FDDI AIST General Awareness

Sample Paper – 1

Duration: 42 Minutes **Maximum Marks: 35**

Instructions

- This paper contains **35** Multiple Choice Questions (Single Correct Answer), modelled on the General Awareness section of **FDDI AIST** entrance examination.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. There is **no negative marking** for incorrect or unattempted answers.
- Only **one** option is correct per question. Read each question carefully before marking your answer.
- Topics: Current Affairs, Indian History & Culture, Geography, Science & Technology, Sports & Awards, Books & Personalities, Fashion & Design GK, Polity, and World Affairs.
- Use of mobile phones, calculators, or any electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. The Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander successfully touched down on which region of the Moon in August 2023?

(A) South polar region of the Moon (near the south pole)

(B) Equatorial region near the Sea of Tranquility

(C) Northern polar region near Shackleton Crater

(D) Far side of the Moon near the Apollo Basin

Q2. India held the G20 Presidency in 2023 under the theme "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." What is the English meaning of this Sanskrit phrase?

(A) Unity in Diversity, Strength in Numbers

(B) One Earth, One Family, One Future

(C) Peace, Prosperity, and Progress for All

(D) Together We Rise, Together We Shine

Q3. Which organisation developed and successfully tested India's first long-range hypersonic missile in November 2024?

(A) HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited)

(B) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)

(C) DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)

(D) BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited)

Q4. How many individuals were announced as recipients of the Bharat Ratna in the year 2024 (announcements made between January and February 2024)?

(A) 2

(B) 3

(C) 4

(D) 5 (Karpoori Thakur, LK Advani, PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, MS Swaminathan)

Q5. The PM Vishwakarma Scheme launched by the Government of India in 2023 primarily targets which group?

(A) Traditional artisans and craftspeople

(B) Small and marginal farmers

(C) Urban unemployed youth

(D) Women self-help groups in rural areas

Q6. According to the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023, what was India's rank among 125 countries?

(A) 94

(B) 111

(C) 107

(D) 121

Q7. The 19th Asian Games 2023 were hosted in which city?

(A) Jakarta, Indonesia

(B) Tokyo, Japan

(C) Hangzhou, China

(D) Doha, Qatar

Q8. The 15th BRICS Summit held in 2023 was hosted in which country?

(A) Brazil

(B) Russia

(C) India

(D) South Africa

Q9. The Great Bath discovered at Mohenjo-daro (one of the largest ancient public water tanks of the ancient world) was primarily used for which purpose?

(A) Ritual bathing and religious purification

(B) Storage of drinking water for the city

(C) Swimming and recreational activities for citizens

(D) Irrigation of crops in surrounding fields

Q10. Which Mauryan emperor embraced Buddhism and adopted a policy of non-violence (ahimsa) after witnessing the devastation of the Kalinga War?

(A) Chandragupta Maurya

(B) Ashoka

(C) Bindusara

(D) Bimbisara

Q11. The concept of universal peace and harmony among all religions propagated by Mughal Emperor Akbar is known as:

(A) Din-i-Ilahi

(B) Ibadat Khana

(C) Sulh-i-Kul

(D) Mahzar

Q12. Who is regarded as the first martyr of the 1857 Revolt (Sepoy Mutiny) who fired the first shot of rebellion at Barrackpore?

(A) Mangal Pandey

(B) Tantia Tope

(C) Nana Sahib

(D) Rani Lakshmibai

Q13. Mahatma Gandhi launched his first Satyagraha movement in India in 1917 in support of indigo farmers. Where was this?

(A) Kheda, Gujarat

(B) Champaran, Bihar

(C) Bardoli, Gujarat

(D) Dandi, Gujarat

Q14. Which is the longest river of India, flowing approximately 2,525 km from its source in the Gangotri glacier to the Bay of Bengal?

(A) Godavari

(B) Yamuna

(C) Ganga (Ganges)

(D) Indus

Q15. The Thar Desert, one of the largest hot deserts in the world, primarily lies in which Indian state?

(A) Gujarat

(B) Haryana

(C) Punjab

(D) Rajasthan

Q16. The Western Ghats mountain range of India has been recognised by UNESCO as which of the following?

(A) Biodiversity Hotspot and World Heritage Site

(B) Tiger Reserve and Ramsar Wetland

(C) Biosphere Reserve and Carbon Sink

(D) National Park and UNESCO Geopark

Q17. The Lakshadweep Islands, India's smallest Union Territory by area, are formed primarily by:

(A) Volcanic activity and lava deposits

(B) Coral reefs and atolls

(C) Sedimentary rock formations

(D) Continental shelf uplift

Q18. The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was launched using which launch vehicle?

(A) PSLV-C55

(B) GSLV Mk II

(C) LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3)

(D) SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle)

Q19. The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser, and Anton Zeilinger for their research on which topic?

(A) Development of blue light-emitting diodes

(B) Discovery of the Higgs boson particle

(C) Gravitational wave detection

(D) Quantum entanglement

Q20. India's largest solar power park, the Bhadla Solar Park (with capacity exceeding 2,245 MW), is located in which state?

(A) Rajasthan

(B) Gujarat

(C) Madhya Pradesh

(D) Karnataka

Q21. Chlorophyll, the green pigment found in plant leaves and chloroplasts, is primarily responsible for which function?

(A) Transporting water from roots to leaves

(B) Absorbing sunlight to enable photosynthesis

(C) Converting glucose into cellulose for cell walls

(D) Regulating the opening and closing of stomata

Q22. Which team won the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 held in India?

(A) India

(B) South Africa

(C) Australia

(D) New Zealand

Q23. The Bharat Ratna is India's highest:

(A) Military gallantry award

(B) Sports achievement award

(C) Literary and artistic recognition

(D) Civilian honour

Q24. How many gold medals did India win at the 19th Asian Games 2023 held in Hangzhou, China?

(A) 28

(B) 22

(C) 35

(D) 16

Q25. The 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to which author?

(A) Annie Ernaux (French author)

(B) Jon Fosse (Norwegian playwright)

(C) Olga Tokarczuk (Polish author)

(D) Abdulrazak Gurnah (Tanzanian-British author)

Q26. The celebrated book "The Discovery of India," which traces India's history from ancient times to the modern era, was authored by:

(A) Mahatma Gandhi

(B) Rabindranath Tagore

(C) Jawaharlal Nehru

(D) B.R. Ambedkar

Q27. In which year did Mother Teresa receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her humanitarian work with the poor in Kolkata?

(A) 1971

(B) 1975

(C) 1983

(D) 1979

Q28. FDDI, the conducting body of the AIST entrance examination, stands for:

(A) Footwear Design and Development Institute

(B) Fashion Design and Development Institute

(C) Fabric Design and Distribution Institute

(D) Footwear Distribution and Design Industry

Q29. Lakme Fashion Week, one of India's most prominent fashion events showcasing Indian and international designers, is held in which city?

(A) New Delhi

(B) Mumbai

(C) Bengaluru

(D) Kolkata

Q30. The world-renowned Kashmiri Pashmina shawls, known for their extraordinary softness and warmth, are woven from the fine wool of which animal?

(A) Tibetan yak

(B) Angora rabbit

(C) Changthangi goat (Pashmina goat)

(D) Merino sheep

Q31. The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949 but came into full effect (enforced) on which date?

(A) 15 August 1947

(B) 26 November 1949

(C) 2 October 1950

(D) 26 January 1950

Q32. Fundamental Rights guaranteed to Indian citizens are enshrined in which Part of the Indian Constitution?

(A) Part III

(B) Part IV

(C) Part II

(D) Part V

Q33. The Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) incorporated in the Indian Constitution were inspired by the constitution of which country?

(A) United Kingdom

(B) Ireland

(C) United States of America

(D) Australia

Q34. Who is the current (as of 2024) Secretary-General of the United Nations?

(A) Ban Ki-moon

(B) Kofi Annan

(C) António Guterres

(D) Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Q35. The headquarters of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the international body regulating global trade, is located in which city?

(A) New York, USA

(B) Brussels, Belgium

(C) Vienna, Austria

(D) Geneva, Switzerland

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Chandrayaan-3 Mission: Chandrayaan-3 was India's third lunar exploration mission launched by ISRO on 14 July 2023 aboard LVM3. Its primary objective was to demonstrate a safe soft landing and rover operations on the lunar surface, particularly at the unexplored south polar region.

Explanation: The Vikram lander successfully touched down on 23 August 2023 near the Moon's south pole (at approximately 69.37°S latitude), making India the first country to land near the lunar south pole and the fourth country overall to achieve a soft lunar landing.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Sea of Tranquility (equatorial region) was Apollo 11's landing site in 1969, not Chandrayaan-3.
- Option C: The northern polar region was not the target; no mission has landed there to date.
- Option D: The far side of the Moon was explored by China's Chang'e-4, not by Chandrayaan-3.

Final Answer: Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander landed near the south polar region of the Moon $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — India's G20 Presidency 2023: India assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 and hosted the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023. The theme chosen was drawn from the ancient Sanskrit text Maha Upanishad and reflects India's civilisational ethos of universal brotherhood.

Explanation: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" is a Sanskrit phrase from the Maha Upanishad meaning "The World is One Family." India's official G20 theme expanded this to "One Earth, One Family, One Future," emphasising global cooperation on shared challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, and economic growth.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Unity in Diversity" is a phrase associated with India's national identity but is not the translation of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.
- Option C: "Peace, Prosperity, and Progress" is a generic diplomatic phrase, not the specific G20 2023 theme translation.
- Option D: "Together We Rise" is not the translation; it is a fabricated phrase.

Final Answer: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" translates to "One Earth, One Family, One Future" $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — India's Hypersonic Missile Programme: Hypersonic missiles travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) and are capable of manoeuvring during flight, making them very difficult to intercept. India's development of such capability marks a significant milestone in defence technology.

Explanation: DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) successfully tested India's first long-range hypersonic missile in November 2024. The missile demonstrated a range of over 1,500 km and is intended to be launched from ships, submarines, and aircraft, significantly enhancing India's strategic deterrence capability.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) develops aircraft and helicopters, not missiles.
- Option B: ISRO focuses on space exploration and civilian satellite launches, not missile development.
- Option D: BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) manufactures electronic defence systems but does not develop missiles.

Final Answer: India's first long-range hypersonic missile was developed and tested by DRDO $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Bharat Ratna 2024: The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian honour, awarded for exceptional service of the highest order to the nation. In 2024, the government made an unprecedented announcement of 5 recipients in a single year.

Explanation: In January–February 2024, the Government of India announced Bharat Ratna for 5 individuals: (1) Karpoori Thakur (posthumous) – former Bihar CM and champion of social justice; (2) L.K. Advani – former Deputy PM and veteran BJP leader; (3) P.V. Narasimha Rao (posthumous) – former PM who oversaw economic liberalisation; (4) Chaudhary Charan Singh (posthumous) – former PM and farmers' leader; (5) M.S. Swaminathan (posthumous) – father of India's Green Revolution.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Only 2 recipients would be far fewer than announced; incorrect count.
- Option B: 3 recipients is an undercount; five were announced in 2024.
- Option C: 4 recipients is also an undercount; the correct number is 5.

Final Answer: Five individuals received the Bharat Ratna in 2024 $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — PM Vishwakarma Scheme 2023: The Government of India launched PM Vishwakarma as a Central Sector Scheme on 17 September 2023 (Vishwakarma Jayanti). The scheme is named after Lord Vishwakarma, the divine craftsman in Hindu mythology, signifying its focus on skilled handcraft workers.

Explanation: The PM Vishwakarma Scheme targets traditional artisans and craftspeople engaged in 18 traditional trades such as carpentry, blacksmithing, pottery, weaving, cobblery, and goldsmithing. It provides financial assistance (collateral-free loans up to Rs. 3 lakh), skill training, digital empowerment, and market linkage support to help them enhance product quality and reach.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Small and marginal farmers are covered under PM-KISAN and

other agrarian schemes, not PM Vishwakarma.
- Option C: Urban unemployed youth are addressed by schemes like PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana).
- Option D: Women self-help groups in rural areas are primarily supported through DAY-NRLM and SHG-Bank Linkage Programme.

Final Answer: PM Vishwakarma Scheme primarily targets traditional artisans and craftspeople $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Global Hunger Index (GHI): The GHI is a peer-reviewed annual report jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally and by country and region. It uses four indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality.

Explanation: In the Global Hunger Index 2023, India was ranked 111 out of 125 countries, placing it in the "serious" hunger category. India's score was 28.7. This ranking sparked debate as the government contested the methodology used. Despite progress in several areas, India ranked below several neighbouring countries.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Rank 94 is better than India's actual 2023 rank of 111; this underestimates the concern.
- Option C: Rank 107 is close but is the rank from 2022, not 2023.
- Option D: Rank 121 would indicate a worse position than the actual rank; this is incorrect.

Final Answer: India ranked 111th in the Global Hunger Index 2023 $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — 19th Asian Games 2023: The Asian Games (Asiad) are a continental multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from all over Asia under the supervision of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Explanation: The 19th Asian Games were held from 23 September to 8 October 2023 in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. They were originally scheduled for 2022 but were postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic concerns. China topped the medal tally, and India had a historic performance, winning a record 107 medals including 28 gold.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Jakarta (Indonesia) hosted the 18th Asian Games in 2018, not the 19th.
- Option B: Tokyo (Japan) hosted the 2020 Olympics (held in 2021), not the 2023 Asian Games.
- Option D: Doha (Qatar) hosted the 15th Asian Games in 2006.

Final Answer: The 19th Asian Games 2023 were hosted in Hangzhou, China $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — BRICS Summit 2023: BRICS is an acronym for an association of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Annual summits are hosted by member nations on a rotational basis.

Explanation: The 15th BRICS Summit was held on 22–24 August 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa, under the theme "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism." A landmark decision was taken to invite six new members (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, UAE) to join BRICS.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Brazil hosted the 12th BRICS Summit in 2019.
- Option B: Russia hosted the 13th BRICS Summit in 2020 (virtually).
- Option C: India hosted the 13th BRICS Summit in 2021 and the G20 in 2023,

not the 15th BRICS Summit.

Final Answer: The 15th BRICS Summit 2023 was hosted in South Africa $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q8

Q9.

Solution

Concept — Indus Valley Civilisation / Great Bath: The Indus Valley Civilisation (c. 3300–1300 BCE) is one of the world's earliest urban civilisations. Mohenjo-daro, located in present-day Pakistan, was one of its largest cities and is famous for its sophisticated urban planning, drainage system, and monumental structures.

Explanation: The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro, measuring approximately 12 m $\times$ 7 m $\times$ 2.4 m deep, is believed to have been used for ritual bathing and religious purification by priests or important community members. Its watertight construction using bitumen (natural tar) and fine brickwork suggests it held great ceremonial significance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Great Bath's scale and elaborate construction far exceed what is needed for a simple municipal water tank.
- Option C: The formal, ceremonial construction suggests a religious purpose rather than recreational swimming.
- Option D: The Great Bath was located inside the city's citadel, not adjacent to agricultural fields; irrigation canals served that purpose.

Final Answer: The Great Bath was primarily used for ritual bathing and religious purification $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Mauryan Empire and the Kalinga War: The Mauryan Empire (c. 322–185 BCE) was one of the largest empires in ancient India. The Kalinga War (c. 261 BCE) was a major military conflict fought between the Mauryan Empire and the state of Kalinga (modern Odisha).

Explanation: Emperor Ashoka (r. 268–232 BCE) waged the Kalinga War and conquered the region, but the massive bloodshed (reportedly 100,000 killed, 150,000 deported, many more died of disease) filled him with deep remorse. This led him to embrace Buddhism and adopt "Dhamma" (moral principles based on non-violence, compassion, and tolerance), which he propagated throughout his empire and beyond.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Chandragupta Maurya founded the Mauryan Empire and later became a Jain monk, not a Buddhist.
- Option C: Bindusara was Ashoka's father and predecessor; he did not embrace Buddhism after Kalinga.
- Option D: Bimbisara was a ruler of the Haryanka dynasty of Magadha, not Mauryan, and predated the Kalinga War.

Final Answer: Ashoka embraced Buddhism after witnessing the devastation of the Kalinga War $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{B}}$

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Akbar's Religious Policy: Akbar (1556–1605) was the third Mughal Emperor and one of the greatest rulers in Indian history. He was known for his policy of religious tolerance and his attempt to create harmony among different religious communities in his diverse empire.

Explanation: "Sulh-i-Kul" (meaning "peace with all" or "universal peace") was Akbar's fundamental principle of governance emphasising harmony, tolerance, and mutual respect among all religions. It formed the ethical basis of his administration and went beyond mere tolerance to active engagement with all faiths. This principle also influenced the Din-i-Ilahi (a syncretic religious doctrine he later formulated).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Din-i-Ilahi was the syncretic religious movement Akbar founded in 1582, not the term for universal peace.
- Option B: Ibadat Khana was the House of Worship Akbar built at Fatehpur Sikri for interfaith religious debates.
- Option D: Mahzar was a decree (1579) asserting Akbar's authority as supreme arbiter in religious matters — a political-religious document, not the philosophy of universal peace.

Final Answer: Akbar's concept of universal peace and harmony is called Sulh-i-Kul $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — First War of Indian Independence (1857): The Revolt of 1857, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny or the First War of Indian Independence, was a major uprising against British East India Company rule. It began in the military ranks due to discontent over the introduction of greased cartridges for the new Enfield rifle.

Explanation: Mangal Pandey, a sepoy in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry, is regarded as the first martyr of the 1857 Revolt. On 29 March 1857 at Barrackpore (near Kolkata), he attacked British officers and fired the first shot of rebellion. He was arrested, court-martialled, and hanged on 8 April 1857, making him a symbol of anti-colonial resistance and the spark that ignited the broader revolt.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Tantia Tope was a prominent military commander of the 1857 revolt but was not the first to fire.
- Option C: Nana Sahib was a leader of the revolt in Kanpur but did not fire the first shot at Barrackpore.
- Option D: Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi was a courageous leader in the revolt but her participation came after the revolt had already begun.

Final Answer: Mangal Pandey is regarded as the first martyr of the 1857 Revolt $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q12

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Champaran Satyagraha 1917: Satyagraha ("truth-force" or "soul-force") was Mahatma Gandhi's method of non-violent civil resistance. After returning from South Africa in 1915, Gandhi looked for an opportunity to test this method on Indian soil.

Explanation: The Champaran Satyagraha (1917) in Bihar was Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India. Farmers in Champaran were forced by British indigo planters to grow indigo on a fixed portion of their land under the oppressive "tinkathia" system and sell it at prices fixed by the planters. Gandhi's intervention led to an investigation committee and the eventual abolition of the system, marking a major victory for the Indian independence movement.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Kheda Satyagraha (1918) in Gujarat was Gandhi's second major Satyagraha in India, concerning land revenue during famine.
- Option C: Bardoli Satyagraha (1928) in Gujarat was led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel against oppressive tax increases.
- Option D: Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha, 1930) was Gandhi's famous march to make salt in defiance of the British salt tax.

Final Answer: Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India (1917) was at Champaran, Bihar $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Rivers of India: India has a vast network of rivers broadly divided into Himalayan rivers (perennial, fed by glaciers and rainfall) and Peninsular rivers (seasonal, fed mainly by monsoon). The major Himalayan rivers include the Ganga, Yamuna, and Brahmaputra.

Explanation: The Ganga (Ganges), originating from the Gangotri glacier in Uttarakhand, is India's longest river at approximately 2,525 km. It flows through Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. The Ganga basin is one of the most fertile and densely populated river basins in the world and is considered sacred in Hinduism.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The Godavari (approximately 1,465 km) is the longest Peninsular river but shorter than the Ganga.
- Option B: The Yamuna (approximately 1,376 km) is a major tributary of the Ganga and shorter.
- Option D: The Indus (approximately 3,180 km total) is longer overall but most of its length flows through Pakistan; within India's territory it is much shorter.

Final Answer: India's longest river is the Ganga (Ganges) $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Thar Desert: The Thar Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, is a large arid region in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent. It forms a natural boundary between India and Pakistan and is the world's 17th largest desert and the world's most densely populated desert.

Explanation: The Thar Desert primarily lies in the state of Rajasthan, covering about 61% of the state's area. It also extends into parts of Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana in India, and into Pakistan's Sindh and Punjab provinces. The desert is characterised by shifting sand dunes, arid scrubland, and sparse vegetation, with the city of Jaisalmer often called the "Golden City" for its sand-coloured buildings.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Gujarat has the Rann of Kutch (salt marshes) but is not the primary location of the Thar Desert.
- Option B: Haryana shares a small portion of the desert's fringe but is not the primary state.
- Option C: Punjab has small desert portions near its western border but the desert's heartland is Rajasthan.

Final Answer: The Thar Desert primarily lies in Rajasthan $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Western Ghats and UNESCO Recognition: The Western Ghats (also known as Sahyadri) is a mountain range running parallel to India's western coast for about 1,600 km through the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. They are older than the Himalayas.

Explanation: UNESCO inscribed the Western Ghats as a World Heritage Site in 2012. They are also recognised as one of the world's eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity. The region contains exceptional levels of plant and animal diversity (over 7,402 species of flowering plants, 139 mammal species, 508 bird species) and is the source of several major rivers including the Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, and Periyar.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: While the Western Ghats contain Tiger Reserves, the official UNESCO designation is World Heritage Site (biodiversity), not a Ramsar Wetland.
- Option C: The Western Ghats are indeed important carbon sinks and have biosphere reserves, but the official primary UNESCO recognition is World Heritage Site.
- Option D: The Western Ghats contain national parks but the UNESCO recognition is specifically for biodiversity and World Heritage, not a "Geopark."

Final Answer: The Western Ghats are recognised as a Biodiversity Hotspot and UNESCO World Heritage Site $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Lakshadweep Islands: Lakshadweep is a Union Territory of India consisting of 36 islands (of which 10 are inhabited) located in the Arabian Sea, about 200–440 km off the Kerala coast. "Lakshadweep" means "one hundred thousand islands" in Sanskrit and Malayalam.

Explanation: The Lakshadweep Islands are formed primarily by coral reefs and atolls — ring-shaped coral formations enclosing shallow lagoons. They are among the few coral atoll islands in India. This coral origin makes them particularly sensitive to climate change, ocean warming, and sea-level rise, which threaten

coral bleaching and erosion of the islands.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Volcanic activity forms islands like those in the Andaman and Nicobar group (some have volcanic origins), not Lakshadweep.
- Option C: Sedimentary rock formations are found in continental interiors, not in tropical atoll islands like Lakshadweep.
- Option D: Continental shelf uplift is a geological process forming continental landmasses, not small tropical atolls.

Final Answer: Lakshadweep Islands are formed primarily by coral reefs and atolls $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Chandrayaan-3 Launch Vehicle: ISRO operates several classes of launch vehicles with varying payload capacities. The choice of launch vehicle depends on the mission's target orbit, payload weight, and mission requirements.

Explanation: Chandrayaan-3 was launched on 14 July 2023 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota using the LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), formerly known as GSLV Mk III. LVM3 is ISRO's most powerful operational rocket, capable of placing payloads of up to 4,000 kg into Geostationary Transfer Orbit. The Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft had a combined mass of approximately 3,900 kg, necessitating the use of this heavy-lift vehicle.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: PSLV-C55 is a variant of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, used for lighter payloads in polar orbits; not used for Chandrayaan-3.
- Option B: GSLV Mk II is an earlier, smaller version of the rocket with less payload capacity; not used for Chandrayaan-3.
- Option D: SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle) is ISRO's newest small rocket for lightweight satellites; far underpowered for a lunar mission.

Final Answer: Chandrayaan-3 was launched using LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3) $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q18

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Nobel Prize in Physics 2022: The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences for outstanding contributions to the science of physics. The 2022 prize recognised fundamental experimental work in quantum physics.

Explanation: The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded jointly to Alain Aspect (France), John F. Clauser (USA), and Anton Zeilinger (Austria) "for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science." Their work experimentally confirmed quantum entanglement — the phenomenon where two particles are correlated such that the quantum state of each cannot be described independently — laying the groundwork for quantum computing and quantum cryptography.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Blue LEDs were the subject of the 2014 Nobel Prize in Physics (Akasaki, Amano, Nakamura).
- Option B: The Higgs boson discovery was recognised by the 2013 Nobel Prize (Higgs and Englert).
- Option C: Gravitational wave detection was recognised by the 2017 Nobel Prize (Weiss, Barish, Thorne/LIGO).

Final Answer: The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded for research on quantum entanglement $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Solar Energy in India: India has set ambitious renewable energy targets under its NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions) and aims to achieve 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity by 2030. Large solar parks play a key role in this ambition.

Explanation: The Bhadla Solar Park, located in the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, is India's (and one of the world's) largest solar power parks with an installed capacity exceeding 2,245 MW spread over approximately 14,000 acres. Rajasthan's high solar irradiance, large uninhabited land, and proximity to major transmission corridors make it ideal for large-scale solar development.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Gujarat is a leading solar state with large parks (e.g., Charanka Solar Park) but Bhadla in Rajasthan surpasses them in scale.
- Option C: Madhya Pradesh has growing solar installations but no park matching Bhadla's scale.
- Option D: Karnataka is a major solar producer (e.g., Pavagada Solar Park) but Bhadla in Rajasthan remains the largest single solar park.

Final Answer: India's largest solar power park (Bhadla Solar Park) is in Rajasthan $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Photosynthesis and Chlorophyll: Photosynthesis is the process by which green plants, algae, and some bacteria convert light energy (sunlight), water, and carbon dioxide into glucose (food) and oxygen. This process is fundamental to life on Earth.

Explanation: Chlorophyll is the green pigment found in the chloroplasts of plant cells. It primarily absorbs light in the red and blue wavelengths of the visible spectrum (reflecting green light, which is why plants appear green) and uses this absorbed light energy to drive the photosynthesis reaction: $6CO_2 + 6H_2O + \text{light} \rightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Water transport from roots to leaves is carried out by xylem vessels, not chlorophyll.
- Option C: Glucose conversion to cellulose involves cellulose synthase enzymes, not chlorophyll.
- Option D: Stomata opening/closing is regulated by guard cells (which respond to light, CO_2, and water pressure), not chlorophyll directly.

Final Answer: Chlorophyll is primarily responsible for absorbing sunlight to enable photosynthesis $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q21

Q22.

Solution

Concept — ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023: The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup is the premier international championship of One Day International (ODI) cricket. The 2023 edition was the 13th tournament and was hosted entirely by India across 10 venues.

Explanation: Australia won the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, defeating India by 6 wickets in the final held at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on 19 November 2023. It was Australia's record 6th World Cup title. India, who had been unbeaten throughout the tournament until the final, lost their first match of the tournament in the final itself. Australia chased India's total of 240 with David Warner scoring 7 and Travis Head making a match-winning century.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: India reached the final and was the host but lost to Australia in the final.
- Option B: South Africa had a strong tournament but was eliminated in the semi-finals.
- Option D: New Zealand did not reach the final; they were knocked out in the group/semi-final stage.

Final Answer: Australia won the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Bharat Ratna Award: India's national honours system recognises outstanding service to the nation in different categories. The awards are announced by the President of India on Republic Day (26 January) and Independence Day (15 August) each year.

Explanation: The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian honour, established in 1954. It is awarded for recognition of exceptional service of the highest order to the nation, without distinction of race, occupation, position, or sex. The award does not carry any monetary grant. It was initially for civilians only but was later amended to include contributions in "any field of human endeavour." The award consists of a peepal leaf-shaped medallion with a rising sun on the front and the Satyameva Jayate motto on the reverse.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Military gallantry awards include the Param Vir Chakra (highest), Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra.
- Option B: Major sports awards include the Khel Ratna (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna) and Arjuna Award.
- Option C: Literary and artistic recognition is provided through the Sahitya Akademi Award and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

Final Answer: The Bharat Ratna is India's highest civilian honour $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q23

Q24.

Solution

Concept — India at Asian Games 2023: The Asian Games are the largest multi-sport event in Asia. India's performance at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou (2023) was the country's best-ever showing at the Asian Games.

Explanation: India won a historic 107 medals at the 19th Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China, comprising 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze medals. This was India's best-ever medal haul at the Asian Games, surpassing the previous record of 70 medals at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta. India finished 4th in the overall medal tally. Notable gold medal performances came from athletics, shooting, kabaddi, cricket, squash, and rowing.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: 22 gold medals would be an undercount; India won 28 gold medals.
- Option C: 35 gold medals would be an overcount; India won 28 gold medals.
- Option D: 16 gold medals was approximately India's gold count at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games; not the 2023 count.

Final Answer: India won 28 gold medals at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q24

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Nobel Prize in Literature 2023: The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded annually by the Swedish Academy to an author who has produced outstanding work in an ideal direction. The announcement is made in October each year in Stockholm.

Explanation: The 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Jon Fosse, a Norwegian playwright and novelist. The Swedish Academy cited him "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable." Fosse is one of the most widely performed playwrights in the world; his works include "A Summer's Day," "Someone Is Going to Come," and the prose septology "Morning and Evening." He writes primarily in Nynorsk (one of the two written standards of Norwegian).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Annie Ernaux (French author) won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature, not 2023.
- Option C: Olga Tokarczuk (Polish author) won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature (awarded in 2019).
- Option D: Abdulrazak Gurnah won the 2021 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Final Answer: The 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature was awarded to Jon Fosse (Norwegian playwright) $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q25

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Books by Indian Leaders: Several founding figures of modern India were prolific writers who documented their vision for the country, its history, and their philosophy. These books are important for understanding India's intellectual and political heritage.

Explanation: "The Discovery of India" was written by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, during his imprisonment at Ahmednagar Fort from April to September 1944. In this book, Nehru traces India's history, culture, philosophy, and civilisation from ancient times through the Mughal era to British colonial rule. The book became a foundational text for understanding India's composite cultural identity and was the basis for the TV series "Bharat Ek Khoj" (1988).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Mahatma Gandhi authored "My Experiments with Truth" (autobiography) and "Hind Swaraj," not "The Discovery of India."
- Option B: Rabindranath Tagore wrote "Gitanjali" (poetry), "Gora," and other literary works, not this political-historical work.
- Option D: B.R. Ambedkar authored "Annihilation of Caste" and "The Buddha and His Dhamma," not "The Discovery of India."

Final Answer: "The Discovery of India" was authored by Jawaharlal Nehru $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q26

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Mother Teresa and Nobel Peace Prize: Mother Teresa (born Anjezë Gonxhe Bojäxhiu in 1910, Albania) was a Roman Catholic nun who dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor. She founded the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata in 1950 and established homes for the dying, clinics, and orphanages worldwide.

Explanation: Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work in humanitarian aid. In her Nobel acceptance speech in Oslo, she famously spoke about the dignity of the poor and the importance of caring for the unborn. She is one of the most recognised humanitarian figures of the 20th century. She was canonised as Saint Teresa of Calcutta by Pope Francis in 2016.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1971 was the year Willy Brandt received the Nobel Peace Prize; Mother Teresa had not yet received it.
- Option B: 1975 was the year Andrei Sakharov received the Nobel Peace Prize; not Mother Teresa.
- Option C: 1983 was when Lech Walesa received the Nobel Peace Prize; Mother Teresa had already received hers in 1979.

Final Answer: Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q27

Q28.

Solution

Concept — FDDI (Footwear Design and Development Institute): FDDI is a premier institution under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. It plays a crucial role in developing skilled manpower for the footwear, leather goods, accessories, and retail fashion sectors.

Explanation: FDDI stands for Footwear Design and Development Institute. Established in 1986, it has campuses across India in cities including Noida, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Patna, and others. FDDI conducts the AIST (All India Selection Test) for admission to its various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in footwear design, fashion retail management, leather goods design, and related fields.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: "Fashion Design and Development Institute" is a plausible-sounding but incorrect expansion; the correct word is "Footwear," not "Fashion."
- Option C: "Fabric Design and Distribution Institute" is completely incorrect; FDDI has no relation to fabric distribution.
- Option D: "Footwear Distribution and Design Industry" is incorrect; it is an Institute (educational body), not an Industry association.

Final Answer: FDDI stands for Footwear Design and Development Institute $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q28

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Lakme Fashion Week: Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) is India's largest fashion event and one of Asia's most significant fashion weeks. It was launched in 1999 as a platform to showcase Indian fashion designers to the world.

Explanation: Lakme Fashion Week is held in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India's fashion and entertainment capital. It is organised twice a year (Summer/Resort and Winter/Festive editions) and is a joint venture between Lakme (a cosmetics brand) and IMG Reliance. The event showcases collections from both established Indian designers (such as Manish Malhotra, Sabyasachi, Anita Dongre) and emerging new talents.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: New Delhi hosts the Amazon India Fashion Week and is an important fashion hub, but Lakme Fashion Week is held in Mumbai.
- Option C: Bengaluru is India's IT capital and an emerging fashion city but does not host Lakme Fashion Week.
- Option D: Kolkata has the India Fashion Week but is not the venue for Lakme Fashion Week.

Final Answer: Lakme Fashion Week is held in Mumbai $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q29

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Kashmiri Pashmina: Pashmina is a fine type of cashmere wool that has been treasured for centuries for its extraordinary softness, warmth, and lightweight properties. Kashmiri Pashmina shawls have Geographical Indication (GI) tag protection, meaning only shawls made with authentic Kashmiri Pashmina can be marketed as such.

Explanation: Authentic Pashmina wool comes from the fine undercoat of the Changthangi goat (also called Pashmina goat or Chyangra), a special breed of domestic goat found at high altitudes in the Changthang plateau of Ladakh (and parts of Nepal and Tibet). The fibres are extremely fine (12–16 microns in diameter, much finer than regular wool or cashmere) and are hand-combed from the goat rather than sheared. The word "Pashmina" derives from the Persian word "pashm" meaning "soft gold."

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Tibetan yak wool (coarser fibre) is used for making rugs, ropes, and rough garments, not Pashmina shawls.
- Option B: Angora rabbit fibre (also called Angora wool) is used for making soft yarn but is not Pashmina.
- Option D: Merino sheep wool is a premium wool from Merino sheep, used worldwide for fine clothing, but is not used for Kashmiri Pashmina shawls.

Final Answer: Kashmiri Pashmina shawls are woven from the wool of Changthangi goat (Pashmina goat) $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q30

Q31.

Solution

Concept — Indian Constitution: The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the land. It was drafted by the Constituent Assembly of India, chaired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as the chairman of the Drafting Committee. The drafting process took approximately 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days.

Explanation: The Constitution of India was adopted on 26 November 1949 (observed as Constitution Day or Samvidhan Diwas) but came into full effect (enforcement) on 26 January 1950. The date 26 January was chosen to commemorate the Purna Swaraj Declaration of 1930, when the Indian National Congress declared complete independence from British rule. This date is now celebrated as Republic Day.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 15 August 1947 is India's Independence Day when it became independent from British rule; the Constitution was not yet drafted then.
- Option B: 26 November 1949 is Constitution Day (when it was adopted), not when it came into effect.
- Option C: 2 October is Gandhi Jayanti (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday), not related to the Constitution's enforcement date.

Final Answer: The Indian Constitution came into full effect on 26 January 1950 $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q31

Q32.

Solution

Concept — Structure of the Indian Constitution: The Indian Constitution is divided into Parts, Articles, and Schedules. Each Part deals with a specific aspect of governance, rights, or state organisation. Understanding the structure helps in quickly locating specific provisions.

Explanation: Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III (Articles 12–35) of the Indian Constitution. These are justiciable rights, meaning they are legally enforceable and citizens can approach the Supreme Court or High Courts directly if these rights are violated (under Article 32 and Article 226 respectively). Part III includes six categories of Fundamental Rights: Right to Equality (Art. 14–18), Right to Freedom (Art. 19–22), Right against Exploitation (Art. 23–24), Right to

Freedom of Religion (Art. 25–28), Cultural and Educational Rights (Art. 29–30), and Right to Constitutional Remedies (Art. 32).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Part IV (Articles 36–51) contains the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), which are non-justiciable guidelines for state governance.
- Option C: Part II (Articles 5–11) deals with Citizenship provisions.
- Option D: Part V (Articles 52–151) deals with the Union government (Executive, Parliament, etc.).

Final Answer: Fundamental Rights are enshrined in Part III of the Indian Constitution ⇒ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q32

Q33.

Solution

Concept — Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP): The Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV, Articles 36–51) are guidelines directed to the state for establishing a just social order. Unlike Fundamental Rights, they are non-justiciable (not legally enforceable in a court) but are nevertheless fundamental in governance.

Explanation: The DPSP were inspired by the Directive Principles in the Irish Constitution (Constitution of Ireland, 1937). The Irish Constitution's provisions on social and economic policy — which drew on Catholic social teaching and ideas of social justice — served as the model for India's framers. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru were particularly influenced by the Irish constitutional framework when drafting this section of the Indian Constitution.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: From the United Kingdom, India borrowed the Parliamentary form of government, the concept of a Speaker, and the rule of law.
- Option C: From the United States, India borrowed the concepts of Fundamental Rights, Judicial Review, and the independence of the judiciary.
- Option D: From Australia, India borrowed the Concurrent List concept and the system of cooperative federalism.

Final Answer: DPSP in the Indian Constitution were inspired by Ireland's constitution ⇒ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q33

Q34.

Solution

Concept — United Nations Secretary-General: The Secretary-General is the head of the United Nations Secretariat and the chief administrative officer of the UN. The position is appointed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council for a five-year, renewable term.

Explanation: António Guterres (Portugal) is the current (9th) Secretary-General of the United Nations. He assumed office on 1 January 2017, succeeding Ban Ki-moon. He was re-appointed for a second term starting 1 January 2022. Before leading the UN, Guterres served as Prime Minister of Portugal (1995–2002) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (2005–2015).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Ban Ki-moon (South Korea) was the 8th Secretary-General (2007–2016) and served before Guterres.
- Option B: Kofi Annan (Ghana) was the 7th Secretary-General (1997–2006) and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.
- Option D: Boutros Boutros-Ghali (Egypt) was the 6th Secretary-General (1992–1996).

Final Answer: The current UN Secretary-General is António Guterres $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q34

Q35.

Solution

Concept — World Trade Organization (WTO): The WTO is the only global international organisation dealing with the rules of trade between nations. It was established on 1 January 1995, succeeding the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT, 1947). India is a founding member of the WTO.

Explanation: The WTO headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland. As of 2024, the WTO has 166 member countries accounting for over 98% of world trade. The WTO's primary goal is to ensure that trade flows smoothly, predictably, and freely by providing a forum for trade negotiations, monitoring implementation of trade agreements, and settling trade disputes between member nations.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: New York (USA) is the headquarters of the United Nations (UN), not the WTO.
- Option B: Brussels (Belgium) is the headquarters of NATO and the European Union institutions, not the WTO.
- Option C: Vienna (Austria) is the headquarters of OPEC, IAEA, and UNIDO, but not the WTO.

Final Answer: The WTO headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{D}$

Answer: (D) **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	A	13	B	14	C	15	D
16	A	17	B	18	C	19	D	20	A
21	B	22	C	23	D	24	A	25	B
26	C	27	D	28	A	29	B	30	C
31	D	32	A	33	B	34	C	35	D