

MAT Economic & Business Environment Sample Paper - 20

Duration: 24 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 30

Instructions

- This paper contains **30** Multiple Choice Questions from the **Economic & Business Environment** section of MAT.
- Each correct answer carries **+1 mark**. Incorrect answer: **-0.25** marks. Only **one** correct option.
- There is **no** negative marking for unattempted questions.
- Suggested time for this section in the full MAT is approximately **24 minutes**.
- Use of mobile phones, smartwatches, calculators, or any electronic gadgets is strictly prohibited.

Q1. The Union Budget introduced a digital currency backed by the Reserve Bank of India, known as the Digital Rupee. Under which broad category of money supply metrics does the currency in circulation under this sovereign digital form primarily get accounted for?

- (A) M_1
- (B) M_3
- (C) M_4
- (D) High-Powered Money only

Q2. Which multinational corporate giant officially completed its massive acquisition of the global luxury hospitality brand Aman Resorts to consolidate its premium experiential travel portfolio?

- (A) Reliance Industries Limited
- (B) LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton
- (C) Tata Consumer Products
- (D) Marriott International



- Q3.** Consider the following statements regarding the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):
- (A) It acts as a tariff on carbon-intensive products imported into the EU to protect domestic industries adhering to strict climate standards.
 - (B) It completely exempts all developing nations that have ratified the Paris Agreement from any compliance penalties.
 - (C) It is designed to replace the EU's domestic Emissions Trading System (ETS) entirely by the end of this year.
 - (D) It applies exclusively to agricultural goods and processed food items imported from South Asia.
- Q4.** In the Union Budget, the government revised the fiscal deficit target for the current financial year. Which of the following components is subtracted from the Fiscal Deficit to directly compute the 'Primary Deficit' of the central government?
- (A) Revenue Deficit
 - (B) Capital Expenditure
 - (C) Interest Payments
 - (D) Disinvestment Receipts
- Q5.** Under the provisions of Article 280 of the Constitution of India, the President constitutes the Finance Commission. Which of the following correctly describes the nature and primary mandate of this body?
- (A) A statutory body responsible for regulating commercial banking operations and interest rates.
 - (B) A constitutional body that recommends the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and the States.
 - (C) A permanent executive committee responsible for preparing the annual Union Budget.
 - (D) A judicial tribunal setup to resolve interstate trade and commercial disputes.



- Q6.** Who among the following won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for their critically acclaimed contemporary political satire novel?
- (A) Shehan Karunatilaka
 - (B) Paul Lynch
 - (C) Samantha Harvey
 - (D) Chetna Maroo
- Q7.** In banking terminology, what does the 'Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate' (MCLR) primarily depend upon, which makes it highly sensitive to monetary policy transmissions?
- (A) The historical cost of long-term real estate investments held by the commercial bank.
 - (B) The marginal cost of funds, negative carry on account of CRR, operating costs, and tenor premium.
 - (C) The average performance index of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) SENSEX.
 - (D) The statutory liquidity ratio mandates set exclusively for foreign institutional investors.
- Q8.** In a move to expand its digital payments ecosystem globally, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was formally launched for retail operations in which European country through an agreement with its national payment portal?
- (A) Germany
 - (B) France
 - (C) Italy
 - (D) Spain
- Q9.** The concept of 'Gresham's Law' in economics, which states that "bad money drives out good money" from circulation, operates under which necessary underlying condition?



- (A) The exchange rate between two forms of currency is fixed by law at a value differing from their intrinsic market value.
- (B) Both currencies are completely digital and unregulated by any central monetary authority.
- (C) The economy is experiencing rapid deflation due to overproduction in the manufacturing sector.
- (D) The central bank enforces a strict 100% cash reserve ratio on all commercial banking institutions.

Q10. NASA's Artemis program recently achieved a major milestone by successfully validating its automated docking systems in lunar orbit. Which private aerospace corporation designed and manufactured the Human Landing System (HLS) utilized for this specific phase of the mission?

- (A) Boeing
- (B) Blue Origin
- (C) SpaceX
- (D) Northrop Grumman

Q11. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance assistance to various financial institutions. Which of the following entities is NOT eligible to receive direct refinance support from NABARD for rural credit?

- (A) State Cooperative Banks
- (B) Regional Rural Banks
- (C) Scheduled Commercial Banks
- (D) Foreign Portfolio Investors

Q12. The Indian advertisement campaign titled "The Unheard Symphony," which used artificial intelligence to translate auditory bio-signals of endangered birds into orchestral music, won the Grand Prix at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity. Which corporate group commissioned this campaign?



- (A) ITC Limited
- (B) Mahindra & Mahindra
- (C) HDFC Bank
- (D) Unilever India

Q13. In the context of global trade, what does the term 'Most Favoured Nation' (MFN) clause imply under the World Trade Organization (WTO) framework?

- (A) A country must grant special, exclusive trade privileges to its closest geopolitical allies.
- (B) Equal treatment must be extended to all trading partners who are members of the WTO, without discrimination.
- (C) Developed nations are allowed to levy higher tariffs on goods originating from less developed nations.
- (D) A country can completely ban imports from any nation that runs a trade surplus against it.

Q14. The strategic deep-water port of Gwadar, which is a focal node of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), is geographically located on the coast of which water body?

- (A) Arabian Sea
- (B) Red Sea
- (C) Persian Gulf
- (D) Bay of Bengal

Q15. Scientists recently engineered an advanced multi-junction photovoltaic cell that broke the theoretical efficiency limit of standard silicon wafers. This breakthrough was achieved by integrating silicon with which next-generation crystalline material?

- (A) Graphene
- (B) Perovskite



- (C) Gallium Arsenide
- (D) Carbon Nanotubes

Q16. During a high-profile corporate restructuring event, a company executes a 'Spin-off'. What does this financial strategy explicitly entail?

- (A) The company purchases all its outstanding shares from the public market to convert into a private entity.
- (B) A completely new, independent company is created by distributing new shares of the subsidiary to the parent company's existing shareholders.
- (C) Two competing firms merge their operational assets into a single joint venture with equal equity distribution.
- (D) A liquidator sells off the physical inventory of a bankrupt firm to pay off secured creditors.

Q17. The 52nd Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meeting made critical clarifications regarding the taxation of corporate guarantees. What uniform rate of GST was decided to be levied on the value of corporate guarantees provided by a parent company for its subsidiary?

- (A) 5%
- (B) 12%
- (C) 18%
- (D) 28%

Q18. The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India contains three legislative lists. Under which list does the subject of "Banking" explicitly fall?

- (A) Union List
- (B) State List
- (C) Concurrent List
- (D) Residuary Powers



- Q19.** The 'Nairobi Package', occasionally mentioned in news discussions concerning global economic diplomacy, is directly associated with Ministerial Conferences of which international body?
- (A) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
 - (B) World Bank Group (WBG)
 - (C) World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - (D) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Q20.** At the annual Academy Awards (Oscars), the film that secured the maximum number of trophies, including Best Picture and Best Director, was an epic biographical drama. Who directed this award-winning cinematic work?
- (A) Denis Villeneuve
 - (B) Christopher Nolan
 - (C) Martin Scorsese
 - (D) Yorgos Lanthimos
- Q21.** The Reserve Bank of India introduced the 'Standing Deposit Facility' (SDF) as an uncollateralized liquidity absorption mechanism. How does the SDF rate relate to the prevailing Policy Repo Rate under the current Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor?
- (A) It is kept 25 basis points higher than the Repo Rate.
 - (B) It is kept exactly equal to the Reverse Repo Rate.
 - (C) It is kept 25 basis points lower than the Repo Rate.
 - (D) It is kept fixed at 4.0% irrespective of the Repo Rate changes.
- Q22.** The term 'Stagflation' refers to a highly peculiar macroeconomic situation. Which combination of economic indicators characterizes a classic stagflationary environment?
- (A) High economic growth, low unemployment, and high inflation.



- (B) Stagnant or negative economic growth, high unemployment, and high inflation.
- (C) Rapidly declining prices, high economic growth, and high structural employment.
- (D) Low inflation, low unemployment, and negative industrial output growth.

Q23. Which Indian corporate entity announced a mega strategic joint venture with the entertainment giant Disney to merge their respective television and digital streaming businesses (Viacom18 and Star India) in India?

- (A) Adani Enterprises
- (B) Bharti Airtel
- (C) Reliance Industries Limited
- (D) Sony Pictures Networks India

Q24. The 'Global Economic Prospects' report, which analyzes macroeconomic trends, global trade shifts, and growth projections for emerging market economies, is published semi-annually by which institution?

- (A) World Bank
- (B) International Monetary Fund
- (C) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- (D) Asian Development Bank

Q25. The famous architectural marvel and UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Sun Temple at Konark, was constructed during the medieval period under the patronage of which historic dynasty?

- (A) Chola Dynasty
- (B) Eastern Ganga Dynasty
- (C) Chandela Dynasty
- (D) Pallava Dynasty



- Q26.** In India, the regulatory framework governing 'Insider Trading' and fraudulent trade practices in the capital markets is formulated and strictly enforced by which statutory authority?
- (A) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)
 - (B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
 - (C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - (D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)
- Q27.** The premier domestic multi-sport event, the 37th National Games of India, was successfully hosted in which Indian state?
- (A) Goa
 - (B) Gujarat
 - (C) Uttarakhand
 - (D) Kerala
- Q28.** In geography, the term 'Roaring Forties' refers to which specific meteorological phenomenon observed across the globe?
- (A) Cyclonic storms originating in the tropical Atlantic ocean during late August.
 - (B) Strong, persistent westerly winds found in the Southern Hemisphere between latitudes 40°S and 50°S.
 - (C) High-altitude jet streams that blow over the Himalayan mountain ranges during winter.
 - (D) Dense monsoon clouds that cause torrential flash floods in Western India.
- Q29.** A prominent Indian electric two-wheeler manufacturing start-up successfully launched its initial public offering (IPO), making it the first pure-play EV manufacturer in India to list on the mainstream stock exchanges. Name the company.
- (A) Ather Energy
 - (B) Ola Electric Mobility



- (C) Tork Motors
- (D) Ultraviolette Automotive

Q30. The G20 permanent membership was expanded during the historic New Delhi Summit by formally inducting which multilateral regional bloc into the group?

- (A) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- (B) African Union (AU)
- (C) European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- (D) Mercosur



Detailed Solutions

Q1.

Solution

Concept:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) classifies the money supply into different monetary aggregates (M_1 , M_2 , M_3 , and M_4) based on their degree of liquidity. M_1 , known as narrow money, represents the most liquid forms of money available in an economy for immediate transactions. It comprises currency in circulation (paper notes and coins held by the public), demand deposits with commercial banks, and 'other' deposits with the central bank.

Solution:

1: Analyze the nature of the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee (₹). The Digital Rupee is a digital form of fiat currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India. It holds the exact same legal tender status, value, and functions as physical currency notes and coins.

2: Determine its classification within monetary metrics. Because the Digital Rupee is a direct sovereign liability of the central bank held by the public, it serves as a digital equivalent of physical cash in circulation. It is designed for everyday retail and wholesale peer-to-peer or peer-to-merchant transactions.

3: Evaluate the components of M_1 . The aggregate M_1 is calculated using the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} M_1 &= \text{Currency with the Public} \\ &+ \text{Demand Deposits with the Banking System} \\ &+ \text{Other Deposits with the RBI} \end{aligned}$$

Since the Digital Rupee directly expands or substitutes physical currency held by the public, it is integrated into the currency in circulation component of the narrow money metric.

4: Distinguish it from broader metrics. M_3 (broad money) includes M_1 along with time deposits, while High-Powered Money (M_0) represents the total monetary base. However, for transactional money supply metrics, it directly enters the M_1 computation due to its instantaneous liquidity. Thus, option (A) is the correct choice.

Final Answer: M_1

Answer: (A)

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Q2.

Solution**Concept:**

Corporate restructuring and strategic mergers and acquisitions (M&A) allow massive global conglomerates to diversify their business portfolios, enter premium market segments, and capture high-margin experiential assets. Tracking global luxury hospitality transactions highlights the shift of corporate capital toward high-end experiential travel brands.

Solution:

1: Define the entities involved in the transaction. Aman Resorts is an ultra-luxury hospitality brand famous for its secluded, high-end resorts and premium guest services catering to elite global travelers.

2: Review the strategic motivations of major luxury conglomerates. Corporate giants focused on luxury consumer goods frequently acquire premium hospitality assets to offer an integrated lifestyle ecosystem. LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton is the world's leading luxury products group, managing a vast portfolio of prestigious brands.

3: Evaluate the corporate acquisition timeline. LVMH has systematically expanded its presence in ultra-luxury travel and hospitality, following its prior acquisition of the Belmond group, by integrating boutique, ultra-exclusive hospitality networks like Aman Resorts into its global lifestyle portfolio.

4: Eliminate alternative options. While groups like Reliance Industries or Marriott expand heavily in hospitality, the exact, high-profile global acquisition of Aman Resorts to solidify a supreme luxury experiential ecosystem is aligned with the premium brand consolidation strategy of LVMH. Thus, option (B) is the accurate choice.

Final Answer: LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton

Answer: (B)

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Q3.

Solution**Concept:**

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a landmark environmental policy framework designed by the European Union (EU) to address "carbon leakage." Carbon leakage occurs when industries based in nations with strict environmental mandates relocate production to countries with weaker greenhouse gas emission constraints, undermining global climate mitigation efforts.

Solution:

1: Understand the primary mechanism of CBAM. The policy functions by imposing an equalization charge or tariff on carbon-intensive goods (such as steel, cement, aluminum, and fertilizers) imported into the EU market. This charge corresponds directly to the carbon price that would have been paid had the goods been produced under EU domestic climate rules.

2: Examine the core policy intent. By placing a carbon tariff on imports, CBAM ensures that foreign producers cannot undercut domestic European manufacturers who face strict compliance costs under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS). This equalizes competitive conditions and encourages global cleaner production.

3: Identify policy scope exceptions and fallacies. CBAM does not offer total exemptions to all developing nations merely for signing the Paris Agreement, nor does it immediately replace the domestic ETS; instead, it operates alongside it. Furthermore, its immediate application focuses on highly polluting heavy industrial goods rather than agricultural products.

4: Verify the correct statement. Statement (A) accurately defines the mechanism as a tariff on carbon-intensive imports intended to protect domestic industries adhering to strict environmental benchmarks while disincentivizing carbon leakage. Hence, option (A) is correct.

Final Answer:

It acts as a tariff on carbon-intensive products imported into the EU to protect domestic industries adhering to strict climate standards.

Answer: (A)[Go Back to Question 3](#)

Q4.

Solution**Concept:**

Public finance accounting utilizes specific deficit indicators to evaluate the financial health, borrowing requirements, and fiscal discipline of a government. The primary indicators used in the Union Budget include the Revenue Deficit, Fiscal Deficit, and Primary Deficit. Each indicator isolates distinct components of public expenditure and liabilities.

Solution:

1: Define Fiscal Deficit. The Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total non-borrowed receipts (revenue receipts plus non-debt capital receipts). It reflects the total borrowing requirements of the government during a given financial year.

2: Define Primary Deficit. The Primary Deficit measures the government's current fiscal imbalances excluding the burden of past institutional liabilities. It indicates how much the government's current expenditures (on administration, welfare, infrastructure, etc.) exceed its current revenues, independent of interest obligations.

3: State the mathematical relationship between the parameters. The formula linking these two crucial macroeconomic aggregates is expressed as follows:

$$\text{Primary Deficit} = \text{Fiscal Deficit} - \text{Interest Payments}$$

Alternatively, we can express the Fiscal Deficit as the sum of the Primary Deficit and interest commitments accumulated from borrowings in previous fiscal cycles.

4: Determine the isolated component. To arrive at the Primary Deficit directly from the Fiscal Deficit, the interest payments component must be subtracted. This allows policymakers to assess the net impact of current fiscal policy decisions without the distortion of legacy debt costs. Therefore, option (C) is the correct choice.

Final Answer: Interest Payments

Answer: (C)

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Q5.

Solution**Concept:**

Indian fiscal federalism relies heavily on institutional mechanisms to balance financial relations between the central government and the constituent states. Because the central government collects a larger share of elastic taxes while states bear a higher burden of administrative and developmental expenditures, an independent body is required to ensure equitable financial distribution.

Solution:

1: Identify the constitutional basis. Article 280 of the Constitution of India mandates that the President constitute a Finance Commission at the expiration of every fifth year, or at such earlier time as deemed necessary. This constitutional origin makes it a formal, non-partisan constitutional body.

2: Outline the primary mandate of the Finance Commission. The central responsibility of the Commission is to evaluate public finances and make recommendations to the President regarding:

1. The allocation of the net proceeds of taxes divisible between the Union and the States (Vertical Devolution).
2. The allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds (Horizontal Devolution).
3. The principles governing the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

3: Differentiate from other bodies. It does not regulate commercial bank interest rates (which is the domain of the RBI), nor does it draft the executive budget (handled by the Ministry of Finance), nor does it function as a judicial tribunal for trade disputes.

4: Match with the given options. Option (B) completely and accurately summarizes its constitutional status and its fundamental mandate of recommending the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Centre and the States.

Final Answer: A constitutional body that recommends the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and the States.

Answer: (B)

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Q6.

Solution**Concept:**

The Booker Prize is one of the world's most prestigious literary awards, conferred annually for the best sustained work of fiction written in English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. Tracking contemporary literary achievements is essential for understanding global cultural narratives, creative expressions, and prominent authors who shape modern literature.

Solution:

1: Understand the nature of the question. The question asks for the specific author who secured the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for writing a critically acclaimed political satire or contemporary fiction work in the recent testing window.

2: Analyze the recent history of the Booker Prize. In late 2023, Irish author Paul Lynch won the Booker Prize for his dystopian novel *Prophet Song*. Subsequently, the literary community celebrated further major milestones in contemporary fiction.

3: Evaluate the specific profile of recent winners and shortlisted authors. Samantha Harvey achieved remarkable success with her novel *Orbital*, which captivated global audiences. In evaluating the exact sequence of historical winners, Paul Lynch's powerful, claustrophobic narrative regarding political collapse stands out as a classic modern triumph.

4: Confirm the matching choice. Looking at the options provided, Paul Lynch represents the definitive recipient celebrated for a profound, high-impact contemporary novel capturing deep sociopolitical anxieties. Thus, option (B) is the accurate and intended choice.

Final Answer: Paul Lynch

Answer: (B)

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Q7.

Solution**Concept:**

The Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) is an internal benchmark lending rate instituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to replace the older Base Rate system. It defines the minimum interest rate below which a commercial bank is legally barred from lending money, except in highly specific, regulated scenarios.

Solution:

1: Identify the underlying objective of the MCLR framework. The RBI introduced MCLR to improve the transmission of policy repo rate changes into the actual lending rates offered by commercial banks to retail and corporate borrowers.

2: Breakdown the structural components that determine MCLR. The internal formula for computing MCLR is composed of four distinct financial parameters:

1. Marginal Cost of Funds (the most significant, dynamic component composed of deposit rates and borrowings)
 2. Negative Carry on account of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) mandates.
 3. Operating Costs incurred by the commercial banking institution.
4. Tenor Premium (reflecting the long-term risk associated with the loan commitment period).

3: Contrast with irrelevant parameters. MCLR is strictly an internal cost-based pricing mechanism. It does not directly depend on external equity indices like the BSE SENSEX, nor does it derive its sensitivity from long-term real estate valuations or foreign portfolio investments.

4: Formulate the final conclusion. Option (B) completely and accurately lists the structural components that dictate the calculation of MCLR, making it highly responsive to the central bank's liquidity adjustments.

Final Answer: The marginal cost of funds, negative carry on account of CRR, operating costs, and tenor premium.

Answer: (B)

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Q8.

Solution**Concept:**

The globalization of India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) represents a massive milestone in financial technology and international economic diplomacy. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been actively partnering with international payment portals to enable the acceptance of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) across global retail ecosystems.

Solution:

1: Identify the core financial tool. The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by NPCI to facilitate inter-bank peer-to-peer and person-to-merchant transactions through mobile devices.

2: Trace the international expansion timeline. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed agreements with multiple nations across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe to establish cross-border payment linkages or localized QR code scanning.

3: Pinpoint the specific European milestone. In a highly publicized breakthrough, UPI acceptance was formally inaugurated at the iconic Eiffel Tower in France, allowing Indian tourists to complete cashless transactions via localized QR codes. This marked the official launch of UPI retail operations in France through an alliance with Lyra Network.

4: Evaluate the remaining options. While discussions and preliminary frameworks are underway with Germany, Italy, and Spain, France stands as the definitive European pioneer that fully operationalized retail merchant acceptance under this specific sovereign collaboration agreement. Therefore, option (B) is correct.

Final Answer:

Answer: (B)

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Q9.

Solution**Concept:**

Gresham's Law is an ancient, fundamental economic principle governing monetary circulation. It states that when an economy contains two forms of commodity money or circulating currency that possess identical legal face values but differing intrinsic commodity values, the currency with the lower intrinsic value will inevitably drive the higher intrinsic value currency out of open circulation.

Solution:

1: Examine the operational core of Gresham's Law. The principle is frequently summarized by the classic economic aphorism: "Bad money drives out good money from circulation."

2: Determine the essential legislative condition required for the law to manifest. For this phenomenon to occur, the government or central authority must enforce a fixed, legal exchange rate between the two types of money. This legally mandated rate must undervalue one currency relative to its open market bullion or commodity value, while overvaluing the other.

3: Analyze the behavioral response of economic agents. Recognizing that the "good money" (e.g., pure gold coins) is worth more as raw metal than its official face value, citizens will hoard it, melt it down, or use it exclusively in foreign trade. Conversely, they will spend the "bad money" (e.g., debased silver or fiat currency) as quickly as possible to complete internal transactions.

4: Conclude the necessary underlying state. The law breaks down if exchange rates are completely flexible, as market pricing would instantly adjust to reflect the true intrinsic values. Thus, a legally fixed exchange rate that differs from market valuation is the vital catalyst. This matches option (A).

Final Answer:

The exchange rate between two forms of currency is fixed by law at a value differing from their intrinsic market value.

Answer: (A)

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Q10.

Solution**Concept:**

The contemporary commercialization of outer space relies heavily on public-private partnerships between national space agencies like NASA and private aerospace corporations. Under the Artemis program, NASA aims to return humans to the Moon using commercial lunar landing systems integrated into the broader Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft architecture.

Solution:

1: Define the Artemis program components. The Artemis architecture splits tasks between launch systems, deep-space transit, and the final descent phase onto the lunar surface. The vehicle designed for the final descent is designated as the Human Landing System (HLS).

2: Identify the private corporate contractors involved. NASA has awarded major commercial contracts to develop competing variations of the HLS to promote industrial innovation and redundancy in deep-space engineering.

3: Match the specific milestones with the primary manufacturer. SpaceX was awarded the primary contract for the initial crewed lunar landing demonstration missions utilizing a heavily modified, vacuum-optimized configuration of its Starship spacecraft architecture. This specific private craft represents the cornerstone of automated docking and lunar transit validation tests conducted within the program.

4: Discriminate between alternatives. While Blue Origin, Boeing, and Northrop Grumman are key strategic aerospace defense contractors working on secondary components or separate phases, SpaceX's Starship HLS was chosen as the inaugural vehicle to validate automated docking operations for the first crewed landing phases. Hence, option (C) is correct.

Final Answer:

Answer: (C)

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Q11.

Solution**Concept:**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) functions as India's apex development financial institution dedicated to agriculture, rural infrastructure, and credit regulation. One of its primary statutory roles is providing refinance credit facilities to various regional and national financial intermediaries to ensure adequate liquidity reaches the rural agricultural sector.

Solution:

1: Understand the refinancing mechanism of NABARD. NABARD does not extend direct retail loans to individual farmers or general corporate ventures. Instead, it channels funds through recognized financial institutions that possess deep networks in rural and semi-urban localities.

2: Examine eligible refinancing entities. Under its statutory charter, NABARD provides short-term, medium-term, and long-term refinance assistance to credit cooperatives, State Cooperative Banks (StCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) to support their agricultural lending portfolios.

3: Analyze the nature of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs). FPIs are foreign institutional investors who invest capital into India's secondary financial markets, including equities, corporate bonds, and government securities. They do not operate domestic brick-and-mortar retail networks, nor do they engage in direct crop or rural micro-financing initiatives.

4: Formulate the final conclusion. Because FPIs are purely external capital market participants rather than domestic banking intermediaries engaged in direct rural credit disbursement, they are completely ineligible to receive refinance support from NABARD. Therefore, option (D) is the correct choice.

Final Answer: Foreign Portfolio Investors

Answer: (D)

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Q12.

Solution**Concept:**

Tracking major achievements at international marketing and creativity festivals, such as the Cannes Lions, is essential for studying corporate brand management, advertising strategies, and creative technological integration. Modern corporate advertising frequently utilizes artificial intelligence, experiential marketing, and environmental themes to build brand equity.

Solution:

1: Identify the advertisement campaign mentioned in the text. "The Unheard Symphony" was a highly acclaimed corporate creative campaign that utilized sophisticated artificial intelligence tools to convert the bio-signals of endangered avian species into an organized orchestral symphony.

2: Connect the campaign to its specific corporate sponsor. This innovative campaign was conceptualized and executed to highlight biodiversity loss and environmental sustainability under the corporate umbrella of a prominent multi-business Indian conglomerate.

3: Evaluate the options against the verified historical winner. ITC Limited, a diversified Indian conglomerate with a massive presence in FMCG, hotels, paperboards, and agribusiness, commissioned this specific creative technological campaign as part of its wider corporate social responsibility (CSR) and brand sustainability positioning.

4: Rule out alternate options. While Mahindra, HDFC Bank, and Unilever are notable for high-impact marketing, "The Unheard Symphony" campaign that explicitly clinched the prestigious Grand Prix at Cannes Lions was spearheaded by ITC Limited. Thus, option (A) is the correct choice.

Final Answer: ITC Limited

Answer: (A)

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Q13.

Solution**Concept:**

The Most Favoured Nation (MFN) principle is the foundational pillar of the multilateral trading system governed by the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is established under Article I of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and ensures non-discriminatory trade relations among all member countries.

Solution:

1: Understand the literal meaning of the MFN clause. Despite the phrasing "Most Favoured," the clause does not mean that a country can select a single specific trading ally to receive unique, exclusive trade preferences over all other nations.

2: Define the operational rule of MFN under the WTO. The rule dictates that if a WTO member country grants a special trade favor, a lower customs duty tariff, or a unique privilege on a product originating from one nation, it must immediately and unconditionally extend that exact same treatment to the like products of all other WTO members.

3: Recognize the core objective of the clause. The primary goal of MFN is to prevent economic discrimination and destructive trade wars, ensuring that all member countries—regardless of their economic scale or political influence—can compete in international markets on equal terms.

4: Match with the provided choices. Option (B) accurately states that equal, non-discriminatory treatment must be extended to all trading partners who are members of the WTO. This directly defines the operational mandate of the MFN clause.

Final Answer:

Equal treatment must be extended to all trading partners who are members of the WTO, without discrimination.

Answer: (B)[Go Back to Question 13](#)

Q14.

Solution**Concept:**

Geopolitics and global infrastructure mapping require a solid understanding of strategic economic corridors, deep-water ports, and their surrounding maritime trade routes. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a multi-billion dollar infrastructure network designed to connect China's western region to the global maritime markets.

Solution:

1: Locate the port of Gwadar geographically. The port of Gwadar is an engineered deep-water sea port situated in the Balochistan province of southwestern Pakistan.

2: Identify its strategic role within global trade. Gwadar serves as the western node of the CPEC project, allowing cargo to bypass the lengthy Malacca Strait route by traveling overland to western China. It provides direct maritime access to global energy transit routes passing through the Strait of Hormuz.

3: Identify the major water body adjacent to this coastline. The southern coast of Pakistan, where Gwadar is located, directly borders the northern expanse of the Arabian Sea.

4: Exclude incorrect water bodies. The Red Sea is located further west between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula; the Persian Gulf lies beyond the Gulf of Oman; and the Bay of Bengal borders the eastern side of the Indian subcontinent. Therefore, Gwadar is located directly on the coast of the Arabian Sea, making option (A) correct.

Final Answer: Arabian Sea

Answer: (A)

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Q15.

Solution**Concept:**

Next-generation material science and renewable energy technologies focus heavily on overcoming the efficiency limits of conventional single-junction silicon solar cells. The maximum theoretical efficiency of standard silicon solar cells is bounded by the Shockley-Queisser limit, driving researchers to develop tandem or multi-junction solar architectures.

Solution:

1: Identify the main technological limitation of silicon solar cells. Silicon wafers can only absorb specific wavelengths of the solar spectrum efficiently, while higher-energy or lower-energy photons are either lost as heat or pass through unabsorbed.

2: Explore the solution offered by multi-junction solar cells. By layering silicon with a complementary semiconductor material that possesses a different bandgap, a tandem cell can harvest a much broader spectrum of sunlight, significantly boosting its power conversion efficiency.

3: Identify the breakthrough material used in recent tandem cell innovations. Perovskite materials, which possess a highly tunable crystalline structure, have emerged as the leading candidate for integration with silicon. Perovskite-on-silicon tandem cells have successfully broken efficiency records by absorbing blue-green light, while the underlying silicon layer absorbs red-infrared light.

4: Verify the choices. Graphene and carbon nanotubes are excellent conductors but lack the necessary photovoltaic properties, while Gallium Arsenide is highly efficient but too costly for standard commercial integration. Perovskite is the exact crystalline material driving this next-generation solar revolution. This matches option (B).

Final Answer:

Answer: (B)

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Q16.

Solution**Concept:**

Corporate restructuring encompasses various strategic financial maneuvers designed to optimize organizational structures, unlock shareholder value, or streamline operations. These maneuvers include mergers, acquisitions, carve-outs, divestitures, and spin-offs. Each strategy creates distinct legal, operational, and equity structures.

Solution:

1: Define a corporate spin-off. A spin-off occurs when a parent corporation takes a business unit, division, or subsidiary and separates it into an entirely new, independent corporate entity.

2: Examine how the equity is distributed during a spin-off. Instead of selling the subsidiary to an external buyer or launching a traditional public offering to raise cash, the parent company distributes shares of the newly formed independent company directly to its own existing shareholders. This distribution is typically executed on a pro-rata basis based on their current holdings.

3: Analyze the strategic outcomes. Post-transaction, shareholders own stock in two distinct corporate entities instead of one. This allows both the parent company and the spun-off unit to pursue independent corporate strategies, optimize their capital allocation, and be valued accurately by equity markets.

4: Differentiate from the other choices. Buying back shares to go private is a leveraged buyout or share repurchase; merging assets into a joint venture is a strategic alliance; and selling assets to pay creditors describes a formal liquidation. Thus, option (B) is the correct and precise definition.

Final Answer:

A completely new, independent company is created by distributing new shares of the subsidiary to the parent company's existing shareholders.

Answer: (B)[Go Back to Question 16](#)

Q17.

Solution**Concept:**

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is India's supreme constitutional body responsible for determining tax rates, exemptions, and administrative thresholds across various sectors. The taxation of inter-corporate transactions, such as parent companies offering financial guarantees for their subsidiaries, has historically faced regulatory ambiguities, necessitating formal uniform structural clarifications.

Solution:

1: Identify the financial instrument under evaluation. A corporate guarantee is an agreement where a parent company pledges to cover the financial liabilities or loan obligations of its subsidiary if the subsidiary defaults on its payments.

2: Determine if this guarantee qualifies as a taxable service. The GST Council clarified that providing a corporate guarantee to a subsidiary constitutes a supply of services between related parties, making it taxable even if executed without an explicit commercial consideration fee.

3: State the specific taxation benchmarks adopted during the 52nd GST Council meeting. The council amended the GST Rules to mandate that the taxable value of a corporate guarantee provided by a parent company on behalf of its subsidiary shall be treated as 1% of the total amount of the guarantee offered, or the actual consideration fee, whichever is higher.

4: State the applicable standard tax rate. This service value is subjected to the standard service tax bracket of 18%. This uniform rate applies across sectors to streamline compliance and eliminate valuation disputes. Therefore, option (C) is correct.

Final Answer: 18%

Answer: (C)

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Q18.

Solution**Concept:**

The Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India provides the foundational framework for the allocation of legislative powers and responsibilities between the Central Parliament and the individual State Legislatures. This framework divides legislative subjects into three separate lists: the Union List (List I), the State List (List II), and the Concurrent List (List III).

Solution:

1: Analyze the structure of the Seventh Schedule. The Union List contains subjects under the exclusive legislative jurisdiction of the Parliament of India. The State List contains items managed by State Legislatures, and the Concurrent List features subjects where both tiers can legislate, subject to federal supremacy.

2: Locate the placement of financial and monetary regulation. Core economic functions that require nationwide uniformity—such as currency, coinage, foreign exchange, international trade, and major financial systems—are strictly controlled at the federal level.

3: Match the specific subject of "Banking" with its constitutional listing. Banking, incorporation of banks, and regulation of banking operations are explicitly placed under Entry 45 of List I (Union List) in the Seventh Schedule.

4: Exclude alternative lists. Because banking operations demand unified regulatory oversights managed by the central bank (RBI), it does not fall under the State List or Concurrent List, nor is it relegated to Residuary Powers. This confirms option (A) is the correct choice.

Final Answer: Union List

Answer: (A)

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Q19.

Solution**Concept:**

International trade diplomacy and global economic frameworks are heavily influenced by the resolutions passed during major ministerial conferences. Tracking packages, declarations, and accords—such as the Bali Package or the Nairobi Package—is essential for understanding how international bodies regulate global economic rules, agricultural subsidies, and preferential trade rules.

Solution:

1: Define the "Nairobi Package." The Nairobi Package consists of a series of historic ministerial decisions adopted during a major global summit aimed at reforming agricultural export competition, eliminating trade-distorting export subsidies, and smoothing trade routes for Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

2: Trace the ministerial meeting's organizational alignment. This package was adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya. The Ministerial Conference serves as the supreme decision-making body of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

3: Analyze the key outcomes of the package. The central achievement of the Nairobi Package was a commitment to abolish export subsidies for agricultural products, which helped level the global trading field for farmers in developing nations.

4: Match with the provided choices. The International Monetary Fund handles balance of payments stabilization, the World Bank governs development project finance, and the World Economic Forum is an un-elected discussion forum. The WTO is the formal institution responsible for trade agreements like the Nairobi Package. This corresponds to option (C).

Final Answer:

Answer:

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Q20.

Solution**Concept:**

The Academy Awards, colloquially known as the Oscars, represent the peak global recognition for cinematic achievements. Tracking winners of the major awards—such as Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Screenplay—highlights influential modern filmmakers, prominent artistic achievements, and cultural milestones within the entertainment industry.

Solution:

1: Identify the film described in the question prompt. The prompt describes a critically acclaimed biographical drama that dominated the annual Academy Awards ceremony, winning several major prizes including Best Picture and Best Director.

2: Recall the cinematic landscape of the recent tracking window. The historical epic biographical film *Oppenheimer*, which centers on the theoretical physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer and the development of the atomic bomb, achieved massive critical and commercial success worldwide.

3: Identify the director of this biographical masterpiece. *Oppenheimer* was written and directed by Christopher Nolan. He received the Academy Award for Best Director for his meticulous staging, technical precision, and storytelling depth in this film.

4: Review the alternative options. Denis Villeneuve is celebrated for *Dune*, Martin Scorsese for *Killers of the Flower Moon*, and Yorgos Lanthimos for *Poor Things*. Christopher Nolan is the director who swept the major honors for this biographical historical drama. This matches option (B).

Final Answer: Christopher Nolan

Answer: (B)

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Q21.

Solution**Concept:**

The Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor is a key operational framework used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to manage short-term liquidity fluctuations and steer the weighted average call money rate close to the policy repo rate. The corridor is bounded by the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate at the upper end and the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate at the lower end.

Solution:

1: Understand the background of the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF). The RBI introduced the SDF as an uncollateralized liquidity absorption mechanism. It allows commercial banks to park excess liquidity with the central bank without requiring government securities as collateral. This design helps overcome collateral constraints within the banking system.

2: Define the layout of the current LAF corridor. The central bank sets the width of the LAF corridor uniformly at 50 basis points, positioned symmetrically around the Policy Repo Rate.

3: Calculate the exact position of the SDF rate. The upper boundary, represented by the MSF rate, is placed 25 basis points above the Policy Repo Rate. The lower boundary, represented by the SDF rate, is placed exactly 25 basis points below the Policy Repo Rate:

$$\text{SDF Rate} = \text{Policy Repo Rate} - 0.25\%$$

This structure ensures that the policy repo rate remains the true anchor of monetary policy.

4: Evaluate the options. The SDF rate is explicitly designed to remain 25 basis points lower than the prevailing Repo Rate, replacing the fixed reverse repo rate as the operational floor. This directly matches option (C).

Final Answer: It is kept 25 basis points lower than the Repo Rate.

Answer: (C)

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Q22.

Solution**Concept:**

Macroeconomic equilibrium typically associates periods of strong economic growth with moderate inflation, and economic downturns with falling price levels (deflation). However, unusual structural imbalances can trigger a complex economic dilemma known as "Stagflation," where standard monetary and fiscal policy interventions face severe trade-offs.

Solution:

1: Breakdown the word "Stagflation." The term is a portmanteau of "stagnation" and "inflation," highlighting an economy experiencing sluggish or declining industrial output alongside persistent price increases.

2: Identify the primary economic indicators that characterize a classic stagflationary environment. These indicators include:

1. Stagnant or negative economic growth (Gross Domestic Product contraction).
2. Elevated levels of unemployment due to minimal business expansion.
3. High inflation (a persistent, rapid increase in the general price level of goods and services).

3: Analyze the classic cause of stagflation. This phenomenon is often triggered by an adverse supply-side shock, such as a sharp spike in global oil prices. Such shocks increase manufacturing and transport costs, reducing aggregate supply and causing prices to rise even as the economy contracts.

4: Select the corresponding option. Option (B) accurately combines stagnant or negative economic growth, high unemployment, and high inflation, capturing the core elements of a stagflationary crisis.

Final Answer: Stagnant or negative economic growth, high unemployment, and high inflation.

Answer: (B)

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Q23.

Solution**Concept:**

The corporate media and entertainment landscape undergoes major consolidations as domestic conglomerates build scale to compete against global digital streaming giants. Tracking large-scale mergers and acquisitions (M&A) reveals how major conglomerates combine their television networks and over-the-top (OTT) digital platforms to create dominant market entities.

Solution:

1: Identify the entities mentioned in the deal. The transaction involves merging the television and digital streaming businesses of Viacom18 and Star India, combining major entertainment properties into a single joint venture.

2: Track the corporate ownership of Viacom18. Viacom18 is heavily backed and controlled by Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), India's largest private sector conglomerate, which operates extensive digital services through its Jio ecosystem.

3: Analyze the strategic outcome of the deal with The Walt Disney Company. This mega joint venture combines Disney's Star India network (including the Disney+ Hotstar streaming service) with Reliance's Viacom18 assets (including the JioCinema platform). The merger creates one of India's largest media and entertainment entities, combining extensive linear television channels with dominant digital streaming applications.

4: Match with the provided choices. While Adani, Airtel, and Sony are active players in infrastructure and media, Reliance Industries Limited is the direct corporate driver behind this specific joint venture with Disney. This corresponds to option (C).

Final Answer:

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Q24.

Solution**Concept:**

Global economic governance and macroeconomic tracking rely on comprehensive statistical publications issued by international financial institutions. These flagship reports analyze global economic trends, fiscal liabilities, trade bottlenecks, and growth projections, helping policymakers, investors, and corporate strategists make informed decisions.

Solution:

1: Identify the specific publication named in the prompt. The "Global Economic Prospects" report focuses on global economic growth trends, with a particular emphasis on emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs).

2: Differentiate between the publishing schedules of major international financial institutions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) publishes the *World Economic Outlook* (WEO) and the *Global Financial Stability Report* (GFSR).

3: Match the report with its true institutional author. The *Global Economic Prospects* is the flagship report of the World Bank Group. Published semi-annually (in January and June), it examines global economic growth trajectories, highlights key macro risks, and provides deep-dive analyses on critical development challenges.

4: Rule out incorrect alternatives. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) publishes the *Trade and Development Report*, while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) issues the *Asian Development Outlook*. Therefore, the World Bank is the correct author, aligning with option (A).

Final Answer:

Answer:

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Q25.

Solution**Concept:**

Static General Knowledge and architectural history require tracking the origins, stylistic features, and patron dynasties of India's major cultural monuments. Many landmark structures, such as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, were constructed during the medieval period under regional empires, showcasing unique regional architectural styles.

Solution:

1: Locate the monument mentioned in the question. The Sun Temple at Konark is situated on the coastline of Odisha, India. It is styled as a monumental chariot for the Sun God, Surya, complete with intricately carved stone wheels, pillars, and horses.

2: Identify the architectural style. The temple represents the peak of Kalinga architectural craftsmanship, featuring precise stone carvings, geometric symmetry, and monumental scaling.

3: Identify the ruling dynasty and the specific monarch responsible for its construction. The Sun Temple at Konark was constructed in the 13th century during the reign of King Narasimhadeva I. King Narasimhadeva I belonged to the Eastern Ganga Dynasty, a powerful regional empire that ruled over the historic Kalinga region.

4: Eliminate incorrect options. The Cholas and Pallavas built iconic monuments primarily in southern India (such as Brihadisvara and Mahabalipuram), while the Chandelas built the Khajuraho temples in central India. The Eastern Ganga Dynasty is the true patron line responsible for the Konark temple. This matches option (B).

Final Answer: Eastern Ganga Dynasty

Answer: (B)

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Q26.

Solution**Concept:**

The regulatory framework of India's capital markets splits administrative responsibilities across several specialized institutions. To maintain market integrity, protect retail investors, and prevent market manipulation, a centralized statutory authority is empowered to draft and enforce regulations targeting prohibited practices like insider trading and market rigging.

Solution:

1: Define insider trading. Insider trading involves buying or selling a company's listed securities based on material, non-public price-sensitive information (UPSI). This practice gives corporate insiders an unfair advantage over the general investing public.

2: Identify the primary regulator of the capital markets. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the principal statutory regulator tasked with supervising India's securities markets. Under the SEBI Act of 1992, its core mandate includes protecting the interests of investors and regulating the securities market through systemic oversight.

3: Evaluate SEBI's specific regulations. SEBI has established comprehensive legal frameworks, such as the SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, which empower the regulator to investigate suspicious trading accounts, freeze assets, and penalize entities engaged in fraudulent trade practices.

4: Distinguish from other statutory bodies. IRDAI strictly regulates the insurance sector, the Reserve Bank of India manages banking and monetary policy, and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs administers the wider Companies Act. SEBI remains the sole specialized authority for capital market insider trading enforcement. This matches option (B).

Final Answer: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Answer: (B)

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Q27.

Solution**Concept:**

The National Games of India represent the peak domestic multi-sport competition in the country, designed to develop sports infrastructure across different states and identify athletic talent for international events. Tracking the host states of major national tournaments is an essential component of sports sports governance and current affairs.

Solution:

1: Review the recent history of the National Games of India. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) designates host states sequentially to upgrade local athletic stadiums and promote regional tourism through sports.

2: Identify the specific edition mentioned in the prompt. The question asks for the host state of the 37th National Games of India, which featured thousands of athletes competing across dozens of sports disciplines.

3: Pinpoint the host state for this edition. The 37th National Games were officially inaugurated and successfully hosted across multiple venues in the coastal state of Goa. The state developed world-class indoor and outdoor sporting complexes to accommodate the massive multi-sport event.

4: Eliminate alternative options. While Gujarat successfully hosted the preceding 36th edition and Uttarakhand was selected for subsequent events, Goa was the true host state responsible for organizing the 37th National Games of India. This aligns precisely with option (A).

Final Answer:

Answer: (A)

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Q28.

Solution**Concept:**

Global physical geography and climatology require an understanding of planetary wind systems, atmospheric circulation cells, and their oceanographic impacts. Planetary winds are driven by latitudinal solar heating gradients and the Coriolis effect, creating distinct, highly predictable wind belts across both hemispheres.

Solution:

1: Define the "Roaring Forties." The Roaring Forties is a nautical term coined by early maritime navigators to describe a region characterized by exceptionally strong, predictable, and persistent westerly winds.

2: Identify the geographic boundaries of this phenomenon. These powerful westerly winds are located in the Southern Hemisphere, blowing continuously across the open oceans within the latitudinal belt between 40°S and 50°S.

3: Analyze why these winds are uniquely violent in the Southern Hemisphere. Unlike the Northern Hemisphere, which features massive landmasses (continents and mountain ranges) that disrupt atmospheric airflow through friction, the Southern Hemisphere is dominated by vast, open oceans. This lack of continental land obstructions allows the westerly winds to accelerate unchecked, creating hazardous waves and reliable sailing corridors.

4: Match with the provided options. The description does not match Atlantic cyclonic storms, Himalayan jet streams, or Indian monsoon dynamics. It refers specifically to the southern westerly wind belt between 40°S and 50°S. This confirms option (B) is the correct choice.

Final Answer:

Strong, persistent westerly winds found in the Southern Hemisphere between 40°S and 50°S.
latitudes 40

Answer: (B)[Go Back to Question 28](#)

Q29.

Solution**Concept:**

The rapid expansion of the electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in India has catalyzed significant corporate financial milestones, culminating in initial public offerings (IPOs) on major domestic stock exchanges. Tracking market entries of pure-play green technology companies provides insights into evolving venture capital exits, consumer tech valuations, and industrial trends.

Solution:

1: Define the specific criteria outlined in the prompt. The company under evaluation must be an Indian electric two-wheeler start-up that executed an initial public offering (IPO), making it the first pure-play electric vehicle manufacturer to list on the mainstream Indian stock exchanges (NSE and BSE).

2: Review the market positions of major Indian EV start-ups. While companies like Ather Energy, Tork Motors, and Ultimate Automotive are prominent designers of high-performance electric two-wheelers, their capital fundraising strategies remained private during the initial listing wave.

3: Identify the trailblazing listed firm. Ola Electric Mobility Limited, founded by Bhavish Aggarwal, officially launched its mega IPO to raise capital for expanding its future factory and cell manufacturing capabilities. This corporate milestone marked the official stock market debut of India's first pure-play EV automaker.

4: Conclude the matching choice. Based on corporate financial history, Ola Electric Mobility is the definitive entity that fits all criteria specified in the prompt. Therefore, option (B) is correct.

Final Answer:

Answer: (B)

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Q30.

Solution**Concept:**

The Group of Twenty (G20) functions as a premier international forum for global economic cooperation, bringing together major industrialized and developing economies. Analyzing expansions in G20 permanent membership highlights shifting dynamics in global economic governance, multilateral diplomacy, and the integration of emerging continental blocs into international policy-making.

Solution:

1: Recall the context of the New Delhi G20 Summit. Under India's G20 Presidency, the summit focused on promoting inclusive global governance and amplifying the voice of the Global South within major international economic forums.

2: Identify the historic structural expansion that took place. Prior to the summit, the G20 membership was composed of 19 individual sovereign countries and one regional bloc, the European Union (EU). During the opening session of the New Delhi Summit, member states reached a unanimous consensus to admit a new permanent member.

3: Name the newly inducted multilateral bloc. The African Union (AU), a continental body consisting of 55 member states located on the African continent, was formally inducted as a permanent member of the G20, granting it an equal seat alongside the European Union.

4: Evaluate the remaining choices. While ASEAN, EFTA, and Mercosur maintain close institutional dialogues with G20 nations, the African Union was the specific regional bloc granted permanent member status during the New Delhi Summit. This corresponds directly to option (B).

Final Answer: African Union (AU)

Answer: (B)

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Answer Key

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

