The negotiations were not abandoned; both countries remain engaged.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — the FTA was NOT concluded in January 2024; neither side agreed to fully eliminate Scotch whisky tariffs; visa access was among India's asks, not a concluded exchange.
- Option (B): Wrong — negotiations were NOT formally abandoned; talks continued through 2024; pharma access was a consideration but not the sole reason for any breakdown.
- Option (C): Correct — inconclusive as of 2024, Scotch whisky tariffs, Indian professional mobility, IP/labour/environmental standards as contentious areas — all accurately described.
- Option (D): Wrong — the FTA was NOT initialled; it has not been concluded; claiming 90% tariff elimination and a concluded social security agreement is factually inaccurate as of 2024.

Final Answer: India–UK FTA negotiations remained inconclusive as of 2024; key sticking points include Scotch whisky tariffs, professional mobility, and IP/labour standards. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$\boxed{\textbf{Answer: (C)}}$ Go Back to Q31

Q32.

Solution

Concept — 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018 and Article 338B (NCBC): The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was originally a statutory body under the NCBC Act, 1993. The 102nd Constitutional Amendment elevated it to a constitutional body, giving it the same status as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (Article 338) and Scheduled Tribes (Article 338A).

Step 1 — Key provisions of the 102nd Constitutional Amendment, 2018:

- 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018 (not the 101st, which was GST, or the 103rd, which was EWS reservation).
- Inserted Article 338B: providing constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes.
- Inserted Article 342A: empowers the President (in consultation with Governor for State lists) to specify SEBCs; the Central List of OBCs is now maintained by the Centre, with Parliament having power to include/exclude from the Central List.
- The 103rd Amendment (2019) introduced 10% EWS reservation under Articles 15(6) and 16(6).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — NCBC was given constitutional status by the 102nd Amendment (not 101st); the 101st Amendment introduced GST under Article 279A in 2016.
- Option (B): Wrong — Article 338B (not Article 338) deals with NCBC; Article 342A gives the President power to specify OBCs for the Central List (not transferring all OBC list-making from States to Centre — State lists continue under State law).
- Option (C): Wrong — NCBC constitutional status was granted by 102nd Amendment (not 103rd); the 103rd Amendment (2019) provided for EWS reservation.
- Option (D): Correct — 102nd Amendment, Article 338B (constitutional status for NCBC), Article 342A (President specifies SEBCs for Central purposes), Parliament controls Central List inclusions/exclusions — all accurate.

Final Answer: The 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018, inserted Article 338B giving NCBC constitutional status and Article 342A for specifying OBCs at the national level. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q32

Q33.

Solution

Concept — International Day of Yoga (June 21): The International Day of Yoga reflects India's successful diplomatic initiative at the United Nations. It was proposed by PM Narendra Modi in his maiden address to the UN General Assembly and received unprecedented global support.

Step 1 — Timeline and facts about International Yoga Day:

- Proposal: PM Modi proposed June 21 as International Day of Yoga at the UNGA on September 27, 2014.
- UN Resolution: UNGA Resolution 69/131 was adopted on December 11, 2014, declaring June 21 as International Day of Yoga.
- Co-sponsorship: 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution — one of the highest-ever for a UNGA resolution.
- First observation: June 21, 2015 (worldwide, including a mass yoga session at Rajpath, New Delhi).
- Significance of June 21: summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, the longest day of the year.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Correct — UNGA declared June 21 as International Yoga Day in December 2014 following PM Modi's proposal in September 2014; first observed globally on June 21, 2015 — all accurate.
- Option (B): Wrong — the first International Yoga Day was June 21, 2015 (not 2014); the proposal was made at the UNGA (not UNHRC); the proposal was in September 2014 (not June 2013).
- Option (C): Wrong — the UNGA declared June 21 as International Yoga Day in December 2014 (not June 2015); 175 nations co-sponsored (177 co-sponsored, but this option says "75 nations" which is far too low).
- Option (D): Wrong — International Yoga Day is observed on June 21 (not June 22); the UN designated it in December 2014 (not 2013); the 177-nation co-sponsorship figure in this option is correct but the date (June 22) and year (2013) are wrong.

Final Answer: UNGA declared June 21 as International Yoga Day in December 2014 (PM Modi's proposal, September 2014); first observed globally on June 21, 2015. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q33

Q34.

Solution

Concept — Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2024: Khelo India Youth Games is an annual national multi-sport event launched in 2018 to identify and nurture young sports talent in India. The 5th edition was held in 2024. The nodal ministry is the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Step 1 — Key facts about KIYG 2024:

- Edition: 5th (KIYG 2024).
- Host State: Uttarakhand — first time a Himalayan state hosted KIYG.
- Venues: Dehradun (main), Haridwar, and other cities in Uttarakhand.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- A distinctive feature: included winter sports events (skiing, etc.) at hill stations, alongside traditional summer sports — reflecting Uttarakhand's mountain terrain.
- Previous editions: Maharashtra (1st, 2018), Assam (2nd, 2020), Haryana (3rd, 2021), Madhya Pradesh (4th, 2022–23).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — KIYG 2024 was hosted by Uttarakhand (not Tamil Nadu/Chennai); the sports disciplines and age criteria described are inaccurate.
- Option (B): Correct — Uttarakhand as 5th edition host, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as nodal ministry, and inclusion of both summer and winter sports disciplines — all accurate.
- Option (C): Wrong — KIYG 2024 was in Uttarakhand (not Madhya Pradesh; MP hosted the 4th edition in 2022–23); e-sports as a demonstration event is not an established fact for this edition.
- Option (D): Wrong — KIYG 2024 was hosted by Uttarakhand (not Goa); the nodal ministry is the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (not Ministry of Education); it is implemented by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) alone, not jointly with the Ministry of Education.

Final Answer: KIYG 2024 (5th edition) was hosted by Uttarakhand, organised under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and featured summer and winter sports disciplines. $\Rightarrow \boxed{B}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q34

Q35.

Solution

Concept — Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA): The Global Biofuel Alliance is a landmark initiative launched under India's G20 Presidency to bring together producers, consumers, and international organisations to accelerate the global development and adoption of sustainable biofuels.

Step 1 — Key facts about the Global Biofuel Alliance:

- Launched: September 9, 2023, at the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi, India.
- Key founding members: India, USA, Brazil (the world's top three biofuel producers/consumers).
- Other founding members: Argentina, Bangladesh, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, UAE, Singapore, and several others.
- Objectives: accelerate global deployment of biofuels; facilitate technology transfer; develop global standards; build capacity in developing nations for biofuel production.
- India's role: leadership role as host nation; India aims to blend 20% ethanol in petrol by 2025.
- Not launched at COP28 or G20 Bali (which was 2022).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option (A): Wrong — GBA was launched at the G20 New Delhi Summit (not COP28 Dubai); it was not established with 20 founding members; it is not secretariated exclusively in Washington DC.
- Option (B): Wrong — GBA was launched at the G20 New Delhi Summit (not G7 Hiroshima); India is a key founding member and leader (not a mere observer); Brazil and the USA are not sole co-chairs.
- Option (C): Correct — G20 New Delhi Summit, September 9, 2023, India/USA/Brazil as key founding members, objectives of biofuel adoption/technology transfer/standards — all accurate.
- Option (D): Wrong — GBA was launched at the G20 New Delhi Summit in September 2023 (not the G20 Bali Summit in 2022); India has not pledged 20% energy from biofuels (India's target is 20% ethanol in petrol blend for transport).

Final Answer: Global Biofuel Alliance was launched at the G20 New Delhi Summit (September 9, 2023) with India, USA, and Brazil as key founding members to promote global biofuel adoption. $\Rightarrow \boxed{\text{C}}$

$\boxed{\textbf{Answer: (C)}}$ **Go Back to Q35**

Answer Key

Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans	Q	Ans
1	A	2	B	3	C	4	D	5	A
6	B	7	C	8	D	9	A	10	B
11	C	12	D	13	A	14	B	15	C
16	D	17	A	18	B	19	C	20	D
21	A	22	B	23	C	24	D	25	A
26	B	27	C	28	D	29	A	30	B
31	C	32	D	33	A	34	B	35	C