FDDI AIST General Awareness

Sample Paper – 2

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. Nirmala Sitharaman's presentation of the Union Budget 2024-25 created which notable record in India's parliamentary history?

(A) She became the first woman Finance Minister to introduce a new tax regime

(B) She became the first Finance Minister to present 7 consecutive Union Budgets

(C) She delivered the longest Budget speech ever recorded in Parliament

(D) She introduced the first fully paperless digital Union Budget

Q2. India's Mission Shakti, conducted in March 2019, demonstrated which strategic capability?

(A) Successful flight test of India's first hypersonic glide vehicle reaching Mach 6

(B) Interception of a ballistic missile warhead using a kinetic kill vehicle

(C) Destruction of a live satellite in low Earth orbit using an anti-satellite (ASAT) missile

(D) Successful test of a nuclear-capable cruise missile with a range exceeding 1,500 km

Q3. India's new Parliament building, Sansad Bhavan, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which month and year?

(A) November 2022

(B) January 2023

(C) March 2023

(D) May 2023

Q4. The Agnipath Defence Recruitment Scheme specifies which age band for Agniveer recruits?

(A) 17.5 to 21 years

(B) 18 to 23 years

(C) 18 to 25 years

(D) 19 to 24 years

Q5. India's first High Speed Rail (bullet train) corridor, under construction with Japanese collaboration, connects which two cities?

(A) Delhi and Lucknow

(B) Mumbai and Ahmedabad

(C) Chennai and Bengaluru

(D) Delhi and Jaipur

Q6. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 superseded which previous education policy of India?

(A) National Policy on Education 1968

(B) National Policy on Education 1979

(C) National Policy on Education 1986

(D) National Policy on Education 1992

Q7. Neeraj Chopra scripted history at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics by winning India's first-ever individual gold medal in an athletics track-and-field event. Which event was it?

(A) Triple jump

(B) Long jump

(C) Discus throw

(D) Javelin throw

Q8. Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana launched in 2024, eligible households can receive free electricity of up to how many units per month?

(A) 300 units per month

(B) 200 units per month

(C) 500 units per month

(D) 100 units per month

Q9. Which among the four Vedas is considered the oldest, containing hymns dedicated to various deities?

(A) Samaveda

(B) Rigveda

(C) Yajurveda

(D) Atharvaveda

Q10. Which Gupta ruler is popularly called the “Napoleon of India” due to his military campaigns and territorial conquests across the subcontinent?

(A) Chandragupta I

(B) Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)

(C) Samudragupta

(D) Skandagupta

Q11. What was the capital city of the mighty Vijayanagara Empire, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Karnataka?

(A) Bidar

(B) Gulbarga

(C) Warangal

(D) Hampi (Vijayanagara)

Q12. The Brahmo Samaj, one of India’s earliest social reform movements, was founded in 1828 by which eminent personality?

(A) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

(B) Swami Vivekananda

(C) Dayanand Saraswati

(D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Q13. In which year did Mahatma Gandhi launch the historic Quit India Movement, calling for an end to British rule?

(A) 1940

(B) 1942

(C) 1944

(D) 1946

Q14. The mighty Brahmaputra River, which flows through Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, is known by which name as it originates and flows through Tibet (China)?

(A) Huang He

(B) Salween

(C) Yarlung Tsangpo

(D) Mekong

Q15. The Deccan Plateau, occupying a large part of peninsular India, is predominantly composed of which type of rock formation?

(A) Sedimentary rock deposited from the ancient Indo-Gangetic sea

(B) Granite and gneiss belonging to the ancient Precambrian shield

(C) Limestone karst formations from former Tethys Sea beds

(D) Basaltic (volcanic) rock forming the Deccan Traps

Q16. Which Indian state is the largest producer of coal, accounting for the highest share of the country's total coal output?

(A) West Bengal

(B) Jharkhand

(C) Chhattisgarh

(D) Odisha

Q17. The Indian Summer Monsoon, which brings the bulk of India's annual rainfall, arrives through which route(s)?

(A) Both the Arabian Sea branch and the Bay of Bengal branch

(B) Only the Arabian Sea branch

(C) Only the Bay of Bengal branch

(D) Western Disturbances originating from the Mediterranean region

Q18. India's Aditya-L1 solar mission was placed at the Lagrange Point 1 (L1). Approximately how far is L1 from Earth?

(A) 384,400 km (the same as the Moon's orbital distance)

(B) 500,000 km from Earth

(C) 1.5 million km from Earth (between Earth and Sun)

(D) 5 million km from Earth

Q19. India's Agni-V ballistic missile, successfully tested multiple times, is classified under which category based on its range?

(A) Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) with range under 1,000 km

(B) Medium-Range Ballistic Missile (MRBM) with range 1,000–3,000 km

(C) Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) with range 3,000–5,000 km

(D) Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with range over 5,000 km

Q20. As part of India's vision for clean energy by 2047, the government has set a target to do which of the following regarding nuclear power capacity?

(A) Double its current nuclear power capacity

(B) Triple its current nuclear power capacity

(C) Achieve 100 GW of installed nuclear energy capacity

(D) Shift entirely to nuclear energy for base-load electricity generation

Q21. Penicillin, hailed as the world's first true antibiotic and a landmark in medical history, was discovered by which scientist?

(A) Louis Pasteur

(B) Robert Koch

(C) Alexander Fleming

(D) Joseph Lister

Q22. Neeraj Chopra's gold-medal winning throw at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Men's Javelin final was recorded at which distance?

(A) 89.45 m

(B) 86.25 m

(C) 90.18 m

(D) 87.58 m

Q23. The Dronacharya Award, one of India's highest sports honours presented by the President of India, is given to outstanding individuals in which capacity?

(A) Sports coaches

(B) Sports journalists

(C) Sports administrators

(D) Athletes for lifetime achievement

Q24. The 2022 Commonwealth Games, the 22nd edition of the multi-sport event, were hosted in which city?

(A) Melbourne, Australia

(B) Birmingham, United Kingdom

(C) New Delhi, India

(D) Durban, South Africa

Q25. The celebrated autobiography "Wings of Fire," describing the journey from a humble background to heading India's space and missile programmes, was authored by which personality?

(A) Jawaharlal Nehru

(B) Vikram Sarabhai

(C) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

(D) Satish Dhawan

Q26. The prestigious Booker Prize 2023 was awarded to the novel “Prophet Song.” Who wrote this acclaimed work?

(A) Salman Rushdie

(B) Arundhati Roy

(C) Ian McEwan

(D) Paul Lynch

Q27. Who was India’s first Chief Election Commissioner, who oversaw the country’s first general elections held in 1951–52?

(A) Sukumar Sen

(B) K.V.K. Sundaram

(C) S.P. Sen Verma

(D) T. Swaminathan

Q28. The National Institute of Design (NID), India’s foremost institution for design education and research, is headquartered in which city?

(A) Mumbai, Maharashtra

(B) Ahmedabad, Gujarat

(C) New Delhi

(D) Pune, Maharashtra

Q29. Banarasi silk sarees, renowned globally for their intricate gold and silver brocade work, are traditionally woven in which city?

(A) Surat, Gujarat

(B) Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu

(C) Varanasi (Banaras), Uttar Pradesh

(D) Mysuru (Mysore), Karnataka

Q30. The finest Pashmina wool, the basis of the world-famous Kashmiri shawls prized for their warmth and softness, is obtained from which region?

(A) Merino sheep reared in Himachal Pradesh

(B) Angora goats bred in Uttarakhand

(C) Tibetan yaks of the high Himalayan ranges

(D) Changthangi goats of the Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh region

Q31. The Right to Property was removed from the list of Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution by which Constitutional Amendment?

(A) 44th Amendment, 1978

(B) 42nd Amendment, 1976

(C) 52nd Amendment, 1985

(D) 61st Amendment, 1989

Q32. What is the maximum permissible strength of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States), the upper house of India's Parliament?

(A) 245 members (233 elected + 12 nominated)

(B) 250 members (238 elected + 12 nominated)

(C) 300 members (288 elected + 12 nominated)

(D) 552 members (530 states + 20 UTs + 2 Anglo-Indian)

Q33. Under which Article of the Indian Constitution can the President of India proclaim a National Emergency on grounds of war, external aggression, or armed rebellion?

(A) Article 356

(B) Article 360

(C) Article 352

(D) Article 368

Q34. The Secretariat of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is located in which city?

(A) New Delhi, India

(B) Colombo, Sri Lanka

(C) Dhaka, Bangladesh

(D) Kathmandu, Nepal

Q35. The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations' specialised agency for international public health, has its headquarters in which city?

(A) Geneva, Switzerland

(B) New York, USA

(C) Vienna, Austria

(D) Brussels, Belgium

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Union Budget Records: The Union Budget is presented annually by the Finance Minister of India in Parliament. Nirmala Sitharaman was first appointed Finance Minister in 2019 and has continuously held the post, making her Budget presentations a historic run.

Explanation: By presenting the Union Budget 2024-25 in July 2024, Nirmala Sitharaman presented her 7th consecutive Union Budget, surpassing the previous record of 6 consecutive Budgets held by Morarji Desai. This makes her the Finance Minister with the most consecutive Budget presentations in India's history.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: She was indeed the first woman Finance Minister in her own right, but this honour predates the 2024-25 Budget – it is not the record created by the 2024-25 presentation.
- Option C: While her Budget speeches are lengthy, the record for the longest speech belongs to earlier occasions; she did not set this record specifically with the 2024-25 Budget.
- Option D: Paperless digital budget presentation began with the 2021 Budget, not the 2024-25 Budget.

Final Answer: Nirmala Sitharaman became the first Finance Minister to present 7 consecutive Union Budgets $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Anti-Satellite Technology (ASAT): Mission Shakti was India's demonstration of ASAT capability, placing India in an exclusive club alongside the USA, Russia, and China. The mission was conducted by DRDO under PM Modi's announcement.

Explanation: On 27 March 2019, India used a modified Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) missile to destroy its own satellite Microsat-R, which was orbiting at approximately 300 km altitude in Low Earth Orbit (LEO). This was India's first successful ASAT test, demonstrating the ability to target space assets.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: India has tested hypersonic technology separately (e.g., HSTDV), but this was not what Mission Shakti demonstrated.
- Option B: Ballistic missile defence interception is a different programme; Mission Shakti specifically targeted a satellite, not a missile warhead.
- Option D: Cruise missile tests (like BrahMos or Nirbhay) are separate programmes unrelated to Mission Shakti.

Final Answer: Mission Shakti destroyed a live satellite in LEO using an ASAT missile $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — New Parliament Building: The new Parliament building of India, constructed under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, replaced the colonial-era circular Parliament House built in 1927. The new building features a triangular architecture and significantly larger seating capacity.

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Parliament building on 28 May 2023. The ceremony included the installation of the historic Sengol (a sacred sceptre) near the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: November 2022 saw construction progress but no inauguration.
- Option B: January 2023 was not the inauguration date; the building was still under construction.
- Option C: March 2023 was also not the inauguration month.

Final Answer: The new Parliament building was inaugurated in May 2023 $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Agnipath Scheme: Agnipath is a short-service defence recruitment scheme launched in June 2022, under which soldiers called "Agniveers" serve for 4 years, after which 25% are retained for regular service and the rest are released with a "Seva Nidhi" package.

Explanation: The scheme originally set the age band at 17.5 to 21 years for Agniveer recruits. After protests, the upper age limit was raised to 23 years for the first recruitment cycle, but the official defined range in the scheme's framework remains 17.5 to 21 years.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: 18 to 23 years was the relaxed limit for the first batch only, not the standard scheme definition.
- Option C: 18 to 25 years exceeds the defined upper age limit under the scheme.
- Option D: 19 to 24 years does not match the Agnipath scheme's eligibility criteria.

Final Answer: Age eligibility under Agnipath is 17.5 to 21 years $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — High Speed Rail in India: India's first bullet train project, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR), is being developed with Japanese Shinkansen technology and financial assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Explanation: The 508 km corridor connecting Mumbai (Bandra Kurla Complex) and Ahmedabad (Sabarmati) was approved in 2017. Trains are designed to run at speeds up to 320 km/h, reducing travel time from over 7 hours to approximately 2 hours. This is the first and only bullet train project currently under active construction in India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: A Delhi-Lucknow bullet train has been discussed but is not India's first under-construction HSR project.

- Option C: Chennai-Bengaluru HSR is in planning stages but is not the first project commissioned.
- Option D: Delhi-Jaipur is not a high-speed rail corridor currently under construction.

Final Answer: India's first bullet train corridor runs between Mumbai and Ahmedabad $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — National Education Policy: India has had three major national education policies since independence: NPE 1968, NPE 1986 (amended in 1992), and NEP 2020. Each policy set the framework for education at all levels.

Explanation: NEP 2020, approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2020, replaced the National Policy on Education 1986 (which had been modified in 1992). NEP 2020 introduced sweeping reforms including the 5+3+3+4 school structure, multidisciplinary higher education, and focus on mother-tongue medium instruction in early years.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: NPE 1968 was the first post-independence education policy, already superseded by NPE 1986 well before NEP 2020.
- Option B: There is no official "National Policy on Education 1979" – this is a fictitious option.
- Option D: The 1992 policy was a modification/programme of action under the 1986 policy, not an independent policy that NEP 2020 directly replaced.

Final Answer: NEP 2020 replaced the National Policy on Education 1986 $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Indian Athletics at Olympics: Before Tokyo 2020, India's Olympic gold medals came only in field hockey (1928–1980) and shooting (Abhinav Bindra, 2008). No Indian had won an individual athletics gold in Olympic history until Neeraj Chopra's feat.

Explanation: At the Tokyo 2020 Olympics held in August 2021, Neeraj Chopra threw the javelin 87.58 m in his second attempt to win the gold medal. This was not only India's first athletics gold at the Olympics but also the country's second individual Olympic gold ever.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Triple jump – India has no Olympic gold in this event.
- Option B: Long jump – India has no Olympic gold in this event; it is also not an Olympic discipline in isolation from field context.
- Option C: Discus throw – India has not won an Olympic gold in discus throw.

Final Answer: Neeraj Chopra won gold in the Javelin Throw at Tokyo 2020 $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: Launched in February 2024, this scheme aims to provide solar rooftop systems to one crore households, enabling them to generate their own electricity and receive a substantial free electricity benefit each month.

Explanation: Under the scheme, eligible residential households installing solar rooftop panels will receive up to 300 units of free electricity per month. The government provides a subsidy for system installation, and surplus electricity can be sold back to the grid, generating additional income for the household.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: 200 units per month is below the scheme's defined threshold of 300 units.
- Option C: 500 units per month exceeds the scheme's defined free electricity limit.
- Option D: 100 units per month is far below the scheme's stipulated benefit.

Final Answer: PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana provides up to 300 units free per month $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q8

Q9.

Solution

Concept — The Four Vedas: The Vedas are the oldest sacred texts of Hinduism, composed in Vedic Sanskrit. The four Vedas are the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda. Scholars date the composition of the earliest Rigvedic hymns to approximately 1500–1200 BCE.

Explanation: The Rigveda is universally acknowledged as the oldest of the four Vedas. It consists of 1,028 hymns (suktas) organised in 10 mandalas (books), dedicated to deities such as Indra, Agni, and Varuna. The Samaveda and Yajurveda largely draw upon the Rigveda's hymns for their own compositions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Samaveda contains melodic renditions of Rigvedic hymns and is later in composition.
- Option C: Yajurveda deals with sacrificial rituals and is considered later than the Rigveda.
- Option D: Atharvaveda is generally regarded as the youngest of the four Vedas, dealing with everyday life, charms, and spells.

Final Answer: The Rigveda is the oldest among the four Vedas $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — Gupta Dynasty: The Gupta Empire (4th–6th century CE) is called the Golden Age of India for its achievements in arts, science, and administration. Several notable rulers contributed to its expansion and cultural flourishing.

Explanation: Samudragupta (r. c. 335–375 CE) is called the "Napoleon of India" by historian V.A. Smith for his military genius and extensive conquests across northern and southern India. The Allahabad Pillar Inscription (Prayagashasti) by his court poet Harisena records his conquests in detail.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Chandragupta I founded the Gupta Empire and adopted the title "Maharajadhiraja" but is not known as the Napoleon of India.
- Option B: Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) is renowned for his cultural patronage and defeating the Shakas, but the Napoleon epithet belongs to Samudragupta.
- Option D: Skandagupta fought off the Huna invasions but is not associated with the Napoleon of India epithet.

Final Answer: Samudragupta is known as the Napoleon of India $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — Vijayanagara Empire: The Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646 CE), founded by Harihara I and Bukka Raya I of the Sangama dynasty, was one of the greatest South Indian empires, serving as a bulwark against the Deccan Sultanates and preserving Hindu culture.

Explanation: Hampi, located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in present-day Karnataka, was the capital and royal seat of the Vijayanagara Empire. The city of Vijayanagara (Victory City) was founded in 1336 CE. The ruins of Hampi were designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bidar was the capital of the Bahmani Sultanate and later the Bidar Sultanate, not Vijayanagara.
- Option B: Gulbarga (Kalaburagi) was the first capital of the Bahmani Kingdom, not the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Option C: Warangal was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty, not the Vijayanagara Empire.

Final Answer: Hampi (Vijayanagara) was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — 19th-Century Social Reform Movements: The 19th century saw a renaissance of social and religious reform in India. Leaders challenged practices like sati, child marriage, and idol worship, advocating reason, monotheism, and women's rights.

Explanation: Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj in Calcutta in 1828. The organisation promoted monotheism, rationalism, and social reforms such as the abolition of sati and the promotion of women's education. Ram Mohan Roy is widely regarded as the "Father of the Indian Renaissance."

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission (1897) and was a disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, not the founder of Brahmo Samaj.
- Option C: Dayanand Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj in 1875, a different reform movement.
- Option D: Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a nationalist leader, not the founder of Brahmo Samaj.

Final Answer: Brahmo Samaj was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1828 $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q12

Q13.

Solution

Concept — Indian Independence Movement: The Quit India Movement (August Kranti) was a mass civil disobedience campaign demanding an immediate end to British rule in India. It was the most aggressive movement of the freedom struggle.

Explanation: Mahatma Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement on 8 August 1942 at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), giving the clarion call "Do or Die" (Karo Ya Maro). The British immediately arrested Gandhi and thousands of leaders, but the movement spread across India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1940 saw the Lahore Resolution by the Muslim League and Gandhi's Individual Satyagraha, not the Quit India Movement.

- Option C: 1944 was when Gandhi was released from detention (May 1944) due to ill health; the main movement had already subsided.
- Option D: 1946 saw the formation of the interim government; India gained independence in 1947.

Final Answer: The Quit India Movement was launched in 1942 $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Brahmaputra River System: The Brahmaputra is one of Asia's major rivers, originating in the Tibetan Plateau and flowing through Tibet, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, and Bangladesh before emptying into the Bay of Bengal. It is known by different names in different countries.

Explanation: In Tibet (China), the river is called the Yarlung Tsangpo (also spelt Yarlungzangbo). It originates from the Angsi Glacier near Mount Kailash. It enters India through the Arunachal Pradesh and is called the Siang/Dihang before becoming the Brahmaputra in Assam. In Bangladesh it is called the Jamuna.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Huang He (Yellow River) is a major river of northern China, entirely separate from the Brahmaputra system.
- Option B: Salween (Nu River) rises in Tibet but flows south through Myanmar; it is not the Brahmaputra.
- Option D: Mekong (Lancang) rises in Tibet and flows through Southeast Asia (Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam); it is unrelated to the Brahmaputra.

Final Answer: The Brahmaputra is called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet/China $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Deccan Traps: The Deccan Plateau in peninsular India is one of the world's largest volcanic provinces. It was formed by massive volcanic eruptions approximately 66 million years ago, contemporaneous with the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event.

Explanation: The Deccan Plateau is predominantly composed of basaltic lava flows, collectively known as the Deccan Traps (from the Swedish *trapp*, meaning staircase, referring to the step-like landscape). These dark volcanic rocks underlie most of Maharashtra, parts of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana, making the plateau suitable for cotton cultivation (black cotton soil / Regur soil).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Sedimentary rocks dominate the Indo-Gangetic Plain and Tethys Himalayas, not the Deccan Plateau.
- Option B: While ancient Precambrian granites and gneisses do exist in parts of the peninsular shield (e.g., Eastern and Western Ghats), the dominant rock of the Deccan Plateau proper is basalt.
- Option C: Limestone karst formations are found in Meghalaya and parts of Chhattisgarh, not the typical Deccan Plateau.

Final Answer: The Deccan Plateau is composed of basaltic volcanic rock (Deccan Traps) $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Coal Production in India: India is the second-largest coal producer and consumer in the world. Coal deposits are concentrated in the Gondwana belt of east-central India, with states like Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal being major producers.

Explanation: Jharkhand is India's largest coal-producing state. It contains major coalfields such as Jharia (which has the richest coking coal reserves in Asia), Bokaro, Giridih, and Ramgarh. Jharia coalfield alone accounts for a major portion of India's coking coal output, essential for the steel industry.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: West Bengal (Raniganj coalfield) is a significant producer but ranks below Jharkhand in total output.
- Option C: Chhattisgarh is the second-largest producer but is behind Jharkhand.
- Option D: Odisha has large coal reserves and is a major producer, but Jharkhand leads overall in production volume.

Final Answer: Jharkhand is India's largest coal-producing state $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Indian Monsoon System: The Southwest Monsoon (June–September) is the primary rainfall event of India, bringing around 75–80% of India's annual precipitation. It is driven by differential heating of the land and ocean masses.

Explanation: The Indian Summer Monsoon arrives in two main branches: (1) the **Arabian Sea branch**, which strikes the Western Ghats first and brings heavy rainfall to the west coast, Goa, and Kerala, then crosses the Deccan and reaches central India; and (2) the **Bay of Bengal branch**, which moves up the northeast coast, enters Bengal, and then sweeps westward across the Gangetic Plain. Both branches eventually merge and cover the entire country.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Saying only the Arabian Sea branch is incomplete; the Bay of Bengal branch is equally critical.
- Option C: Saying only the Bay of Bengal branch is incomplete; the Arabian Sea branch provides crucial rainfall to the western coast.
- Option D: Western Disturbances are extratropical weather systems from the Mediterranean that bring winter rainfall to northwest India – they are unrelated to the summer monsoon.

Final Answer: The Indian Summer Monsoon arrives via both the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal branches $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Aditya-L1 Mission: Launched by ISRO on 2 September 2023, Aditya-L1 is India's first solar space mission. It was designed to study the Sun's corona, solar wind, and space weather from a vantage point free from eclipses.

Explanation: The spacecraft was inserted into a halo orbit around Lagrange Point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is located approximately 1.5 million kilometres from Earth (about 1% of the total Earth-Sun distance of 150 million km). From L1, the spacecraft can continuously observe the Sun without any occultation by Earth or the Moon.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 384,400 km is the Moon's average orbital distance from Earth – far too close for L1 positioning.
- Option B: 500,000 km is well short of the actual L1 distance of 1.5 million km.
- Option D: 5 million km would be far beyond the L1 point and would not be gravitationally stable for a halo orbit in the Earth-Sun system.

Final Answer: Aditya-L1's L1 point is approximately 1.5 million km from Earth $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q18

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Ballistic Missile Classification: Ballistic missiles are classified by range: SRBM ($<$1,000 km), MRBM (1,000–3,000 km), IRBM (3,000–5,500 km), and ICBM ($>$5,500 km). India's Agni series covers various range categories.

Explanation: The Agni-V is India's most advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of over 5,000 km (some estimates place it at 5,500+ km), capable of reaching targets deep in Asia and beyond. It can carry nuclear warheads and uses canisterised launching for rapid deployment. It is classified as India's first ICBM-class missile.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Agni-I has a range of 700 km, making it an SRBM. Agni-V is not in this category.

- Option B: Agni-II (range 2,000 km) and Agni-III are MRBMs; Agni-V far surpasses this.
- Option C: Agni-IV has a range of 3,500–4,000 km, making it IRBM class. Agni-V exceeds even this range.

Final Answer: Agni-V is an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) class with range over 5,000 km $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — India's Nuclear Energy Vision: India aims to significantly expand its nuclear energy capacity as part of its clean energy transition. Nuclear power currently contributes around 3% of India's electricity, with about 7 GW of installed capacity.

Explanation: As part of India's energy vision for 2047 (Viksit Bharat), the government announced a target to triple the country's nuclear power capacity. This involves building new pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs), light water reactors (LWRs) with foreign collaboration, and advancing the thorium-based three-stage nuclear programme.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Doubling is a lesser target than what the government has announced; the stated ambition is to triple capacity.
- Option C: While long-term projections mention 100 GW of nuclear capacity as an aspirational figure for 2047, the Viksit Bharat vision statement cited here specifically describes tripling current nuclear capacity, not a fixed GW target.
- Option D: India's energy mix includes coal, renewable, hydro, and nuclear; a complete shift to nuclear base load is not the stated policy.

Final Answer: India's vision is to triple its nuclear power capacity by 2047 $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Discovery of Penicillin: Before antibiotics, bacterial infections were often fatal. The accidental discovery of penicillin in 1928 revolutionised medicine and laid the foundation for modern antibiotic therapy, saving hundreds of millions of lives.

Explanation: Scottish bacteriologist Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin in 1928 at St Mary's Hospital, London, when he noticed that the mould *Penicillium notatum* was killing Staphylococcus bacteria on a culture plate left near an open window. Fleming, along with Howard Florey and Ernst Boris Chain who developed penicillin into a medical drug, received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1945.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Louis Pasteur developed the germ theory of disease and created vaccines for cholera and anthrax but did not discover penicillin.
- Option B: Robert Koch identified the causative bacteria of tuberculosis, cholera, and anthrax but is not associated with penicillin.
- Option D: Joseph Lister pioneered antiseptic surgery using carbolic acid but did not discover antibiotics.

Final Answer: Penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q21

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Neeraj Chopra's Historic Throw: At the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Men's Javelin Throw final held on 7 August 2021, Neeraj Chopra produced one of the finest performances in Indian Olympic history. Knowing the exact throw distance is a key GK fact tested in competitive exams.

Explanation: In his second throw of the final, Neeraj Chopra registered **87.58 metres**, which held up as the gold-medal winning distance throughout the competition. No other athlete surpassed this mark. His first throw (87.03 m) was also beyond the silver-medal standard. This throw is permanently etched in Indian sports history.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 89.45 m is a plausible distance (close to Neeraj's personal best at that time) but is not the recorded gold-medal throw at Tokyo.
- Option B: 86.25 m is below the actual winning distance; it would not have been sufficient for gold in that competition.
- Option C: 90.18 m exceeds Neeraj's actual throw and is a fictitious distance for the Tokyo final.

Final Answer: Neeraj Chopra's gold-medal throw at Tokyo 2020 was 87.58 m $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Indian Sports Awards: India's national sports awards are presented by the President on National Sports Day (29 August – birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand). The awards include the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna (highest), Arjuna Award (outstanding athletes), Dronacharya Award (coaches), and Dhyan Chand Award (lifetime achievement).

Explanation: The **Dronacharya Award** is given to outstanding coaches who have trained athletes to achieve excellence at international events like the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and World Championships. It is named after Dronacharya, the legendary archery teacher in the Mahabharata. Recipients include coaches like Bhim Singh (athletics) and Balachandran Bhaskaran (kabaddi).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Sports journalists are recognised by other awards such as those given by the Sports Journalists Federation of India; the Dronacharya Award is not for journalism.
- Option C: Sports administrators are recognised by the National Sports Promotion Award, not the Dronacharya Award.
- Option D: Lifetime achievement in sports is covered by the Dhyan Chand Award (formerly known as the Lifetime Achievement Award), not the Dronacharya Award.

Final Answer: The Dronacharya Award is given to outstanding sports coaches $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q23

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Commonwealth Games 2022: The Commonwealth Games are a multi-sport event held every four years among athletes from Commonwealth nations. The 2022 edition was the 22nd Commonwealth Games.

Explanation: The 2022 Commonwealth Games were held from 28 July to 8 August 2022 in **Birmingham, United Kingdom**. India finished 4th in the medals tally with 22 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze medals (61 total). Birmingham stepped in as host after Durban, South Africa was stripped of hosting rights in 2017.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Melbourne hosted the 2006 Commonwealth Games (18th edition), not 2022.
- Option C: New Delhi hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games (19th edition), not 2022.
- Option D: Durban was originally awarded the 2022 Games but lost the hosting rights; the Games were not held there.

Final Answer: The 2022 Commonwealth Games were hosted in Birmingham, United Kingdom $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q24

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Notable Indian Autobiographies: Several Indian leaders and scientists have penned landmark autobiographies. "Wings of Fire" is one of the most widely read autobiographies in India, narrating the author's transformation from humble origins to leading ISRO and DRDO.

Explanation: "Wings of Fire: An Autobiography" was written by **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (with co-author Arun Tiwari) and published in 1999. It chronicles Kalam's journey from Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, through his contributions to India's space (SLV-3) and missile programmes (Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme – IGMDP, including Agni and Prithvi missiles), and his vision for a developed India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Jawaharlal Nehru wrote "The Discovery of India" and "Glimpses

of World History," not "Wings of Fire."
- Option B: Vikram Sarabhai, father of India's space programme, did not write "Wings of Fire."
- Option D: Satish Dhawan, another ISRO pioneer, did not author "Wings of Fire."

Final Answer: "Wings of Fire" was written by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam ⇒ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q25

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Booker Prize: The Booker Prize (formerly the Man Booker Prize) is one of the most prestigious literary awards for English-language fiction. It is awarded annually to the best novel written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

Explanation: The 2023 Booker Prize was awarded to Irish novelist **Paul Lynch** for his novel "Prophet Song," a dystopian story about the rise of fascism in Ireland. The award was announced on 26 November 2023. Paul Lynch becomes the second Irish writer to win the Booker Prize.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Salman Rushdie won the Booker Prize in 1981 for "Midnight's Children" (and the "Booker of Bookers" in 1993 and 2008), not in 2023.
- Option B: Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 for "The God of Small Things," not in 2023.
- Option C: Ian McEwan has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize multiple times and won in 1998 for "Amsterdam," but not in 2023.

Final Answer: The Booker Prize 2023 was won by Paul Lynch for "Prophet Song" ⇒ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q26

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Election Commission of India: The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950 (now celebrated as National Voters' Day). The Chief Election Commissioner heads the commission and is responsible for supervising free and fair elections.

Explanation: Sukumar Sen was India's first Chief Election Commissioner, serving from 21 March 1950 to 19 December 1958. Under his stewardship, India successfully conducted its first and second General Elections (1951-52 and 1957), an enormous logistical achievement given India's vast size and largely illiterate electorate. He received the Padma Bhushan for this work.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: K.V.K. Sundaram was the second Chief Election Commissioner (1958–1967).
- Option C: S.P. Sen Verma served as the third Chief Election Commissioner (1967–1972).
- Option D: T. Swaminathan served as the fourth Chief Election Commissioner (1972–1973).

Final Answer: Sukumar Sen was India's first Chief Election Commissioner $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q27

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Design Institutions in India: India's design education is spearheaded by the National Institute of Design (NID), established by the Government of India as an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Explanation: The National Institute of Design (NID) was established in 1961 in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, based on the recommendations of the Eames Report commissioned by the Government of India. NID Ahmedabad is the apex body for design education and research in India, offering programmes in industrial design, communication design, textile design, and more.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Mumbai has the Industrial Design Centre (IDC) at IIT Bombay, but the main NID campus is in Ahmedabad.

- Option C: New Delhi houses many cultural and educational institutions, but NID's headquarters is not in Delhi.
- Option D: Pune has NID's Andhra Pradesh chapter and other design schools, but NID's founding campus and headquarters is in Ahmedabad.

Final Answer: NID is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q28

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Indian Textile Heritage: India has a rich tradition of handwoven textiles protected by Geographical Indications (GI). Banarasi silk is one of India's most famous GI-tagged textiles, known for intricate zari work using gold and silver threads.

Explanation: Banarasi silk sarees are woven in **Varanasi (Banaras)**, Uttar Pradesh. They feature elaborate patterns of floral and foliate motifs, brocaded with real gold and silver threads (zari). The craft has been practised for centuries and holds GI tag status. Banarasi silk was historically patronised by Mughal emperors and is worn at major celebrations in India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Surat, Gujarat is famous for synthetic fabrics, zari manufacturing, and diamond cutting, not Banarasi silk sarees.
- Option B: Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, is famous for its own distinct Kanjivaram silk sarees, not Banarasi silk.
- Option D: Mysuru is famous for Mysore silk sarees with their distinctive golden border and lighter weave, distinct from Banarasi.

Final Answer: Banarasi silk sarees are woven in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q29

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Pashmina Wool: Pashmina (from the Persian *pashm*, meaning wool) refers to the ultra-fine cashmere wool used to make the world-famous Kashmiri shawls and wraps. It is one of the finest natural fibres in the world, with individual fibres as thin as 12–16 microns.

Explanation: Pashmina is obtained from the **Changthangi** (or Changra) goat, a breed native to the high-altitude Changthang Plateau of **Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir**. These goats grow an exceptionally fine undercoat (pashm) to survive the extreme cold (down to $-40°C$). The wool is combed (not sheared) from the goat in spring. Kashmiri artisans hand-weave this fibre into exquisite shawls, pashminas, and scarves.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Merino sheep are famous for fine wool in Australia and New Zealand; they are not the primary source of Pashmina in India.
- Option B: Angora goats produce mohair fibre, not Pashmina; they are primarily reared in parts of Rajasthan.
- Option C: Tibetan yaks provide a coarse outer fibre used for ropes and rough textiles, not the delicate Pashmina grade.

Final Answer: Pashmina originates from Changthangi goats of the Jammu & Kashmir / Ladakh region $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q30

Q31.

Solution

Concept — Right to Property in India: Originally, the Right to Property was a Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31 of the Indian Constitution. However, it was seen as an obstacle to land reforms and socialist policies.

Explanation: The **44th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1978**, passed during the Morarji Desai government, removed the Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights by deleting Articles 19(1)(f) and 31. Instead, it was reclassified as a mere legal/constitutional right under Article 300-A, which states that no person shall be deprived of property save by authority of law.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The 42nd Amendment (1976) during the Emergency made several changes (added "Socialist" and "Secular" to the Preamble) but did not remove the Right to Property from Fundamental Rights.
- Option C: The 52nd Amendment (1985) introduced the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law), unrelated to property rights.
- Option D: The 61st Amendment (1989) lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years, unrelated to property rights.

Final Answer: The 44th Amendment, 1978 removed Right to Property from Fundamental Rights $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q31

Q32.

Solution

Concept — Rajya Sabha (Council of States): The Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the Indian Parliament. Unlike the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha is a permanent house that is never dissolved; one-third of its members retire every two years.

Explanation: Under Article 80 of the Indian Constitution, the maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is **250 members**: up to 238 elected by the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of states and Union Territories (using single transferable vote), and 12 members nominated by the President for their expertise in literature, science, art, and social service.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 245 members is a commonly confused number; the actual constitutional maximum is 250 (238 + 12), while current effective strength is around 245 due to some UT variations.
- Option C: 300 members is a fictional figure; no provision exists for this.
- Option D: 552 is the maximum strength of the *Lok Sabha* (the lower house), not the Rajya Sabha.

Final Answer: The maximum strength of Rajya Sabha is 250 members (238 elected + 12 nominated) $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q32

Q33.

Solution

Concept — Emergency Provisions in India: The Indian Constitution contains three types of Emergency: National Emergency (Article 352), State Emergency / President's Rule (Article 356), and Financial Emergency (Article 360). Each has specific grounds and procedures.

Explanation: Article 352 empowers the President to proclaim a National Emergency if the security of India or any part thereof is threatened by war, external aggression, or armed rebellion (originally "internal disturbance," amended by the 44th Amendment). A National Emergency has been proclaimed three times: in 1962 (India-China war), 1971 (India-Pakistan war), and 1975–1977 (internal disturbance).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Article 356 deals with State Emergency (President's Rule / imposition of President's rule in a state when constitutional machinery fails).
- Option B: Article 360 empowers the President to proclaim a Financial Emergency if the financial stability of India is threatened.
- Option D: Article 368 deals with the power and procedure for amending the Constitution, not for proclaiming an Emergency.

Final Answer: National Emergency is proclaimed under Article 352 of the Constitution $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{C}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q33

Q34.

Solution

Concept — SAARC: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation established in 1985, comprising eight member states: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Explanation: The **SAARC Secretariat** is located in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. It was established in 1987 to coordinate and monitor implementation of SAARC activities. The Secretary-General of SAARC is appointed by the Council of Ministers from member countries on rotational basis for a three-year term.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: New Delhi is the capital of the SAARC member India; SAARC's own secretariat is not in India.
- Option B: Colombo is the commercial capital of Sri Lanka, a SAARC member; the secretariat is not here.
- Option C: Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh, a SAARC member; the secretariat is not here.

Final Answer: The SAARC Secretariat is located in Kathmandu, Nepal $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q34

Q35.

Solution

Concept — United Nations Specialised Agencies: The United Nations system comprises many specialised agencies, each headquartered in different cities. Knowing the headquarters of major international organisations is a key General Awareness topic.

Explanation: The **World Health Organization (WHO)**, established on 7 April 1948 (now celebrated as World Health Day), has its headquarters in **Geneva, Switzerland**. Geneva is also home to many other international organisations including the ILO, UNHCR, WTO, UNCTAD, and the Red Cross. The WHO Director-General is the head of the organisation.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: New York, USA is where the United Nations Headquarters (General Assembly, Security Council) and agencies like UNICEF and UNDP are located, but not the WHO.
- Option C: Vienna, Austria hosts organisations like IAEA, OPEC, and CTBTO, but not the WHO.
- Option D: Brussels, Belgium is the headquarters of the European Union (EU) and NATO, not the WHO.

Final Answer: The WHO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q35

Answer Key

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