FDDI AIST General Awareness

Sample Paper – 4

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. UPI (Unified Payments Interface) in India is managed and operated by which organisation?

(A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

(B) State Bank of India (SBI)

(C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

(D) NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)

Q2. Bharatmala Pariyojana is a flagship Government of India scheme primarily focused on the development of—

(A) National highways and road connectivity infrastructure

(B) Rural electrification under the Saubhagya scheme

(C) Urban metro rail development in Tier-1 cities

(D) Inland waterway and port infrastructure

Q3. In February 2023, India launched **Operation Dost** to provide humanitarian and disaster relief to which country (countries) affected by a devastating earthquake?

(A) Ukraine and Moldova

(B) Turkey (Turkiye) and Syria

(C) Morocco and Algeria

(D) Afghanistan and Pakistan

Q4. Which American semiconductor company announced plans in 2023 to set up a chip assembly and test facility in Gujarat, India, marking a significant milestone in India's semiconductor ambitions?

(A) Intel Corporation

(B) Qualcomm Technologies

(C) Micron Technology

(D) NVIDIA Corporation

Q5. The winner of the inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) cricket tournament held in 2023 was—

(A) Delhi Capitals

(B) Royal Challengers Bangalore

(C) UP Warriorz

(D) Mumbai Indians

Q6. India's **Gaganyaan** mission aims to demonstrate which landmark capability for the country for the very first time?

(A) Indigenous human spaceflight—send Indian astronauts to space and return them safely

(B) Unmanned soft landing on the lunar surface

(C) India's first Mars orbital insertion mission

(D) Development and launch of a fully reusable rocket

Q7. The annual bilateral joint military exercise conducted between India and the United States of America is called—

(A) Shakti

(B) Yudh Abhyas

(C) Indra

(D) Malabar

Q8. India's **Project 75I** is a strategic programme for the construction of—

(A) Six nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines for the Indian Navy

(B) Two aircraft carriers to be built at Cochin Shipyard

(C) Six conventional (non-nuclear) submarines for the Indian Navy

(D) Development of anti-submarine warfare helicopters for the Indian Navy

Q9. The magnificent **Brihadisvara Temple** (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, was built by—

(A) Rajendra Chola I

(B) Kulottunga Chola I

(C) Vikramaditya II

(D) Rajaraja Chola I (c. 1003–1010 CE)

Q10. The famous **Shore Temple** at Mahabalipuram is a celebrated example of ancient Indian architecture belonging to the—

(A) Pallava dynasty

(B) Chola dynasty

(C) Rashtrakuta dynasty

(D) Chalukya dynasty

Q11. Mangal Pandey, widely regarded as the soldier who fired one of the first shots of the 1857 Revolt, was a sepoy (soldier) belonging to which regiment?

(A) 19th Bengal Native Infantry

(B) 34th Bengal Native Infantry

(C) 47th Bengal Native Infantry

(D) 22nd Bengal Native Infantry

Q12. Which 19th-century Bengali social reformer and educationist strongly championed the cause of widow remarriage and authored the influential work *Marriage of Widows*?

(A) Raja Ram Mohan Roy

(B) Swami Vivekananda

(C) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

(D) Debendranath Tagore

Q13. Subhas Chandra Bose formally assumed supreme command of the **Indian National Army (INA)** in which year, after travelling to Singapore via a daring submarine voyage from Germany?

(A) 1941

(B) 1942

(C) 1944

(D) 1943

Q14. The **Thar Desert** of India, extending primarily across Rajasthan and parts of Gujarat, is also commonly referred to as the—

(A) Great Indian Desert

(B) The Cholistan Desert

(C) The Marusthali Desert

(D) The Golden Desert

Q15. The Indian monsoon typically begins its seasonal **withdrawal (retreat)** from which part of the country and in which month?

(A) Northeast India (Assam and Meghalaya) in October

(B) Northwest India (Rajasthan and adjoining areas) in September

(C) Peninsular India (Tamil Nadu coast) in November

(D) Eastern India (Odisha and West Bengal) in October

Q16. India's **first national park**, Jim Corbett National Park, is located in which Indian state?

(A) Himachal Pradesh

(B) Uttar Pradesh

(C) Uttarakhand

(D) Jammu and Kashmir

Q17. **Jindhagada Peak** (approximately 1,690 m) is the highest point of which mountain range in India?

(A) Western Ghats (Sahyadri)

(B) Aravalli Range

(C) Satpura Range

(D) Eastern Ghats

Q18. India's **Gaganyaan** crewed mission is designed to send how many Indian astronaut-designates (called Vyomanauts) to space?

(A) 3 (three)

(B) 2 (two)

(C) 4 (four)

(D) 1 (one)

Q19. **CERT-In**, India's national nodal agency for responding to cybersecurity threats, stands for—

(A) Central Electronic Research and Technology Institute

(B) Computer Emergency Response Team – India

(C) Cyber Encryption and Regulatory Technology Institute

(D) Centre for Electronic Resources and Technology Innovation

Q20. DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) in living organisms is primarily responsible for—

(A) Producing energy for all cellular activities through photosynthesis

(B) Synthesising proteins directly for immediate use in the body

(C) Storing and transmitting genetic information from one generation to the next

(D) Regulating body temperature and metabolic rate

Q21. The **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** creates a unique and portable digital health record for every citizen through—

(A) Aadhaar-linked biometric authentication at hospitals

(B) PAN Card integrated health portal managed by CBDT

(C) Digi Locker health certificate system of the Ministry of Electronics

(D) ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)—a 14-digit unique health ID

Q22. Abhinav Bindra won India's first-ever **individual** gold medal at the Olympic Games in which sporting event?

(A) 10 m Air Rifle shooting

(B) 50 m Pistol shooting

(C) 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol shooting

(D) 10 m Air Pistol shooting

Q23. Abhinav Bindra's historic individual Olympic gold medal was won at which edition of the Olympic Games?

(A) Athens Olympics, 2004

(B) Beijing Olympics, 2008

(C) London Olympics, 2012

(D) Sydney Olympics, 2000

Q24. India's highest sports honour, the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**, was officially renamed in 2021 to—

(A) Bharat Ratna Sports Excellence Award

(B) Sardar Patel Khel Ratna Award

(C) Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award

(D) Subhas Chandra Bose Khel Ratna Award

Q25. The Sahitya Akademi Award-winning historical work *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy* was authored by—

(A) Shashi Tharoor

(B) Amartya Sen

(C) Romila Thapar

(D) Ramachandra Guha

Q26. The Nobel Prize in Physics 1930 was awarded to Indian scientist **C.V. Raman** for his discovery of—

(A) Raman Effect (inelastic scattering of light by molecules)

(B) Discovery of the Bose–Einstein Condensate and Boson particle

(C) Photoelectric effect and quantum theory of radiation

(D) Discovery of electron spin resonance in crystalline materials

Q27. **Pearl Academy**, one of India's premier private institutions, is primarily known for providing education in—

(A) Medical sciences and biotechnology research

(B) Fashion design, retail management, and business

(C) Aerospace engineering and commercial aviation

(D) Culinary arts and hotel management

Q28. India's **largest footwear producing state** (by volume of production), housing clusters like Ambur and Ranipet, is—

(A) Uttar Pradesh

(B) Maharashtra

(C) Tamil Nadu

(D) West Bengal

Q29. The registered headquarters of **Bata India Limited**, the country's largest footwear retailer by number of stores, is located in—

(A) Mumbai, Maharashtra

(B) Kolkata, West Bengal

(C) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

(D) Gurugram (Gurgaon), Haryana

Q30. The **India International Leather Fair (IILF)**, considered Asia's largest leather and leather products trade fair, is held annually in—

(A) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

(B) Kolkata, West Bengal

(C) Agra, Uttar Pradesh

(D) Mumbai, Maharashtra

Q31. The **Union List** in the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution, under which Parliament has exclusive legislative power, currently contains approximately how many subjects?

(A) 66 subjects

(B) 97 subjects

(C) 47 subjects

(D) 61 subjects

Q32. According to law, the Chairperson of the **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** of India must be a retired—

(A) Chief Justice of a High Court

(B) Attorney General of India

(C) Chief Election Commissioner of India

(D) Chief Justice of India

Q33. The **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009**, which guarantees free and compulsory education to children aged 6–14 years, came into force on 1 April—

(A) 2010

(B) 2009

(C) 2011

(D) 2012

Q34. India formally became a **full member** of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** at which summit, and in which year?

(A) 2015, at the Ufa Summit in Russia

(B) 2016, at the Tashkent Summit in Uzbekistan

(C) 2017, at the Astana Summit in Kazakhstan

(D) 2019, at the Bishkek Summit in Kyrgyzstan

Q35. The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** was established by the Washington Treaty, which was signed in—

(A) 1945

(B) 1949

(C) 1951

(D) 1947

Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept — Payments Infrastructure: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a real-time payment system developed in India that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application. It was developed and is governed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), an umbrella organisation set up under the initiative of RBI and Indian Banks' Association.

Explanation: NPCI was established in 2008 and launched UPI in 2016. Although RBI regulates the overall payments ecosystem, the operational management, interoperability framework, and technical standards of UPI rest with NPCI. UPI has since become the world's largest real-time payments platform by transaction volume.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: RBI regulates payments policy but does not directly manage UPI operations.
- Option B: SBI is a commercial bank and a participant in UPI, not its governing body.
- Option C: SEBI regulates securities markets and has no role in payment systems like UPI.

Final Answer: UPI is managed by NPCI $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q1

Q2.

Solution

Concept — Government Schemes / Infrastructure: Bharatmala Pariyojana is a centrally sponsored and funded road and highways construction programme launched by the Government of India in 2017. It is one of the largest highway development programmes in the country, aimed at creating an integrated, efficient road network.

Explanation: The scheme focuses on optimising the efficiency of road traffic movement across the country by bridging critical infrastructure gaps in the National Highways network, including border and coastal connectivity roads, expressways, and economic corridors. It is implemented under the Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Rural electrification is covered under PM Saubhagya scheme, not Bharatmala.
- Option C: Urban metro projects fall under the Smart Cities Mission and Metro Rail Policy.
- Option D: Inland waterways development is handled under the Sagarmala and JMVP programmes.

Final Answer: Bharatmala is for national highways and road connectivity $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q2

Q3.

Solution

Concept — Current Affairs / Humanitarian Operations: Operation Dost ("Dost" means "friend" in several South Asian and Central Asian languages) was launched by India in February 2023 to provide search-and-rescue teams, medical assistance, and relief materials to earthquake-affected regions.

Explanation: A series of catastrophic earthquakes struck southern Turkey (Turkiye) and northern Syria on 6 February 2023, killing over 50,000 people. India dispatched NDRF teams, field hospitals, and relief supplies to both countries under Operation Dost, reflecting India's "Neighbourhood First" and humanitarian outreach policies.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: India's relief to Ukraine was under different diplomatic and humanitarian frameworks.
- Option C: The 2023 Morocco earthquake occurred in September 2023—a separate event, with no Operation Dost link.
- Option D: Relief operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan have different operational names.

Final Answer: Operation Dost was for Turkey (Turkiye) and Syria $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q3

Q4.

Solution

Concept — Current Affairs / Semiconductor Industry: India has been aggressively pursuing a domestic semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), offering incentives for chip design, fabrication, and assembly, test, and packaging (ATP) facilities.

Explanation: In June 2023, Micron Technology (a US-based memory chip giant) announced a $2.75 billion investment to set up a semiconductor Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) facility in Sanand, Gujarat. The Union Cabinet approved incentives under the ISM scheme. This was a landmark announcement for India's semiconductor ambitions.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Intel has discussed plans for India but did not announce a Gujarat chip plant in 2023.
- Option B: Qualcomm operates chip design centres in India but has no announced assembly plant in Gujarat.
- Option D: NVIDIA's India investments are focused on AI computing and data centres, not chip assembly.

Final Answer: Micron Technology announced the Gujarat chip assembly plant $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q4

Q5.

Solution

Concept — Sports / Women's Cricket: The Women's Premier League (WPL) is a professional Twenty20 cricket league organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), modelled on the Indian Premier League (IPL) for women's cricket.

Explanation: The inaugural edition of WPL was held in February–March 2023 (with the 2024 edition being the second). The very first WPL title (2023 inaugural season) was won by Mumbai Indians, who defeated Delhi Capitals in the final played at the Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai. In 2024 (second edition), Royal Challengers Bangalore won the title.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Delhi Capitals reached the inaugural final but lost to Mumbai

Indians.

- Option B: Royal Challengers Bangalore won the 2024 (second) WPL, not the inaugural.
- Option C: UP Warriorz participated in the tournament but did not win the inaugural title.

Final Answer: Mumbai Indians won the inaugural WPL $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q5

Q6.

Solution

Concept — Space Science / ISRO Missions: Gaganyaan is India's first human spaceflight programme, being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The mission aims to place a crew of three Indian astronauts (Vyomanauts) in a 400-km orbit for up to three days and return them safely to Earth.

Explanation: Before Gaganyaan, India has never indigenously launched humans into space. Successful completion will make India only the fourth nation (after USSR/Russia, USA, and China) to indigenously achieve human spaceflight. The mission is preceded by uncrewed test flights (G1) to validate the crew escape system and flight performance.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: India's lunar landing mission is Chandrayaan (Chandrayaan-3 achieved a soft landing in 2023).
- Option C: India's Mars mission was Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission), launched in 2013.
- Option D: ISRO is developing reusable launch vehicles separately (RLV-TD programme), not as part of Gaganyaan.

Final Answer: Gaganyaan aims for indigenous human spaceflight $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q6

Q7.

Solution

Concept — Defence / Bilateral Military Exercises: India conducts numerous bilateral and multilateral military exercises with countries around the world to enhance interoperability, share best practices, and strengthen defence partnerships.

Explanation: Yudh Abhyas is the annual bilateral joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the United States Army. It is conducted alternately in India and the USA. Other major exercises: Shakti is with France (Army), Indra is with Russia (tri-services), and Malabar is a tri-nation naval exercise among India, USA, and Japan.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Shakti is the India–France joint army exercise.
- Option C: Indra is the India–Russia joint military exercise.
- Option D: Malabar is a naval exercise among India, USA, and Japan—not a bilateral India–USA army exercise.

Final Answer: Yudh Abhyas is the India–USA bilateral joint military exercise $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q7

Q8.

Solution

Concept — Defence / Naval Programmes: India has pursued submarine acquisition programmes to enhance its underwater combat capabilities. Project 75 (Scorpene class) produced six diesel-electric submarines at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

Explanation: Project 75I is the follow-on programme that envisages the construction of six additional conventional (non-nuclear, diesel-electric/air-independent propulsion) submarines for the Indian Navy. These submarines will be built in India under the "Strategic Partnership" model, encouraging private sector participation. They are distinct from the nuclear-powered submarines of the SSBN programme (Arihant class).

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Nuclear-powered submarines form a different programme (SSBN/SSGN series).

- Option B: Aircraft carrier construction is a separate project (IAC-1 Vikrant, IAC-2).
- Option D: Naval anti-submarine helicopters are procured separately (e.g., MH-60R Seahawk).

Final Answer: Project 75I is for six conventional submarines for the Indian Navy $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q8

Q9.

Solution

Concept — History and Culture / Temple Architecture: The Brihadisvara Temple (also called Rajarajesvaram) at Thanjavur is a masterpiece of Dravidian temple architecture, inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (as part of the "Great Living Chola Temples").

Explanation: The temple was commissioned by **Rajaraja Chola I** (also known as Rajaraja the Great) and completed around 1010 CE. It features the tallest vimana (tower) of its era (approximately 66 m). The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and stands as a symbol of the architectural and artistic zenith of the Chola dynasty.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Rajendra Chola I (son of Rajaraja I) built the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple.
- Option B: Kulottunga Chola I ruled later and is not associated with the Brihadisvara Temple.
- Option C: Vikramaditya II was a Chalukya ruler, not a Chola king.

Final Answer: The Brihadisvara Temple was built by Rajaraja Chola I $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q9

Q10.

Solution

Concept — History and Culture / South Indian Dynasties: Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) in Tamil Nadu is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its rock-cut and structural monuments from the 7th–8th centuries CE.

Explanation: The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram is a structural temple built during the reign of the **Pallava** dynasty, specifically attributed to the reign of Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha, c. 700–728 CE). The Pallavas ruled from Kanchipuram and were great patrons of Dravidian art and architecture, pioneering the "Pallava style" seen at Mahabalipuram.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Chola dynasty rose to prominence after the decline of Pallavas; Mahabalipuram is Pallava.
- Option C: The Rashtrakutas were based in the Deccan and are known for Kailash Temple at Ellora.
- Option D: The Chalukyas of Badami/Vatapi are known for temples at Aihole and Pattadakal, not Mahabalipuram.

Final Answer: The Shore Temple belongs to the Pallava dynasty $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{A}}$

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q10

Q11.

Solution

Concept — History / 1857 Revolt: The Revolt of 1857 (also called the Sepoy Mutiny or India's First War of Independence) began at Barrackpore on 29 March 1857, when Mangal Pandey attacked British officers.

Explanation: Mangal Pandey served as a sepoy (private soldier) in the **34th Bengal Native Infantry** regiment stationed at Barrackpore (near Kolkata). His act of firing at British officers, driven partly by outrage over the greased cartridges issue, made him one of the first martyrs of the 1857 uprising. He was executed on 8 April 1857.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The 19th Bengal Native Infantry is a different regiment not associated with Mangal Pandey.
- Option C: The 47th Bengal Native Infantry was disbanded after the revolt,

but Pandey was not in it.
- Option D: The 22nd Bengal Native Infantry is an incorrect regiment number for Mangal Pandey.

Final Answer: Mangal Pandey was in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry ⇒ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q11

Q12.

Solution

Concept — History / Social Reform Movements: 19th-century Bengal witnessed a vibrant social reform movement. Several reformers challenged entrenched social evils including sati, child marriage, and the prohibition on widow remarriage.

Explanation: Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820–1891) was the foremost champion of widow remarriage in Bengal. His relentless campaign culminated in the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act of 1856, the first major social legislation of British India. He also authored the persuasive treatise *Marriage of Widows* (Bidhaba Bibaha). His contemporary Raja Ram Mohan Roy worked primarily against sati.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Raja Ram Mohan Roy's landmark cause was abolition of Sati (Sati Regulation Act, 1829).
- Option B: Swami Vivekananda focused on spiritual reform and Hindu revivalism.
- Option D: Debendranath Tagore was a Brahmo Samaj leader focused on religious reform, not specifically widow remarriage legislation.

Final Answer: Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar championed widow remarriage ⇒ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q12

Q13.

Solution

Concept — History / Indian National Army: The Indian National Army (INA / Azad Hind Fauj) was a revolutionary armed force formed during World War II, initially organised by Mohan Singh in 1942 from Indian prisoners of war captured by Japan in Malaya and Singapore.

Explanation: Subhas Chandra Bose arrived in Singapore via a gruelling submarine voyage from Germany in **1943**. He assumed supreme command of the INA on 4 July 1943 and also established the Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind (Provisional Government of Free India) in October 1943. Under his dynamic leadership, the INA launched the Imphal–Kohima campaign aiming to liberate India from British rule.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: In 1941 Bose escaped to Germany; the INA had not been formally reorganised under him yet.
- Option B: In 1942, Mohan Singh commanded the INA; Bose was still in Europe.
- Option C: By 1944, Bose had already been in command for over a year, conducting the Imphal campaign.

Final Answer: Bose assumed command of the INA in 1943 $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q13

Q14.

Solution

Concept — Geography / Indian Deserts: The Thar Desert, spanning approximately 200,000 sq km across northwestern India (primarily Rajasthan) and extending into Pakistan, is the world's 17th largest desert and Asia's largest hot desert.

Explanation: The Thar Desert is officially and most commonly referred to as the **Great Indian Desert** in textbooks, government documents, and maps. It is bounded by the Aravalli Hills to the northeast and east. The desert shares its extent with the Cholistan Desert in Pakistan, but the Indian portion is specifically called the Great Indian Desert.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Cholistan Desert is the name used for the Pakistani extension of the same desert system.
- Option C: Marusthali (meaning "land of death") is a local/regional name used for parts of the Thar in Rajasthan, not the standard official name.
- Option D: The Golden Desert is an informal/poetic description, not the recognised geographic name.

Final Answer: The Thar Desert is also called the Great Indian Desert $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q14

Q15.

Solution

Concept — Geography / Indian Monsoon: The southwest monsoon (June–September) retreats in the reverse direction from which it advances. It advances from the southwest in early June and retreats from the northwest of the country first.

Explanation: The withdrawal of the southwest monsoon begins from **Northwest India (Rajasthan and adjoining areas of Punjab and Haryana)** in early September. The retreat is marked by clear skies, a drop in humidity, and lower temperatures. The monsoon completely withdraws from the Indian subcontinent (from the southeast tip of Tamil Nadu) only by late November or early December.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Northeast India receives monsoon last (Bay of Bengal branch) and it withdraws later from there.
- Option C: Tamil Nadu's east coast gets the northeast monsoon (October–December) after the SW monsoon retreat.
- Option D: Odisha is in eastern India and the monsoon retreats from there after it leaves the northwest.

Final Answer: Monsoon retreats first from Northwest India in September $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q15

Q16.

Solution

Concept — Geography / National Parks: Jim Corbett National Park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park, making it India's first national park. It was later renamed after the legendary hunter-turned-conservationist Jim Corbett.

Explanation: The park is located in the **Nainital district of Uttarakhand** (formerly part of the United Provinces, now a separate state carved out of Uttar Pradesh in 2000). It is famous for Bengal tigers and was the first reserve to come under Project Tiger (1973). The Ramganga River flows through the park.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Himachal Pradesh has the Great Himalayan National Park but not Jim Corbett.
- Option B: Uttar Pradesh is an adjacent state; the park was in UP before Uttarakhand was formed in 2000.
- Option D: Jammu and Kashmir has Dachigam National Park (hangul deer); Jim Corbett is in Uttarakhand.

Final Answer: Jim Corbett National Park is in Uttarakhand $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{C}}$

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q16

Q17.

Solution

Concept — Geography / Indian Mountain Ranges: The Eastern Ghats are a discontinuous range of hills running along India's east coast through Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. Unlike the Western Ghats, they are lower in elevation and more fragmented.

Explanation: Jindhagada Peak (approximately 1,690 m), located in the Araku Valley region of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh, is the highest point of the Eastern Ghats. Arma Konda (also called "King of Gajapathinagaram") at about 1,680 m and Jindhagada compete for this distinction, with Jindhagada generally accepted as the highest point.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: The highest point of the Western Ghats is Anamudi (2,695 m) in Kerala, not Jindhagada.
- Option B: The Aravallis' highest point is Guru Shikhar (1,722 m) in Ra-

jasthan.

- Option C: The Satpura Range's highest point is Dhupgarh (1,350 m) in Madhya Pradesh.

Final Answer: Jindhagada Peak is the highest point of the Eastern Ghats ⇒ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q17

Q18.

Solution

Concept — Space Science / Gaganyaan Mission: India's Gaganyaan mission, ISRO's ambitious human spaceflight programme, involves a series of uncrewed and crewed test flights to demonstrate indigenous capabilities for transporting humans to orbit and returning them safely.

Explanation: The crewed mission of Gaganyaan is designed to carry **three** Vyomanauts (Indian astronaut-designates) to a low Earth orbit of approximately 400 km for a mission duration of up to three days. The four Vyomanauts selected and trained are from the Indian Air Force; three will fly on the crewed mission.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Two Vyomanauts is incorrect; the mission plan specifies three.
- Option C: Four is the total number of Vyomanauts trained, not the crew count for the mission.
- Option D: A single-person mission would not match the stated Gaganyaan crew configuration.

Final Answer: Gaganyaan will carry 3 Vyomanauts ⇒ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q18

Q19.

Solution

Concept — Cybersecurity / Government Bodies: India established a dedicated cybersecurity body to coordinate responses to cybersecurity incidents affecting government and critical infrastructure.

Explanation: CERT-In stands for **Computer Emergency Response Team – India**. It was established in 2004 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to cy-

bersecurity threats and incidents, issuing advisories, and coordinating with international CERT bodies. In 2022, it issued new cybersecurity directives mandating organisations to report incidents within 6 hours.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Central Electronic Research and Technology Institute" is a fabricated expansion that does not exist.
- Option C: "Cyber Encryption and Regulatory Technology Institute" is a plausible-sounding but incorrect expansion.
- Option D: "Centre for Electronic Resources and Technology Innovation" is another incorrect expansion.

Final Answer: CERT-In stands for Computer Emergency Response Team – India $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q19

Q20.

Solution

Concept — Biology / Molecular Biology: DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is the hereditary material found in the nucleus (and mitochondria) of cells of all living organisms. It forms a double helix structure, discovered by Watson and Crick in 1953.

Explanation: DNA carries the **genetic information** encoded in sequences of four nitrogenous bases (Adenine, Thymine, Guanine, Cytosine). This information is passed from parent to offspring through reproduction, and within a cell, DNA directs protein synthesis via RNA (transcription) and translation. Thus its primary role is storing and transmitting genetic information.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Energy production occurs via cellular respiration in mitochondria; DNA does not produce energy directly.
- Option B: Proteins are synthesised by ribosomes using mRNA templates; DNA is not directly translated.
- Option D: Body temperature regulation is a function of the hypothalamus and metabolic pathways, not DNA directly.

Final Answer: DNA stores and transmits genetic information $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q20

Q21.

Solution

Concept — Current Affairs / Digital Health: The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), launched in September 2021, aims to develop the backbone necessary to support the integrated digital health infrastructure of India and create longitudinal health records for citizens.

Explanation: Under ABDM, every citizen can create an **ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account)** number—a unique **14-digit** health ID that links all health records digitally. This allows individuals to access, share, and manage their health records securely across healthcare providers. ABHA is voluntary and can be linked with Aadhaar or mobile number.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Aadhaar biometrics may be used to create ABHA but they are not the health record system itself.
- Option B: PAN Card is a tax identification tool and has no role in the ABDM health record system.
- Option C: Digi Locker is a separate document storage facility; it is not the vehicle for ABDM health records.

Final Answer: ABDM creates health records through the 14-digit ABHA health ID $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q21

Q22.

Solution

Concept — Sports / Olympics / Shooting: India has won several individual medals in Olympic shooting events, but the country waited until 2008 for its first-ever individual gold at the Summer Olympics.

Explanation: **Abhinav Bindra** won India's first-ever individual Olympic gold medal in the **10 m Air Rifle** event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He shot a score of 700.5 in the final, surpassing the field. Before this, India's Olympic gold medals had been in team sports (field hockey). This achievement was a defining moment for Indian sport.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: 50 m Pistol is a different event; Bindra did not compete in pistol

events.

- Option C: 25 m Rapid Fire Pistol is another discipline; not Bindra's event.
- Option D: 10 m Air Pistol is separate from 10 m Air Rifle; Bindra specialised in the rifle event.

Final Answer: Bindra won gold in 10 m Air Rifle shooting $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q22

Q23.

Solution

Concept — Sports / Olympics History: India's first individual Olympic gold was one of the most celebrated sporting achievements in Indian history and marked a new era for Indian shooting sports.

Explanation: Abhinav Bindra's gold medal came at the **2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China**. He competed in the 10 m Air Rifle event on 11 August 2008 and won with a combined score of 700.5. He had also participated in the Athens 2004 Olympics (finishing 7th in qualification) but did not win a medal there, making Beijing 2008 the correct answer.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: At Athens 2004, Bindra competed but did not qualify for the final.
- Option C: At London 2012, Bindra finished 4th—just missing the bronze medal.
- Option D: Bindra was too young to compete at Sydney 2000 in his prime Olympic discipline.

Final Answer: Bindra's Olympic gold was at Beijing 2008 $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q23

Q24.

Solution

Concept — Sports / National Awards: The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna) Award is India's highest civilian honour for sportspersons, awarded annually by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Explanation: In August 2021, the Government of India officially renamed the **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** to the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**,

honouring the legendary Indian field hockey player Major Dhyan Chand ("The Wizard"), who won three Olympic gold medals for India (1928, 1932, 1936). The renaming was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's National Sports Day.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: "Bharat Ratna Sports Award" does not exist as a renamed version; Bharat Ratna is a separate civilian honour.
- Option B: "Sardar Patel Khel Ratna Award" was never the renamed title of the sports award.
- Option D: The award was not renamed after Subhas Chandra Bose.

Final Answer: Award renamed to Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award ⇒ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q24

Q25.

Solution

Concept — Books and Personalities / Indian History Writing: *India After Gandhi* is a landmark work of modern Indian history, tracing the story of independent India from 1947 to the early 21st century.

Explanation: *India After Gandhi: The History of the World's Largest Democracy* was written by historian and biographer **Ramachandra Guha**. Published in 2007, the book chronicles India's social, political, and economic history post-independence in a comprehensive narrative style. Guha is also known for his environmental history *The Unquiet Woods* and biographies of Gandhi and Nehru.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Shashi Tharoor is known for *An Era of Darkness* and *Inglorious Empire*—not *India After Gandhi*.
- Option B: Amartya Sen is a Nobel economist known for *The Argumentative Indian* and development economics works.
- Option C: Romila Thapar is a distinguished ancient Indian historian (works on Mauryan history, early India) not the author of *India After Gandhi*.

Final Answer: *India After Gandhi* was authored by Ramachandra Guha ⇒ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q25

Q26.

Solution

Concept — Science / Nobel Laureates: C.V. Raman (Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman) was an Indian physicist and the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize in Physics (1930), for a discovery made in 1928.

Explanation: C.V. Raman discovered that when light passes through a transparent material, some of the light that emerges is scattered at a different (longer or shorter) wavelength than the incident light—now known as the **Raman Effect** (inelastic scattering of photons). This phenomenon has enormous applications in spectroscopy and material analysis. He announced this discovery on 28 February 1928, now celebrated as National Science Day in India.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: The Bose particle (Boson) is associated with Satyendra Nath Bose's work with Einstein—Bose never received a Nobel Prize.
- Option C: The photoelectric effect and quantum theory of radiation earned Albert Einstein the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics.
- Option D: Electron spin resonance was not C.V. Raman's discovery; it is associated with Zavoisky and later Bloch and Purcell.

Final Answer: C.V. Raman won the Nobel for the Raman Effect $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q26

Q27.

Solution

Concept — Fashion and Design GK / Educational Institutions: Pearl Academy is one of India's leading private higher education institutions in the creative fields, with campuses in multiple cities including Delhi (Naraina), Jaipur, Mumbai, and Bengaluru.

Explanation: Pearl Academy is primarily known for its programmes in **fashion design, retail management, business of fashion, media, and communication**. It offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in these areas, grooming students for the fashion industry, retail sector, and creative businesses. It is affiliated with Nottingham Trent University, UK, for some programmes.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Medical sciences and biotechnology are taught at AIIMS, NITs,

and other science colleges—not Pearl Academy.
- Option C: Aerospace engineering is offered at institutions like IITs and IIST; Pearl Academy has no such programme.
- Option D: Culinary arts and hotel management are taught at institutes like IHM; Pearl Academy focuses on fashion and design.

Final Answer: Pearl Academy is known for fashion design, retail, and business management ⇒ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q27

Q28.

Solution

Concept — Fashion and Design GK / Footwear Industry: India is the world's second-largest producer of footwear (after China), producing about 16–22% of global footwear output. The industry is concentrated in a few states.

Explanation: Tamil Nadu is India's largest footwear producing state by volume, accounting for over 35–40% of India's total footwear production. Key clusters include **Ambur, Ranipet, Vaniyambadi, Vellore, and Chennai**. Tamil Nadu also leads in leather footwear exports. Uttar Pradesh (Agra cluster) is significant for the North Indian market, particularly chappal/sandals, but is second to Tamil Nadu.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Uttar Pradesh (Agra, Kanpur) is a major footwear hub but is second to Tamil Nadu in overall volume.
- Option B: Maharashtra has leather goods industries but is not the largest footwear producing state.
- Option D: West Bengal (Kolkata) has leather goods manufacturing but is ranked lower in footwear production.

Final Answer: Tamil Nadu is India's largest footwear producing state ⇒ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q28

Q29.

Solution

Concept — Fashion and Design GK / Footwear Industry / Corporate Knowledge: Bata India Limited is the largest footwear retailer in India and a subsidiary of the global Bata Shoe Organisation, which was founded by Tomas Bata in Czechoslovakia.

Explanation: Bata India Limited's registered office and headquarters are in **Gurugram (formerly Gurgaon), Haryana**. The company operates hundreds of retail stores across India and has a manufacturing base in Batanagar (West Bengal) and Faridabad (Haryana). Despite its manufacturing presence in West Bengal, its corporate headquarters is in Gurugram.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Bata India's headquarters is not in Mumbai, though it has stores there.
- Option B: Batanagar near Kolkata is a manufacturing township, not the registered corporate headquarters.
- Option C: Chennai is a major market and production hub (especially leather), but not Bata India's headquarters.

Final Answer: Bata India's headquarters is in Gurugram, Haryana $\Rightarrow$ $\boxed{\text{D}}$

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q29

Q30.

Solution

Concept — Fashion and Design GK / Trade Fairs: India hosts several international trade fairs for the leather and footwear sector, which is one of the key export-oriented industries employing millions of workers.

Explanation: The **India International Leather Fair (IILF)** is held annually at the Chennai Trade Centre (ITPO), **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. It is organised by the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) and is Asia's largest trade fair for leather and leather products, attracting global buyers, manufacturers, and component suppliers. It is held in January–February each year.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: Kolkata hosts the Calcutta Leather Fair but not the IILF (Asia's largest leather fair).

- Option C: Agra hosts leather goods exhibitions and footwear fairs (Agra Shoe Fair) but not IILF.
- Option D: Mumbai hosts various industry events but IILF is specifically a Chennai event.

Final Answer: IILF is held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q30

Q31.

Solution

Concept — Polity / Constitutional Law: The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution (Article 246) distributes legislative powers between the Union (Central Government) and the States through three lists: Union List, State List, and Concurrent List.

Explanation: The **Union List** originally contained 97 subjects (some since amended). Parliament has exclusive power to make laws on Union List subjects, which include matters of national importance such as defence, foreign affairs, banking, railways, atomic energy, currency, and central taxation. The State List has 66 subjects (originally) and the Concurrent List has 47 subjects.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 66 subjects correspond to the State List, not the Union List.
- Option C: 47 subjects correspond to the Concurrent List, not the Union List.
- Option D: 61 subjects does not correspond to any standard list in the Seventh Schedule.

Final Answer: The Union List contains approximately 97 subjects $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q31

Q32.

Solution

Concept — Polity / Constitutional Bodies: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, as an independent statutory body to protect and promote human rights.

Explanation: The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 (as amended in 2019) mandates that the Chairperson of the NHRC must be a retired **Chief Justice of India**. Other members of the Commission must be retired judges of the Supreme Court of India or retired Chief Justices of High Courts, plus members with expertise in human rights matters. This ensures the highest judicial independence.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: Retired High Court Chief Justices may serve as NHRC Members but NOT as its Chairperson.
- Option B: The Attorney General is the government's chief law officer and has no connection with heading the NHRC.
- Option C: The Chief Election Commissioner heads the Election Commission; they are not the prescribed head of NHRC.

Final Answer: NHRC Chairperson must be a retired Chief Justice of India $\Rightarrow$ D

Answer: (D) Go Back to Q32

Q33.

Solution

Concept — Polity / Educational Policy: The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (RTE Act) 2009 is a landmark legislation that makes free and compulsory education a fundamental right for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years under Article 21-A of the Constitution.

Explanation: Although the **RTE Act** was passed and received Presidential assent in **2009**, it **came into force (was operationalised/implemented) on 1 April 2010**. This distinction between enactment and enforcement is frequently tested. The Act also mandates that 25% of seats in private unaided schools be reserved for children from economically weaker sections.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option B: 2009 is when the Act was passed by Parliament, not when it came into force.

- Option C: 2011 is two years after enactment; the Act was already in force from April 2010.
- Option D: 2012 is three years after enactment—an incorrect date for the commencement of the Act.

Final Answer: The RTE Act 2009 came into force on 1 April 2010 $\Rightarrow$ A

Answer: (A) Go Back to Q33

Q34.

Solution

Concept — World Affairs / International Organisations: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance originally founded by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan (the "Shanghai Six" plus Uzbekistan) in 2001.

Explanation: India and Pakistan were admitted as full members of the SCO at the **Astana Summit in Kazakhstan in June 2017**, expanding the bloc from 6 to 8 full members. Before 2017, India had been an Observer State since 2005. Full membership gave India a permanent seat in SCO decision-making on regional security, trade, and connectivity issues.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: At the 2015 Ufa Summit, India and Pakistan were given the status of full member candidates (MOU signed), not full membership.
- Option B: In 2016 India progressed through the formal accession process but formal full membership was only at the 2017 summit.
- Option D: By 2019 (Bishkek), India was already a full member for two years.

Final Answer: India became a full SCO member in 2017 at the Astana Summit $\Rightarrow$ C

Answer: (C) Go Back to Q34

Q35.

Solution

Concept — World Affairs / International Security Organisations: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a transatlantic military alliance that provides collective security for its member states under the principle that an attack on one is an attack on all (Article 5).

Explanation: NATO was established by the **North Atlantic Treaty (Washington Treaty)**, signed in Washington D.C. on **4 April 1949**, in the early years of the Cold War. The founding members included the USA, Canada, UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, and Portugal—12 nations in total. It was a response to the perceived Soviet threat in post-World War II Europe.

Why other options are wrong:

- Option A: 1945 is the year World War II ended and the United Nations was founded—NATO did not yet exist.
- Option C: 1951 is two years after NATO was established; Greece and Turkey joined in 1952.
- Option D: 1947 is the year the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine were announced—NATO was still being negotiated.

Final Answer: NATO was established by the Washington Treaty signed in 1949 $\Rightarrow$ B

Answer: (B) Go Back to Q35

Answer Key

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