

## MAT Economic & Business Environment Sample Paper - 6

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 of India introduced a new sovereign green bond framework to mobilize resources for green infrastructure. Under this framework, who manages the monitoring and allocation of the proceeds?

- (A) NITI Aayog
- (B) Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC)
- (C) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- (D) Reserve Bank of India's Internal Debt Department

**Q2.** Which global tech conglomerate officially completed its acquisition of cloud computing and virtualization pioneer VMware, marking one of the largest tech mergers in corporate history?

- (A) Broadcom
- (B) Intel
- (C) Cisco Systems
- (D) Oracle Corporation



- Q3.** Consider the following statements regarding the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 1. India and Pakistan became full members of the SCO at the Astana Summit. 2. Iran is the newest full member to officially join the alliance. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (A) 1 only  
(B) 2 only  
(C) Both 1 and 2  
(D) Neither 1 nor 2
- Q4.** In the Union Budget, the government proposed to reduce the fiscal deficit target below a specific percentage of GDP for the upcoming fiscal year. What is this target percentage?
- (A) 3.5%  
(B) 4.5%  
(C) 5.1%  
(D) 5.9%
- Q5.** Under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, which Article states that the President of India shall constitute a Finance Commission at the expiration of every fifth year?
- (A) Article 265  
(B) Article 280  
(C) Article 300  
(D) Article 360
- Q6.** The 'Open Market Sale Scheme' (OMSS), often seen in the news, is an initiative undertaken by which of the following institutions to regulate the supply and market prices of food grains?
- (A) National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)  
(B) Food Corporation of India (FCI)



- (C) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- (D) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

**Q7.** Who was conferred with the prestigious 58th Jnanpith Award for their outstanding contribution to literature?

- (A) Damodar Mauzo and Nilamani Phookan
- (B) Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and Gulzar
- (C) Arundhati Roy and Vikram Seth
- (D) Amitav Ghosh and Salman Rushdie

**Q8.** India's first indigenous regional navigation satellite system, designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India and the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary, is operationally known as:

- (A) GAGAN
- (B) NavIC
- (C) IRNSS-2B
- (D) Bhuvan-3

**Q9.** In the context of digital banking, what does 'NSFR' stand for under the Basel III framework implemented by the Reserve Bank of India?

- (A) Net Stable Funding Ratio
- (B) National Standard Financial Rate
- (C) Nominal Savings Floating Ratio
- (D) Net Security Funding Requirement

**Q10.** "Connecting India" and "The Joy of Flying" are advertising slogans that were historically associated with which of the following pairs of corporate brands respectively?

- (A) BSNL and Kingfisher Airlines
- (B) MTNL and Air India



- (C) Reliance Jio and Jet Airways
- (D) Vodafone Idea and SpiceJet

**Q11.** The historic Poona Pact of 1932, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes, was signed between Mahatma Gandhi and which prominent leader?

- (A) Muhammad Ali Jinnah
- (B) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- (C) Subhas Chandra Bose
- (D) Jawaharlal Nehru

**Q12.** The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was globally expanded further when India officially partnered with which European nation to allow the usage of UPI at the Eiffel Tower and other tourist destinations?

- (A) Germany
- (B) France
- (C) Italy
- (D) United Kingdom

**Q13.** In which Indian state is the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant, built in collaboration with Russia, located?

- (A) Andhra Pradesh
- (B) Karnataka
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Maharashtra

**Q14.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the multi-billion dollar merger between which two major entertainment and media entities, reshaping the Indian broadcasting landscape?

- (A) Sony Pictures Networks India and Zee Entertainment Enterprises



- (B) Reliance Industries (Viacom18) and Star India (The Walt Disney Company)
- (C) Adani Media Ventures and NDTV India
- (D) Sun TV Network and Tata Play

**Q15.** Under the Foreign Trade Policy of India, the 'Status Holder' certification is granted to exporters based on their export performance. What is the minimum criteria for a company to be recognized as a One Star Export House?

- (A) FOB/FOR Export Performance of USD 3 million during current and previous three financial years
- (B) FOB/FOR Export Performance of USD 10 million during current and previous three financial years
- (C) FOB/FOR Export Performance of USD 25 million during current and previous three financial years
- (D) FOB/FOR Export Performance of USD 50 million during current and previous three financial years

**Q16.** India hosted the historic Voice of Global South Summit under which overarching theme that aligned with its international diplomatic outlook?

- (A) Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future
- (B) Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose
- (C) Resilient Global South: Growth and Recovery
- (D) Shared Future for Sustainable Development

**Q17.** The 'Nostro Account' is a term frequently used in international banking operations. Which of the following best describes it?

- (A) An account held by a foreign bank with an Indian bank in Indian Rupees.
- (B) An account held by an Indian bank with a foreign bank abroad in foreign currency.
- (C) A zero-balance account used purely for domestic inter-bank settlements.
- (D) An account maintained by the RBI to hold foreign exchange reserves.



- Q18.** Who won the Men's Singles title at the Australian Open tennis tournament, becoming the first player from his country to achieve this feat?
- (A) Daniil Medvedev
  - (B) Jannik Sinner
  - (C) Carlos Alcaraz
  - (D) Alexander Zverev
- Q19.** India's Deep Ocean Mission, managed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, features an indigenous manned submersible designed to carry three personnel to a depth of 6,000 meters. What is the name of this submersible?
- (A) Samudrayaan-1
  - (B) MATSYA 6000
  - (C) Oceanus 3
  - (D) Varuna 2.0
- Q20.** The 'Palk Strait', a narrow strip of water that acts as a geographical boundary, is located between India and which of its neighboring countries?
- (A) Maldives
  - (B) Sri Lanka
  - (C) Bangladesh
  - (D) Myanmar
- Q21.** The Digital Payments Index (DPI), which measures the deepening and penetration of digital payments across the country, is calculated and published periodically by which organization?
- (A) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
  - (B) NITI Aayog
  - (C) Ministry of Finance
  - (D) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)



- Q22.** Which Indian corporate giant announced a strategic joint venture with Taiwanese electronics contract manufacturer Foxconn to establish a semiconductor fabrication plant in Gujarat, which was later reconfigured for independent execution?
- (A) Tata Group
  - (B) Vedanta Group
  - (C) Reliance Industries
  - (D) Adani Group
- Q23.** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) issues an international reserve asset to supplement its member countries' official reserves. What is this asset called?
- (A) Special Drawing Rights (SDR)
  - (B) IMF Reserve Gold
  - (C) Global Currency Units (GCU)
  - (D) Sovereign Deficit Bonds
- Q24.** Which Indian film won the prestigious 'Best Documentary Short Film' award at the Academy Awards (Oscars)?
- (A) All That Breathes
  - (B) The Elephant Whisperers
  - (C) Writing with Fire
  - (D) House of Secrets
- Q25.** In the context of Indian macroeconomics, 'Core Inflation' is distinguished from 'Headline Inflation' because it explicitly excludes which of the following volatile components?
- (A) Manufacturing and Services sectors
  - (B) Food and Fuel items
  - (C) Capital goods and Infrastructure spending
  - (D) Electronic items and Luxury goods



- Q26.** The World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting, which brings together global political and business leaders to discuss pressing economic challenges, is traditionally held every year in which city?
- (A) Geneva, Switzerland
  - (B) Davos, Switzerland
  - (C) Vienna, Austria
  - (D) Zurich, Switzerland
- Q27.** India's ambitious solar mission launched by ISRO to study the Sun's atmosphere, specifically placing the spacecraft in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), is named:
- (A) Aditya-L1
  - (B) Surya-Kiran
  - (C) Helios-India
  - (D) AstroSat-2
- Q28.** Under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, which Schedule specifically deals with the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha (the Council of States) to the States and Union Territories?
- (A) Third Schedule
  - (B) Fourth Schedule
  - (C) Fifth Schedule
  - (D) Sixth Schedule
- Q29.** What is the primary objective of the 'Ud giri' portal, or the 'UDGMA' (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMAtion) portal, launched by the Reserve Bank of India?
- (A) To facilitate instant credit for MSMEs
  - (B) To enable users to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks
  - (C) To track international cross-border remittances in real-time



(D) To report cyber fraud related to digital wallets

**Q30.** The Union government extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) scheme to provide free foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries for a further period of how many years?

(A) 2 years

(B) 3 years

(C) 5 years

(D) 7 years



**Detailed Solutions****Q1.****Solution**

**Concept:** The Sovereign Green Bond framework is a strategic mechanism established by the Government of India to mobilize public capital specifically designated for green infrastructure and eco-friendly projects. Managing these proceeds requires robust governance to ensure funds are exclusively allocated to eligible sectors like renewable energy and sustainable mass transit.

**Solution:**

1: To implement this specialized financial policy, the government constituted a dedicated inter-ministerial panel known as the Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC). This committee is tasked with evaluating project eligibility and overseeing fund allocation.

2: The GFWC operates under the leadership of the Principal Economic Adviser, Government of India, and includes representatives from relevant line ministries.

3: While the Reserve Bank of India manages the actual market issuance of these bonds, and SEBI regulates commercial green bonds, the administrative authority for tracking and approving the internal allocation lies entirely with the GFWC.

4: NITI Aayog provides strategic policy inputs but does not have the direct mandate to manage, monitor, or audit the specific proceeds generated from these sovereign green bond issuances.

**Final Answer:** Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC)

**Answer: (B)**

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Q2.

**Solution**

**Concept:** In the global technology and business environment, high-value mergers and acquisitions (M&A) significantly alter the competitive landscape. Large-scale corporate consolidations are thoroughly evaluated by international regulatory bodies due to their potential impact on market monopolies and supply chain operations.

**Solution:**

1: The enterprise semiconductor and software giant Broadcom announced a massive multi-billion dollar deal to acquire VMware, which is a global pioneer in virtualization software and cloud computing infrastructure.

2: This transaction faced intense antitrust and regulatory scrutiny across multiple jurisdictions worldwide, including the United States, the European Union, and China, leading to several extensions of the closing timeline.

3: After securing the final necessary conditional regulatory approvals globally, Broadcom officially completed the acquisition. This transaction stood out as one of the largest corporate mergers in the history of the technology sector.

4: Other technology giants like Intel, Cisco Systems, or Oracle Corporation were not the acquiring entities in this specific deal, although they continue to compete heavily within the same cloud infrastructure and software-defined networking markets.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (A)

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Q3.

**Solution**

**Concept:** International political and economic alliances continuously evolve as new member countries are formally admitted. Analyzing the structural growth of Eurasian political, economic, and security blocks requires verifying the specific historical timeline of accessions and summit venues.

**Solution:**

1: Let us examine the first statement. India and Pakistan formally initiated their accession process earlier, but they officially became full members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during the historic Astana Summit held in Kazakhstan in June 2017. Thus, statement 1 is factual and correct.

2: Let us examine the second statement. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has gradually expanded its geographic and strategic footprint. Iran, which previously held observer status, successfully completed all formal legal obligations and was officially admitted as a full permanent member.

3: This formal inclusion of Iran took place during the 23rd Summit of the SCO Council of Heads of State, which was hosted virtually under the chairmanship of India, making Iran the newest full member at that juncture. Therefore, statement 2 is also correct.

4: Since both individual statements accurately depict the historical integration milestones of the organization, the correct analytical option must encompass both points.

**Final Answer:** Both 1 and 2

**Answer:** (C)

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Q4.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Fiscal deficit targets are critical indicators of an economy's macroeconomic stability and financial discipline. The Union Budget outlines these estimates annually as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), aligning with the fiscal consolidation roadmap recommended by successive Finance Commissions.

**Solution:**

1: The fiscal deficit represents the gap between the government's total expenditure and its total non-borrowed receipts. Managing this gap is essential to control inflation and prevent the crowding out of private investment.

2: In the macroeconomic framework presented with the Union Budget, the Finance Minister explicitly reiterated the government's strong commitment to fiscal consolidation and lowering borrowing requirements.

3: The government set a clear target to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.1% of GDP for the upcoming fiscal year, moving steadily along the glide path to reduce the deficit well below 4.5% of GDP in subsequent years.

4: The figures 3.5% and 5.9% represent fiscal targets from different historical budgetary periods or long-term statutory objectives, whereas 5.1% was the precise estimate fixed for this fiscal projection.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (C)

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Q5.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The constitutional framework governing center-state financial relations relies heavily on quasi-judicial bodies. The Constitution of India contains explicit provisions to establish a mechanism that recommends the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union and the States.

**Solution:**

1: The Finance Commission is a constitutional body set up at regular intervals to ensure a balanced devolution of financial resources across different administrative tiers of the nation.

2: Under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, the President is mandated to constitute a Finance Commission within two years from the commencement of the Constitution, and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as deemed necessary.

3: Let us verify the other options to ensure complete legal accuracy. Article 265 dictates that no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law. Article 300 deals with legal suits and proceedings involving the government.

4: Article 360 contains provisions regarding a Financial Emergency. Therefore, Article 280 is the unique constitutional clause that specifically governs the creation and mandate of the Finance Commission.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:**

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Q6.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The domestic food security infrastructure and agricultural market pricing mechanisms require constant state intervention to handle supply shocks. To mitigate severe price volatility and manage domestic grain availability, the government utilizes structural buffer stock operations.

**Solution:**

1: The Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) is a targeted policy mechanism whereby surplus foodgrains, particularly wheat and rice, are deliberately released into the open commercial market from central reserves during lean seasons.

2: The principal execution agency for managing the central pool of foodgrains and implementing this open-market monetization policy is the Food Corporation of India (FCI).

3: By auctioning pre-determined quantities of these essential commodities via e-auctions to private traders, bulk consumers, and millers, the FCI successfully increases local supply and checks inflationary trends.

4: Although NAFED handles pulses and oilseeds, and the CACP recommends the Minimum Support Price (MSP), the actual physical ownership, storage, and open-market distribution under OMSS remain under the exclusive domain of the FCI.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q7.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The Indian literary landscape honors exceptional creative contributions through prestigious institutional awards. Recognizing outstanding literary contributions across multiple designated regional and classical languages is critical for tracking cultural and national milestones.

**Solution:**

1: The Jnanpith Selection Board officially announced the joint recipients for the 58th Jnanpith Award, honoring two highly celebrated masters from separate fields of classical and contemporary literature.

2: The award was conferred jointly upon the legendary Urdu poet, lyricist, and filmmaker Gulzar (Sampooran Singh Kalra) and the eminent Sanskrit scholar, educator, and spiritual leader Jagadguru Rambhadracharya.

3: This marked a significant cultural occasion, celebrating deep scholarship in India's ancient classical heritage alongside profound poetic mastery in modern Urdu literature.

4: Other choices mention distinguished literary figures like Damodar Mauzo or Amitav Ghosh, who received this ultimate literary honor in previous years, but they were not the specific awardees for the 58th iteration.

**Final Answer:** Jagadguru Rambhadracharya and Gulzar

**Answer: (B)**

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Q8.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Modern geopolitical strategy and technological autonomy require independent space-based positioning assets. Developing a regional navigation architecture reduces dependence on global navigation satellite constellations operated by foreign entities.

**Solution:**

1: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully designed and deployed a constellation of geostationary and geosynchronous satellites to provide standalone positioning and timing services.

2: While the technical project name during development was the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), its official, operational, and commercial public brand name was designated by the Prime Minister as NavIC.

3: NavIC stands for Navigation with Indian Constellation. It provides two distinct types of services: Standard Positioning Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service (RS) for authorized strategic users.

4: It covers the entire Indian mainland and extends up to 1500 kilometers beyond its international borders. GAGAN is an augmentation system for aviation, and Bhuvan is a web-based geoportal, making NavIC the correct operational answer.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:**

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Q9.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The Basel III macroprudential framework introduces stringent liquidity standards to protect global banking institutions against asset-liability mismatches. These metrics ensure that banks hold a stable structure of funding relative to the composition of their assets.

**Solution:**

1: Under the international banking supervision guidelines enforced by the Reserve Bank of India, multiple liquidity ratios are monitored to limit over-reliance on short-term wholesale funding.

2: The term 'NSFR' specifically stands for the Net Stable Funding Ratio. It is defined as the amount of available stable funding relative to the amount of required stable funding.

3: This ratio must be maintained at a minimum level of 100% on an ongoing basis, forcing banks to fund their long-term structural activities with more stable organic capital over a one-year horizon.

4: The other options introduce plausible-sounding financial terms such as 'Standard Financial Rate' or 'Security Funding Requirement', which are incorrect fabrications that do not exist under Basel III regulatory terminology.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (A)

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## Q10.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Corporate identity, branding history, and advertising slogans are critical components of the business environment. Examining historical brand associations helps trace market positioning and consumer engagement strategies across major domestic public and private sector enterprises.

**Solution:**

1: The distinct tagline "Connecting India" was historically launched as a central national advertising campaign by the state-owned telecommunications enterprise, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), to project its widespread network reach.

2: The elegant tagline "The Joy of Flying" was the premier operational slogan for Kingfisher Airlines, a prominent private sector aviation player that dominated the premium domestic air travel segment before its eventual financial closure.

3: Evaluating the remaining options reveals that other telecom and aviation pairings, such as MTNL, Reliance Jio, Air India, or Jet Airways, utilized entirely different signature corporate slogans during their market operations.

4: Therefore, the specific sequence of taglines presented in the prompt correlates exclusively and precisely with the combination of BSNL and Kingfisher Airlines.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (A)

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Q11.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The Indian constitutional and political evolution involves key historical agreements that shaped the representation of marginalized communities. Analyzing these foundational pacts clarifies how electoral arrangements and seat reservations were structured during the nationalist movement.

**Solution:**

1: The Poona Pact of September 1932 was a landmark agreement forged in the wake of the Communal Award announced by the British government, which had proposed separate electorates for the depressed classes.

2: Mahatma Gandhi strongly opposed separate electorates, believing they would permanently divide Hindu society, and commenced a fast-unto-death while imprisoned at the Yerwada Central Jail in Poona.

3: To resolve the impasse, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, representing the depressed classes, negotiated directly with Gandhi and other caste Hindu leaders. This resulted in the signing of the historic Poona Pact.

4: Under this pact, the proposal for separate electorates was dropped in favor of a system of joint electorates, but with a significant increase in the number of reserved seats for the depressed classes in the provincial legislatures.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q12.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The global expansion of India's digital payment ecosystem is driven by bilateral international agreements. Tracking the cross-border interoperability of financial tech platforms is crucial for understanding India's modern economic footprint and soft power diplomacy.

**Solution:**

1: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has been steadily expanding its international merchant network to assist Indian tourists and digitize cross-border retail payments.

2: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) entered into a strategic partnership with Lyra, a prominent French e-commerce and proximity payment secure network company.

3: This partnership officially enabled the acceptance of India's UPI mechanisms at the iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, allowing Indian tourists to purchase tickets online using a simple QR code scan mechanism.

4: This milestone marked France as the pioneer European nation to commercially integrate UPI at a major global tourism site, distinguishing it from options like Germany, Italy, or the United Kingdom.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q13.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The domestic energy sector and infrastructure geography rely on massive industrial installations built through international strategic cooperation. Identifying the precise location of nuclear power facilities requires checking regional boundaries and coastal economic zones.

**Solution:**

1: The Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power station in India, designed to house multiple advanced Water-Water Energetic Reactor (VVER-1000) units.

2: This mega-infrastructure asset was developed as part of an inter-governmental agreement signed originally between India and the erstwhile Soviet Union, which was later executed and carried forward by the Russian Federation.

3: Geographically, the plant is constructed on the coastal belt of the Tirunelveli district in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

4: Reviewing other industrial coastal states like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, or Maharashtra confirms that they possess separate nuclear or conventional installations, whereas Kudankulam is uniquely situated in Tamil Nadu.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (C)

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Q14.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Corporate governance, antitrust evaluation, and market consolidation are heavily monitored by specialized statutory bodies like the Competition Commission of India (CCI). Major market consolidations fundamentally alter media landscapes and consumer options.

**Solution:**

1: The Indian media, entertainment, and broadcasting sector witnessed a multi-billion dollar consolidation proposal aimed at creating an entertainment entity capable of competing with global streaming giants.

2: The Competition Commission of India evaluated the potential monopoly risks and eventually cleared the mega-merger between Reliance Industries' media arm (Viacom18) and Star India, which is owned by The Walt Disney Company.

3: While a separate merger between Sony Pictures and Zee Entertainment was planned and heavily reported in previous corporate news cycles, that specific transaction ultimately collapsed before completion.

4: Therefore, the definitive corporate action that successfully secured CCI clearance to reshape the current domestic broadcasting landscape is the Reliance-Disney (Star India) merger.

**Final Answer:** Reliance Industries (Viacom18) and Star India (The Walt Disney Company)

**Answer: (B)**

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Q15.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) of India provides institutional recognition and incentives to high-performing commercial exporters. The allocation of 'Status Holder' star ratings is strictly based on the cumulative Free on Board (FOB) value of export performance achieved over a designated multi-year cycle.

**Solution:**

1: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) establishes precise thresholds to categorize domestic business entities into star export houses, aimed at reducing transaction costs and streamlining customs clearances.

2: Under the revised frameworks of the Foreign Trade Policy, a merchant or manufacturer exporter is granted the entry-level status of a 'One Star Export House' upon hitting a specific dollar milestone.

3: This required baseline is a cumulative FOB or FOR export performance of at least USD 3 million during the current financial year combined with the performance of the preceding three financial years.

4: The larger milestones of USD 10 million, USD 25 million, and USD 50 million correspond to higher tiers within the status holder hierarchy, such as Two Star, Three Star, and Four Star designations respectively.

**Final Answer:**

FOB/FOR Export Performance of USD 3 million during current and previous three financial years

**Answer: (A)**

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Q16.

**Solution**

**Concept:** India's foreign policy and global diplomatic initiatives focus on bringing the priorities and challenges of developing countries to the forefront of international discourse. Tracking the specific diplomatic themes of major international summits clarifies India's role as a representative of developing nations.

**Solution:**

1: The Government of India initiated and hosted the special virtual Voice of Global South Summit to provide a common platform for developing nations to deliberate on economic, political, and social challenges.

2: While "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: One Earth, One Family, One Future" was the central, highly publicized theme for India's comprehensive G20 Presidency, a different, focused theme was selected for this specific Global South initiative.

3: The precise theme chosen to guide the deliberations during the inaugural Voice of Global South Summit was "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose".

4: This specific theme highlighted the shared goals of emerging economies in addressing food security, energy access, and climate finance, distinguishing it from the other choices which served as general statements on sustainability.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q17.

**Solution**

**Concept:** International banking and foreign exchange operations rely on specialized correspondent banking accounts to settle cross-border financial transactions. Understanding the perspectives of account ownership and geographical locations is key to differentiating various types of banking accounts.

**Solution:**

1: The terms 'Nostro' and 'Vostro' originate from Latin words meaning "ours" and "yours" respectively, and are used to describe the exact same bank account from two different institutional perspectives.

2: A 'Nostro Account' refers to an account that a domestic bank opens and maintains with a foreign correspondent bank overseas, denominated in the local currency of that foreign nation. For example, an Indian bank maintaining an account in US Dollars with a bank in New York.

3: Conversely, a 'Vostro Account' represents an account held by a foreign bank with a domestic bank, denominated in the domestic currency. For instance, a foreign bank maintaining a Rupee account with a bank in Mumbai.

4: Therefore, the description of an Indian commercial banking entity maintaining a foreign currency account in an overseas market fits the exact definition of a Nostro account.

**Final Answer:** An account held by an Indian bank with a foreign bank abroad in foreign currency.

**Answer: (B)**

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Q18.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Tracking major international sports events, tournament winners, and historical milestones is a core component of evaluating the global business and sports environment. Identifying sports achievements involves matching the specific athlete to their historic country-level breakthrough.

**Solution:**

1: The Australian Open, held annually in Melbourne, is the season's opening Grand Slam tennis tournament, attracting elite global competition in the men's and women's singles categories.

2: The Italian tennis professional Jannik Sinner delivered a remarkable performance, advancing to the final round and defeating Daniil Medvedev in a multi-set match to secure the Men's Singles championship title.

3: This victory marked a historic milestone, as Sinner became the first player from Italy to win the Australian Open Men's Singles championship in the history of the tournament.

4: While Carlos Alcaraz has won other Grand Slam titles, and Alexander Zverev has reached deep tournament stages, neither achieved this specific milestone at the Australian Open, making Sinner the correct answer.

**Final Answer:** Jannik Sinner

**Answer: (B)**

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Q19.

**Solution**

**Concept:** National scientific missions and deep-sea exploration technologies require significant capital and indigenous engineering efforts. Differentiating between the overarching national project title and the specific scientific equipment deployed is critical for technological accuracy.

**Solution:**

1: The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India, launched the comprehensive Deep Ocean Mission to systematically explore the ocean floor for polymetallic nodules and marine biodiversity.

2: As a central technological element of this mission, an indigenous, manned deep-ocean submersible is being developed to carry three human researchers deep into the ocean's abyssal zone.

3: The precise nomenclature designated for the physical, engineered submersible vessel itself is MATSYA 6000, where the numerical value directly highlights its intended operating depth of 6,000 meters.

4: Samudrayaan-1 is the name of the broader exploration initiative, whereas MATSYA 6000 is the specific operational designation assigned to the technological craft.

**Final Answer:** MATSYA 6000

**Answer: (B)**

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Q20.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Geographical borders, maritime boundaries, and straits play a critical role in international trade, regional security, and bilateral diplomatic relations. Identifying key channels of water requires analyzing the physical proximity of neighboring countries across the Indian subcontinent.

**Solution:**

1: A strait is a naturally formed, narrow waterway that connects two larger bodies of water and typically separates two distinct landmasses.

2: The Palk Strait is located in the Indian Ocean, bounding the southeastern coast of the state of Tamil Nadu on the Indian mainland and the northern tip of the island nation of Sri Lanka.

3: It connects the Bay of Bengal in the northeast with the Palk Bay in the southwest, serving as a vital geographical and geopolitical boundary between these two South Asian nations.

4: Other neighboring maritime entities, such as the Maldives, Bangladesh, or Myanmar, are separated from India by different geographical channels, confirming that the Palk Strait is uniquely located between India and Sri Lanka.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q21.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The Digital Payments Index (DPI) serves as a critical indicator to measure the structural growth, deepening, and rapid penetration of electronic payments across the country. Tracking the periodic publication of financial indicators helps analyze the digital formalization of the national economy.

**Solution:**

1: To accurately capture the extent of digitization in payment modes across different regions, a robust metric with multiple broad parameters is required.

2: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constructed and launched a composite Digital Payments Index with March 2018 as the base period (Score = 100) to effectively evaluate this growth.

3: The index comprises five key performance sub-parameters: Payment Enablers, Payment Infrastructure (Demand-side factors), Payment Infrastructure (Supply-side factors), Payment Performance, and Consumer Centricity.

4: The RBI calculates and publishes this data on its official portal on a semi-annual basis, making the Reserve Bank of India the sole organizing body responsible for its tracking and release.

**Final Answer:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

**Answer: (D)**

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Q22.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The corporate and business environment is frequently shaped by large-scale domestic and international joint ventures (JVs) aimed at building high-technology manufacturing capabilities. Tracking semiconductor supply chain investments provides insights into modern industrial policies and corporate dynamics.

**Solution:**

1: In a highly publicized attempt to create India's first domestic semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, a prominent Indian natural resources and industrial conglomerate announced a major strategic partnership.

2: This entity was the Vedanta Group, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn), the Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant, to set up a display and semiconductor fabrication unit in Gujarat.

3: However, due to strategic misalignments and challenges in securing an established technology partner for advanced processing nodes, Foxconn eventually withdrew from the joint venture.

4: Both companies subsequently decided to pursue their semiconductor manufacturing goals independently, but the original joint venture that captured significant news attention was between Foxconn and the Vedanta Group.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q23.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Global financial management and balance of payments stability are supported by specialized international reserve assets created by multilateral financial institutions. These assets help supplement the official reserves of member nations during liquidity challenges.

**Solution:**

1: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) created an international reserve asset in 1969 to serve as a supplementary mechanism for member countries' official foreign exchange reserves.

2: This specialized asset is known as Special Drawing Rights (SDR). It is not a traditional currency, nor does it represent a direct claim on the IMF; rather, it acts as a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF member states.

3: The value of the SDR is calculated based on a weighted basket of five major global currencies: the US Dollar, the Euro, the Chinese Renminbi, the Japanese Yen, and the British Pound Sterling.

4: Other choices like Global Currency Units or Sovereign Deficit Bonds are artificial or unrelated financial instruments, leaving SDR as the correct international reserve asset.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (A)

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Q24.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The global recognition of Indian cinema at elite international film forums highlights creative achievements within the media and entertainment industry. Tracking prestigious international film awards confirms cultural milestones and historical achievements on the global stage.

**Solution:**

1: The Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, recognize cinematic excellence globally across multiple competitive categories, including short-form non-fiction content.

2: The moving short film directed by Kartiki Gonsalves and produced by Guneet Monga, titled "The Elephant Whisperers," achieved significant historical success.

3: The film explores the profound bond between an indigenous couple and an orphaned baby elephant in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, securing the Oscar for Best Documentary Short Film.

4: While other acclaimed films like "All That Breathes" or "Writing with Fire" earned prestigious international nominations, "The Elephant Whisperers" was the specific production that won the Academy Award.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (B)

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Q25.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Evaluating macroeconomic variables requires isolating long-term core price trends from short-term volatile market movements. Distinguishing between headline inflation metrics and core inflation metrics is essential for precise monetary policy formulation.

**Solution:**

1: Headline inflation represents the total inflation within an economy, capturing price variations across all items in a standardized consumer basket over a specified period.

2: However, certain segments of the consumer basket, specifically food commodities and energy products (fuel), are highly susceptible to sudden supply shocks, seasonal shifts, and international geopolitical pressures.

3: To measure the underlying, stable inflationary trends within an economy, central banks calculate 'Core Inflation' by explicitly removing these volatile components from the total basket.

4: Therefore, the specific removal of food and fuel items allows economists to analyze underlying structural demand conditions without the short-term noise caused by weather or global oil price fluctuations.

**Final Answer:** Food and Fuel items

**Answer: (B)**

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Q26.

**Solution**

**Concept:** International economic forums and think-tanks provide collaborative platforms for global political, corporate, and academic leaders to address systemic challenges. Tracking the established physical locations of recurring global summits is critical for understanding international business diplomacy.

**Solution:**

1: The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in regional and industry agendas.

2: Although the statutory administrative headquarters of the World Economic Forum is situated in Cologny, Geneva, Switzerland, its signature annual winter meeting is hosted elsewhere.

3: This high-profile annual event gathers global leaders, chief executives, and policymakers in the alpine town of Davos, Switzerland, making the term "Davos Summit" synonymous with the event itself.

4: Other major European cities like Vienna or Zurich host various international agencies, but Davos remains the unique annual venue for the World Economic Forum's flagship meeting.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q27.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Advanced space missions require placing tracking spacecraft into precise orbital points where gravitational forces balance out. Differentiating between various planetary and solar observation satellites depends on verifying their specific mission names and operational orbits.

**Solution:**

1: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) developed its pioneer space-based observatory mission dedicated specifically to studying solar atmospheric dynamics, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections.

2: To ensure continuous observation of the Sun without any occultation or eclipses, the spacecraft was designed to travel to the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, located roughly 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.

3: The official nomenclature designated for this scientific space mission is Aditya-L1, derived from the Sanskrit word for the Sun.

4: Other choices like Surya-Kiran represent bilateral military exercises, and AstroSat-2 is an astronomical observatory, making Aditya-L1 the correct solar mission designation.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer:** (A)

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Q28.

**Solution**

**Concept:** The constitutional framework organizes legislative structures and institutional rules through dedicated schedules appended to the main text of the Constitution. Identifying specific schedules requires matching each index to its unique constitutional function.

**Solution:**

1: The Constitution of India contains schedules that categorize administrative rules, official languages, and state allocations to ensure smooth governance across the federation.

2: The Fourth Schedule specifically details the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha (the Council of States) to each State and Union Territory, based primarily on their respective population metrics.

3: Evaluating the other options helps clarify their distinct functions: the Third Schedule contains forms of Oaths and Affirmations, the Fifth Schedule deals with Scheduled Areas, and the Sixth Schedule governs Tribal Areas in specific northeastern states.

4: Therefore, the Fourth Schedule is the unique constitutional segment that explicitly governs parliamentary seat distribution in the upper house.

**Final Answer:**

**Answer: (B)**

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Q29.

**Solution**

**Concept:** Central banking systems introduce specialized consumer protection portals to reduce financial leakage and help citizens recover forgotten assets within the banking sector. Tracking technological portals clarifies how regulatory agencies address unclaimed funds.

**Solution:**

1: Over successive decades, a significant volume of funds accumulates in accounts that have remained inoperative or dormant for ten years or longer, which are eventually transferred to the Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund.

2: To make it easier for citizens to locate these scattered assets, the Reserve Bank of India developed a centralized web-based application named UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMAtion).

3: This digital portal allows users to search across multiple commercial, cooperative, and regional banking institutions simultaneously using basic identifiers, helping them claim their long-forgotten deposits.

4: This portal focuses specifically on asset recovery rather than facilitating MSME credit or tracking cross-border trade remittances, making deposit recovery the correct operational goal.

**Final Answer:** To enable users to search for their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks

**Answer: (B)**

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Q30.

**Solution**

**Concept:** National welfare programs and social safety nets require strategic fiscal extensions to protect vulnerable populations from supply chain disruptions. Tracking long-term policy extensions reveals how the state manages food security objectives over multi-year periods.

**Solution:**

1: The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was originally launched as an emergency food security response to provide free foodgrains to eligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

2: To provide long-term economic stability and shield beneficiaries from inflationary pressures on essential food commodities, the Union Cabinet approved a major extension of the welfare scheme.

3: The government officially extended the free foodgrain distribution under PMGKAY for a fixed transition horizon of 5 years.

4: This multi-year extension involves significant budgetary allocations to sustain the food subsidy program, making 5 years the exact timeframe authorized by the Union government.

**Final Answer:** 5 years

**Answer:** (C)

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**Answer Key**

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

