



UPSC WITH NIKHIL

UPSC 2021 QUESTION PAPER SET - A

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We claim one of the best all over India performance- 49 questions with proof from our 'UPSC with Nikhil' prelims test series 2021. We have asked many questions in our multiple tests repeatedly. We have explained some answers with the help of maps also.

Following is the complete list of all the 49 questions.

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Team UPSC with Nikhil!

{1} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 03

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-29 Q-28 | Test-28 Q-43 | Test-29 Q-48 | Test-40 Q-88

3. Which among the following steps is most likely to be taken at the time of an economic recession?

- (a) Cut in tax rates accompanied by increase in interest rate
- (b) Increase in expenditure on public projects
- (c) Increase in tax rates accompanied by reduction of interest rate
- (d) Reduction of expenditure on public projects

Q 48. Many countries in the world are currently going through recession. Which of the following steps should a government take to improve the economic condition?

- 1. Increase in taxes
- 2. Increase in the interest rates
- 3. Increase in public funding

Select the code from following:

- A) 1 and 2
- B) 3 only
- C) 2 and 3
- D) All of the above

Q 48. (B)

In case of a recession the growth rate drops down and unemployment increases. This triggers a chain reaction which further reduces the flow of money in the market. A measure that can be taken by the government to control the situation is to induce money in the market. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

In this question, increase in taxes and increase in interest rates will suck the money out of the market which will be devastating for the economy during a recession. **Hence statement 1 and 2 are incorrect.**

With increase in public funding, government will pump in money to give impetus to the growth as well as welfare measures.

Q 88. (A)

Explanation:

- Option (a) is correct

Supplementary notes:

Fiscal stimulus

- A fiscal stimulus is one in which the government spends more from its own pocket or slashes tax rates.
- Stimuli put more money in the hands of consumers and spending goes up – thereby encouraging demand & growth.
- Proponents of fiscal stimulus, base their arguments on the Keynesian theory of macro economics.
- Keynes argued that even small direct interventions by the Government to prop up demand, can have a disproportionately high impact on economic growth due to the multiplier effect.
- When demand in an economy stays weak for long, businesses stop investing in new projects, unemployment rises, income shrinks and consumer confidence wanes.
- This further hinders spending due to lack of money and thereby dampens demand – creating a vicious cycle.
- If the Government can step in with a fiscal stimulus, it revives business confidence, restarts projects, creates jobs and sets off a virtuous cycle of feel-good, demand and growth.

{2} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 05
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-29 Q-33 | Test-34 Q-83

5. With reference to 'Urban Cooperative Banks' in India, consider the following statements :

1. They are supervised and regulated by local boards set up by the State Governments.
2. They can issue equity shares and preference shares.
3. They were brought under the purview of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 through an Amendment in 1966.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Primary Cooperative Banks which are otherwise known as Urban Cooperative Banks are registered as Cooperative Societies under the Cooperative Societies Acts of the concerned States or the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act function in urban areas and their business is similar to that of Commercial Banks. They are licensed by RBI to do banking business. Reserve Bank of India is both the controlling and inspecting authority for the Primary Cooperative Banks.

Q 33. Consider the following features:

1. It must maintain Cash Reserve Ratio with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 2. It must follow Priority Sector Lending norms of the RBI.
 3. It offers banking service to rural areas and semi-urban areas of India.
 4. It can lend to Micro-business units, marginal farmers and other unorganized sector.
 5. It is owned only by the private sector.
- Which of the following bank(s) has the above-given features?

1. Regional Rural Bank
2. Primary Co-operative Bank
3. Small Finance Bank

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| (A) 3 only | (B) 2 and 3 only |
| (C) 1 and 2 only | (D) 1 and 3 only |

Q 83. Which of the following entities does not regulate Urban Co-operative Banks?

1. Registrar of Cooperative Societies
2. Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies
3. Reserve Bank of India

Select the correct code from the options given below:

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) None

- Primary Cooperative Banks, popularly known as Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) are registered as cooperative societies under the provisions of, either the State Cooperative Societies Act of the State concerned or the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.
- They are regulated and supervised by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) of State concerned or by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS), as the case may be.
- The applicability of banking laws to cooperatives societies since March 1, 1966 ushered in 'duality of control' over UCBs between the Registrar of Cooperative Societies/Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies and the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Reserve Bank regulates and supervises the banking functions of UCBs under the provisions of Banking regulation Act, 1949(AACS).
- Within the Reserve Bank, a separate department, viz. Urban Banks Department, has been entrusted with these functions.
- Urban Banks Department functions in close coordination with other regulators viz., RCSs and CRCS.
- The functions of the department can be broadly divided into (i) regulatory (ii) supervisory and (iii) developmental.

{3} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 06
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-15 Q-29 | Test-10 Q-15

6. Indian Government Bond Yields are influenced by which of the following?

1. Actions of the United States Federal Reserve
2. Actions of the Reserve Bank of India
3. Inflation and short-term interest rates

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q 29. Consider the following statements:

1. LTRO (Long-term Repo Operations) ensure that banks reduce their MCLR without reduction in policy rates.
2. Operation Twist involves sale and purchase of government securities to bring down short-term interest rates.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Operation Twist and LTROs

- RBI deployed several conventional and unconventional tools to restore orderly conditions in financial markets and maintain the normal functioning of financial intermediaries.
- Under LTRO, RBI provides longer term (one to three-year) loans to banks at the prevailing repo rate. As banks get long-term funds at lower rates, their cost of funds falls. In turn, they reduce interest rates for borrowers. LTRO helped RBI ensure that banks reduce their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate, without reducing policy rates.
- It is a measure that market participants expect will bring down short-term rates and also boost investment in corporate bonds. These new measures coupled with RBI's earlier introduced 'Operation Twist' are an attempt by the central bank to manage bond yields and push transmission of earlier rate cuts.
- Operation Twist is the name given to a US Federal Reserve monetary policy operation, which involves the purchase and sale of government securities to boost the economy by bringing down long-term interest rates.
- Operation Twist normally leads to lower longer-term yields, which will help boost the economy by making loans less expensive for those looking to buy homes, cars and finance projects, while saving becomes less desirable because it doesn't pay as much interest.
- The central bank is keen that long-term rates are brought down to kickstart investment and revive the economy. The idea is that business investment and housing demand were primarily determined by longer-term interest rates.

{4} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 08
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-29 Q-29 | Test-29 Q-53

8. Consider the following statements :

The effect of devaluation of a currency is that it necessarily

1. improves the competitiveness of the domestic exports in the foreign markets
2. increases the foreign value of domestic currency
3. improves the trade balance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Q 29. Which among the following serves as the reason for the depreciation of Indian rupee in the foreign exchange market?

1. A contraction in production of the manufacturing industries.
2. Timely intervention from the Central bank.
3. Hoarding of Dollars for long-time by the speculators.
4. Increasing the issuance of Masala Bonds.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (A) 4 only
- (B) 2 and 4 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1,2, 3 and 4

Q 53. Which of the following measure(s) may lead to an increase in the inflow of foreign investments into India?

1. Depreciation of Indian Rupee.
2. Stable and low inflation in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

What are the fundamental reasons behind the decline of the rupee?

- Devaluation — It generally decreases the price of exports in foreign countries and provides a boost to exports by making them more competitive.
 - Correspondingly, volume of imports in the domestic economy would be reduced by making imports more expensive.
 - But since several countries are devaluing at the same time, India is neither benefitting from their exports being cheaper abroad nor will there be a huge fall in imports.
 - Alternate Energy — Failure in finding sustainable domestic sources of energy to address the over-reliance on oil import secretes tremendous stress on CAD.
 - Inflation - The depreciating rupee is also a symptom of persistently higher domestic inflation in India.
 - For instance, the rupee has lost about 60% of its value in the last 10 years against the dollar in line with vastly different inflation rates between the two countries.
 - Ripple effects — Crude oil price hikes increases the cost of transportation of goods being transported by road, including food items, it creates ripple effects on rising food inflation in the country.
- What can be done to overcome this?

{5} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 01
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-29 Q-65 | Test-40 Q-45

1. Consider the following statements :

1. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is appointed by the Central Government.
2. Certain provisions in the Constitution of India give the Central Government the right to issue directions to the RBI in public interest.
3. The Governor of the RBI draws his power from the RBI Act.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q 45. Which of the following is/are the functions of Reserve Bank of India?

1. RBI has the sole autonomy in printing all types of notes.
2. It is not the sole authority for fixing the policy rates in India.
3. All the powers of RBI at present are derived from RBI Act, 1934 only.

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 45. (B)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Government of India has the sole authority to mint coins and one rupee notes
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Reserve Bank of India comes under the purview of various Acts.

Supplementary notes:

RBI

- RBI was established in 1935 under the provisions of RBI Act, 1934. RBI has seven major functions:
- **Printing Notes:** RBI has the sole autonomy to print notes except the one rupee notes. Government of India has the sole authority to mint coins and one rupee notes.
- **Banker to the Government:** It manages government's deposit accounts. It also represents govt. as a member of the IMF and World Bank.
- **Custodian of Commercial Bank Deposits**
- **Custodian to Country's Foreign Currency Reserves**
- **Lender of Last Resort:** Commercial banks come to RBI for their monetary needs in case of emergency.
- **Central Clearance and Accounts Settlement:** As RBI keeps cash reserves from commercial banks therefore it rediscounts their bills of exchange easily.
- **Credit Control:** It controls supply of money in the economy through its monetary policy
- **The Reserve Bank of India comes under the purview of the following Acts:**
 - Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
 - Public Debt Act, 1944
 - Government Securities Regulations, 2007
 - Banking Regulation Act, 1949
 - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999

{6} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 10
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-28 Q-34

10. Which one of the following is likely to be the most inflationary in its effects?

- (a) Repayment of public debt
- (b) Borrowing from the public to finance a budget deficit
- (c) Borrowing from the banks to finance a budget deficit
- (d) Creation of new money to finance a budget deficit

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7

Q 34. Which of the following might result in inflationary trend in an economy?

- 1. Increase in factor input costs
- 2. Printing currency
- 3. Public borrowing
- 4. Reduction in custom duties

Select the correct answer using code below

- A) 1,2 and 3 only
- B) 1,3 and 4 only
- C) 2,3 and 4 only
- D) 1,2,3 and 4

Q 34. (A)

An increase in factor input costs (i.e., wages and raw materials) pushes up prices, creating inflation. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

Printing currency and public borrowing creates extra money in the economy thus giving rise to inflation. **Hence statement 2 and 3 are correct.**

Reducing excise and custom duties on raw materials is a tool to check inflation, as it brings down the price of the particular commodity. **Hence statement 4 is incorrect.**

{7} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 11
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-28 Q-51

11. The money multiplier in an economy increases with which one of the following?

- (a) Increase in the Cash Reserve Ratio in the banks
- (b) Increase in the Statutory Liquidity Ratio in the banks
- (c) Increase in the banking habit of the people
- (d) Increase in the population of the country

Q 51. The Indian rupee accepted as a medium of exchange mainly because

- 1. Indian law legalizes the use of rupee as a medium of payment.
- 2. Money supply in form of rupee is unlimited.
- 3. Production cost of a rupee is equal to its value.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1 and 3 only

Q 51. (C)

Explanation:

Indian law legalizes the use of rupee as a medium of payment that cannot be refused in settling transactions in India. No individual in India can legally refuse a payment made in rupees. Hence this rupee is widely accepted as a medium of exchange. So, statement 1 is correct

Banks can't create an unlimited amount of money. The money multiplier determines the limit of how much money a bank can create. The money multiplier is how much the money supply will change if there is a change in the monetary base. So, statement 2 is not correct.

Production cost of a rupee is not equal to its value. So, statement 3 is not correct.

Additional Information:

- (i) In India, the Reserve Bank of India issues currency notes on behalf of the central government.
- (ii) As per Indian law, no other individual or organization is allowed to issue currency.
- (iii) Moreover, the law legalizes the use of rupee as a medium of payment that cannot be refused in settling transaction in India.
- (iv) No individual in India can legally refuse a payment made in rupees. Hence, the rupee is widely accepted as a medium of exchange.

{8} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 12

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-29 Q-69 | Test-28 Q-85 | Test-29 Q-61

12. With reference to Indian economy, demand-pull inflation can be caused/ increased by which of the following?

1. Expansionary policies
2. Fiscal stimulus
3. Inflation-indexing wages
4. Higher purchasing power
5. Rising interest rates

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q 69. (A)

• Fiscal deficit is the difference between the government's total expenditure and its total receipts excluding borrowing. Fiscal deficit is bridged by market borrowing and Central Bank printing fresh currency (monetization) if necessary. Fiscal deficit may cause macroeconomic instability by inflating the economy as

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money supply and thus inflation increases. Hence curtailing Fiscal Deficit is necessary to fight inflationary pressures. Curtailing government expenditure would lead to decrease in fiscal deficit.

- If government expenditure decreases, inflation might also decrease.
- When interest rates are low, individuals and businesses tend to demand more loans. Each bank loan increases the money supply in a fractional reserve banking system. A growing money supply increases inflation. Thus, a low interest rate tends to result in more inflation. So to fight inflation, loans have to be made costly.
- Decreasing taxation rates and giving tax exemptions will increase the money supply in markets and will lead to demand-pull inflation. Hence the increase in tax rates is necessary to fight inflation.
- Hence option (a) is the correct answer.

Social sector schemes which have direct benefit transfer will lead to demand pull inflation because such schemes will increase the money with people suddenly. So, statement 1 is correct.

Increase in MSP will increase the money with farmers who are dominant population of the country. Such sudden increase in money with people will lead to demand pull inflation. So, statement 2 is correct.

Import of pulses at cheaper prices will lead to reduction in price of pulses. It is a measure usually taken by government to reduce inflation. So statement 3 is not correct.

7th pay commission has increased the salary for central government employees. This will lead to increase in money with people. This will lead to demand pull inflation. So, statement 4 is correct.

{9} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 13
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-34 Q-48 | Test-50 Q-20

13. With reference to India, consider the following statements :

1. Retail investors through demat account can invest in 'Treasury Bills' and 'Government of India Debt Bonds' in primary market.
2. The 'Negotiated Dealing System-Order Matching' is a government securities trading platform of the Reserve Bank of India.
3. The 'Central Depository Services Ltd.' is jointly promoted by the Reserve Bank of India and the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3

Q 20. Consider the following statements:

1. State governments can issue both treasury bills and dated securities.
2. Gilt-edged securities are offered by governments and large corporations as a means of borrowing funds.
3. The g-sec market is dominated by institutional investors like banks, mutual funds, and insurance companies.
4. Retail investors can invest in g-sec only through an intermediary.

Which of the above statements is/ are correct?

- (A) 2 and 3 only
(B) 2, 3 and 4 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

G-sec

- A G-sec or government security is a tradable instrument issued by the central government or state government. These are considered to be the safest form of investment, with practically no risk of default.
- The G-secs significantly acknowledge the government's debt obligation. These can be classified as:
- **Treasury Bills**- These are short termed, with original maturities of less than one year. These are currently issued in three tenures - 91 day, 182 day and 364 day.
- **Dated Securities**- These are long termed, with original maturity of one year or more. These are also known as Government Bonds.

Retail investors

- However g-sec is not very popular amongst the retail investors, the situation may now change as the RBI has allowed retail investors to directly invest in the government securities.
- RBI has proposed to allow retail investors to open gilt accounts with the central bank to invest in G-secs directly, without the help of intermediaries.

Retail Investor

- ☑ They are non-professional investors who buy and sell securities or funds that contain a basket of securities such as mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs).
- ☑ They execute their trades through traditional or online brokerage firms.
- ☑ They purchase securities for their own personal accounts and often trade in dramatically smaller amounts as compared to institutional investors.

Institutional Investor

- ☑ It is an umbrella term for larger-scale investments by professional portfolio and fund managers.
- ☑ They are the big players in the market who move big money.
- ☑ Examples - Pension funds, Mutual funds, Money managers, Insurance companies, Investment banks, Commercial trusts, Endowment funds for a university or college, Hedge funds, Private equity firms or investors, etc.

{10} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 15

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-28 Q-69 | Test-29 Q-65

15. In India, the central bank's function as the 'lender of last resort' usually refers to which of the following?

1. Lending to trade and industry bodies when they fail to borrow from other sources
2. Providing liquidity to the banks having a temporary crisis
3. Lending to governments to finance budgetary deficits

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

Q 65. Why the Reserve Bank of India is known as 'lender of last resort'?

1. It provides lending facilities to the banks at all times.
2. It provides foreign exchange to the government for meeting its import obligations.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

As banker to the government the Reserve Bank manages the banking needs of the government. It has to maintain and operate the government's deposit accounts. It collects receipts of funds and makes payments on behalf of the government. It represents the Government of India as the member of the IMF and the World Bank. So, statement 4 is correct.

2. Banker to Government:

As banker to the government the Reserve Bank manages the banking needs of the government. It has to maintain and operate the government's deposit accounts. It collects receipts of funds and makes payments on behalf of the government. It represents the Government of India as the member of the IMF and the World Bank.

3. Custodian of Cash Reserves of Commercial Banks:

The commercial banks hold deposits in the Reserve Bank and the latter has the custody of the cash reserves of the commercial banks.

4. Custodian of Country's Foreign Currency Reserves:

The Reserve Bank has the custody of the country's reserves of international currency, and this enables the Reserve Bank to deal with crisis connected with adverse balance of payments position.

5. Lender of Last Resort:

The commercial banks approach the Reserve Bank in times of emergency to tide over financial difficulties, and the Reserve bank comes to their rescue though it might charge a higher rate of interest.

{11} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 19
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-38 Q-32 | Test-38 Q-07

19. What is blue carbon?

- (a) Carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems
- (b) Carbon sequestered in forest biomass and agricultural soils
- (c) Carbon contained in petroleum and natural gas
- (d) Carbon present in atmosphere

Q 32. Consider the following statements:

1. Blue carbon is the carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems.
2. Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows sequester and store less carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests.

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

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Q 32. (A)

Explanation:

• **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests.

Supplementary notes:

Blue carbon and Mangroves

- Molluscs, Phytoplanktons etc. absorb the carbon known as the Blue Carbon. **Or it is the carbon captured by the world's oceans and coastal ecosystems.** The carbon captured by living organisms in oceans is stored in the form of biomass and sediments from mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses.
- One of the most promising new ideas to reduce atmospheric CO₂ and limit global climate change is to do so by conserving mangroves, seagrasses and salt marsh grasses. Such coastal vegetation, dubbed "blue carbon", sequesters carbon far more effectively (up to 100 times faster) and more permanently than terrestrial forests.
- **Coastal ecosystems such as mangroves, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests.**
- Mangroves represent a characteristic littoral (near the seashore) forest ecosystem.
- These are mostly evergreen forests that grow in sheltered low lying coasts, estuaries, mudflats, tidal creeks backwaters (coastal waters held back on land), marshes and lagoons of tropical and subtropical regions.
- Mangroves grow below the high water level of spring tides.

{12} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 22

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-07 Q-19 | Test-17 Q-49 | Test-22 Q-47

22. Consider the following kinds of organisms :

1. Copepods
2. Cyanobacteria
3. Diatoms
4. Foraminifera

Which of the above are primary producers in the food chains of oceans?

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 1 and 4

Q 19. Which of the following are classified as Phytoplanktons?

1. Cyanobacteria
2. Diatoms
3. Green algae
4. Dinoflagellates

Select the correct answer:

- A) 1 only
B) 1 and 2 only
C) 1 and 3 only
D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q 49. Consider the following statements:

1. Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic bacteria living in a symbiotic relationship with plants.
2. Some cyanobacteria are capable of fixing nitrogen.
3. All cyanobacteria produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Diatom Test

- It is forensic diagnosis process that is used to confirm the cause of death by drowning.
- A body recovered from a water body does not necessarily imply that the death was due to drowning.
- If the person is alive when he enters the water, the diatoms will enter the lungs when the person inhales water while drowning.

Q 49. (B)

Explanation:

• **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Not all produce toxins but scientists say toxic ones are occurring more frequently as climate change drives up global temperatures.

Supplementary notes:

Cyanobacteria

- Toxins in water produced by cyanobacteria killed more than 300 elephants in Botswana this year, officials said while announcing the result of an investigation into the deaths which had baffled conservationists.
- Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms common in water and sometimes found in soil.
- Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic bacteria, some of which are nitrogen-fixing, that live either freely or in a symbiotic relationship with plants or lichen-forming fungi.
- Not all produce toxins but scientists say toxic ones are occurring more frequently as climate change drives up global temperatures.
- Some cyanobacterial blooms can harm people and animals and scientists are concerned about their potential impact as climate change leads to warmer water temperatures, which many cyanobacteria prefer.

{13} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 23
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-11 Q-94

23. Consider the following animals :

1. Hedgehog
2. Marmot
3. Pangolin

To reduce the chance of being captured by predators, which of the above organisms rolls up/roll up and protects/protect its/their vulnerable parts?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1 and 3

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13

Q 94. Consider the following facts:

1. It is the only scaly mammal on the planet.
 2. Their scales are made of keratin and make up 20% of their body weight.
 3. It is a Schedule I category protected animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972). The above features best describe which of the following?
- (a) Whales
 - (b) Ungulate
 - (c) Armadillos
 - (d) Pangolins

Q 94. (D) The above features best suits to Pangolins.

Explanatory notes:

> Pangolins are a group of Asian and African mammals that are covered in hard scales, curl up into a ball to defend themselves, and are sadly the most heavily trafficked animal in the world.

> Pangolin scales are made of keratin, just like our finger nails, and make up 20% of their body weight.

> They have got small heads but long snouts and even longer tongues for slurping up ants from inside ant nests, leading some people to call them scaly anteaters.

> Pangolin tails are also covered in the same scale armour as the rest of their bodies, but their tails are strong too – some pangolins live in the trees and can use their tail as a fifth limb that's easily strong enough to support their full bodyweight.

> **Species:** There are eight pangolin species, four Asian and four African:

- > Chinese pangolin, *Manis pentadactyla*
- > Indian pangolin (also known as thick-tailed pangolin), *M. crassicaudata*
- > Sunda pangolin (all known as Malayan pangolin), *M.*
- > Philippine pangolin, *M. culionensis*
- > Tree pangolin (also known as white-bellied pangolin), *Phataginus tricuspis*
- > Long-tailed pangolin (also known as black bellied pangolin), *P. tetradactyla*
- > Giant pangolin (also known as giant ground pangolin), *Smutsia gigantea*
- > Cape pangolin (also known as ground pangolin, Temminck's ground pangolin, South African pangolin or steppe pangolin), *S. temminckii*

> **Status:** All eight species are threatened with extinction, and are listed on the IUCN Red List as either Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered.

- > Chinese pangolin – Critically Endangered
- > Indian pangolin – Endangered
- > Sunda pangolin – Critically Endangered
- > Philippine pangolin – Critically Endangered
- > Tree pangolin – Endangered
- > Long-tailed pangolin – Vulnerable
- > Giant pangolin – Endangered

Test: -11 (2021) | Test Code: A-21111

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{14} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 26
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-08 Q-23

26. Which one of the following is a filter feeder?

- (a) Catfish
- (b) Octopus
- (c) Oyster
- (d) Pelican

Q 23. Consider the following statements about the characteristics of Mangroves:

1. These plants mainly grow on sheltered shores, typically on Tidal Flats, Deltas, Estuaries, Bays, Creeks and the Barrier Islands.
2. Their leaves are thin and contain salt secreting glands.

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

Q 23. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in tropical and subtropical regions. They are characterized by halophytic (salt loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in brackish to saline tidal waters. So, Statement 1 is not correct.

Mangroves are salt-tolerant trees, also called halophytes, and are adapted to life in harsh coastal conditions. They contain a complex salt filtration system and complex root system to cope with salt water immersion and wave action. So, Statement 2 is not correct.

DETAILS:

Mangrove swamps are coastal wetlands found in tropical and subtropical regions. They are characterized by halophytic (salt loving) trees, shrubs and other plants growing in brackish to saline tidal waters. These wetlands are often found in estuaries, where fresh water meets salt water and are infamous for their impenetrable maze of woody vegetation. In North America, they are found from the southern tip of Florida along the Gulf Coast to Texas. Florida's southwest coast supports one of the largest mangrove swamps in the world.

Test: 08 (2021) | Test Code: A-21108

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Mangrove trees dominate this wetland ecosystem due to their ability to survive in both salt and fresh water. In the continental United States, only three species of mangrove grow: red, black, and white mangroves. Red Mangrove (*Rhizophora mangle*) is easily recognized by its distinctive arching roots. Black Mangrove (*Avicennia* sp.), which often grows more inland, has root projections called pneumatophores, which help to supply the plant with air in submerged soils. White Mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) often grow even farther inland with no outstanding root structures.

A wide diversity of animals are found in mangrove swamps. Since these estuarine swamps are constantly replenished with nutrients transported by fresh water runoff from the land and flushed by the ebb and flow of the tides, they support a bursting population of bacteria and other decomposers and filter feeders. These ecosystems sustain billions of worms, protozoa, barnacles (*Balanus* spp.), oysters (*Crassostrea* spp.), and other invertebrates. These organisms in turn feed fish and shrimp, which support wading birds, pelicans, and the endangered Crocodile.

{15} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 27
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-07 Q-72 | Test-09 Q-75

27. In case of which one of the following biogeochemical cycles, the weathering of rocks is the main source of release of nutrient to enter the cycle?

- (a) Carbon cycle
- (b) Nitrogen cycle
- (c) Phosphorus cycle
- (d) Sulphur cycle

Q 75. Which among the following is/are the sedimentary nutrient cycles?

- 1. Carbon cycle
- 2. Phosphorus cycle
- 3. Sulphur cycle

Identify the correct answer:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 3 only
- D) All of the above

Q 75. (B)

Sedimentary Nutrient Cycles Based on the nature of the reservoir, there are two types of cycles namely gaseous and sedimentary cycle. Gaseous Cycle - where the reservoir is the atmosphere or the hydrosphere, and Sedimentary Cycle - where the reservoir is the earth's crust. **Statement 1 is incorrect:**

Carbon cycle: Carbon is present in the atmosphere, mainly in the form of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Carbon cycle involves a continuous exchange of carbon between the atmosphere and organisms. Carbon from the atmosphere moves to green plants by the process of photosynthesis, and then to animals. By process of respiration and decomposition of dead organic matter it returns back to atmosphere. It is usually a short term cycle. **Statement 2 is correct:**

Phosphorus cycle: Phosphorus plays a central role in aquatic ecosystems and water quality. Unlike carbon and nitrogen, which come primarily from the atmosphere, phosphorus occurs in large amounts as a mineral in phosphate rocks and enters the cycle from erosion and mining activities. **Statement 3 is correct:**

Sulphur cycle: The sulphur reservoir is in the soil and sediments where it is locked in organic (coal, oil and peat) and inorganic deposits (pyrite rock and sulphur rock) in the form of sulphates, sulphides and organic sulphur. It is released by weathering of rocks, erosional runoff and decomposition of organic matter and is carried to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in salt solution. The sulphur cycle is mostly sedimentary except two of its compounds hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) add a gaseous component to its normal sedimentary cycle.

{16} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 28
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-38 Q-01 | Test-38 Q-10

28. Which of the following are detritivores?

1. Earthworms
2. Jellyfish
3. Millipedes
4. Seahorses
5. Woodlice

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 3 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Q 10. (D)

Explanation:

• Option (d) is correct

Supplementary notes:

Catabolism

- The important steps in the process of decomposition are fragmentation, leaching, catabolism, humification and mineralization.
- Detritivores (e.g., earthworm) break down detritus into smaller particles. This process is called fragmentation.
- By the process of leaching, water soluble inorganic nutrients go down into the soil horizon and get precipitated as unavailable salts.
- During process of catabolism, the extracellular enzymes released by bacteria and fungi carry out enzymatic conversion of the decomposing detritus to simpler compounds and inorganic substances.
- It is notable that all the above mentioned processes of decomposition operate simultaneously on the detritus.

- Dead plant remains such as leaves, bark, flowers and dead remains of animals, including fecal matter, constitute detritus, which is the raw material for decomposition.
- The important steps in the process of decomposition are fragmentation, leaching, catabolism, humification and mineralization.
- Detritivores (e.g., earthworm) break down detritus into smaller particles. This process is called fragmentation.
- By the process of leaching, water soluble inorganic nutrients go down into the soil horizon and get precipitated as unavailable salts.

Q 1. Consider the following statements:

1. Decomposition is largely an oxygen requiring process.
2. Decomposers break down complex organic matter into organic and inorganic substances like carbon dioxide, water and nutrients.
3. By the process of leaching, water soluble inorganic nutrients go down into the soil horizon and get precipitated as unavailable salts.
4. Humification leads to accumulation of a dark coloured amorphous substance called humus that is highly resistant to microbial action.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct regarding Decomposition in an Ecosystem?

(A) 1, 2 and 4 only

{17} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 32
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-07 Q-50

32. Which one of the following ancient towns is well-known for its elaborate system of water harvesting and management by building a series of dams and channelizing water into connected reservoirs?

- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Kalibangan
- (c) Rakhigarhi
- (d) Ropar

Q 50. Consider the following pairs:
(Archaeological sites (State) in news)

- 1. Rakhigarhi - Haryana
- 2. Hastinapur - Rajasthan
- 3. Shivasagar - Assam

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A) 1 only
- B) 1 and 3 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

BXC-U-FTHI/68A

17

Dholavira

- Dholavira in Gujarat is located in the Khadir island of the Rann of Kutch, and like Rakhigarhi is one of the sites where the remains of the Harappan civilization have been found.
- Dholavira is unique because remains of a complete water system have been found here.
- The people who lived there for an estimated 1,200 years during the Harappan civilization are noted for their water conservation system using rainwater harvesting techniques in an otherwise parched landscape.
- The Union Govt. has proposed to set up an Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation under the Ministry of Culture, and develop five archaeological sites as "iconic sites" with onsite museums in Rakhigarhi (Haryana), Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh), Shivasagar (Assam), Dholavira (Gujarat) and Adichanallur (Tamil Nadu).
- Rakhigarhi
- Rakhigarhi in Haryana's Hissar district is one of the most prominent and largest sites of the Harappan civilization.
- It is one among the five known townships of the Harappan civilization in the Indian subcontinent.
- In one of the excavations, the skeletal remains of a couple were discovered.
- Interestingly, of the 62 graves discovered in Rakhigarhi, only this particular grave consisted of more than one skeletal remains and of individuals of the opposite sex together.

{18} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 34
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-49 Q-73

34. From the decline of Guptas until the rise of Harshavardhana in the early seventh century, which of the following kingdoms were holding power in Northern India?

1. The Guptas of Magadha
2. The Paramaras of Malwa
3. The Pushyabhutis of Thanesar
4. The Maukharis of Kanauj
5. The Yadavas of Devagiri
6. The Maitrakas of Valabhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 5
(b) 1, 3, 4 and 6
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) 5 and 6

Q 73. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Thansewar was the kingdom of the Maukharis.
2. Harsha was a patron of both Banabhatta and Xuan Zang.
3. Harsha was a follower of the Mahayana Buddhism.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

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Q 73. (B)

Explanation:

- The political scenario in post-Gupta north India was characterized by the emergence of numerous ruling families, like **the Maukharis of Kanyakubja**, the later Guptas of Magadha, the Gaudas of West Bengal (Murshidabad district), the Maitrakas of Valabhi (Saurashtra peninsula) and **the Pushyabhutis of Thaneswar**.
- Harsha was a patron of both Banabhatta and Xuan Zang. Chinese traveller Xuan Zang travelled in India from 629-645 CE and spent much time at the court of Harsha.
- Harsha was a follower of the Mahayana Buddhism.

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{19} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 38

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-45 Q-23

38. Consider the following statements :

1. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chengiz Khan reached the Indus in pursuit of the fugitive Khwarezm prince.
2. It was during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq that Taimur occupied Multan and crossed the Indus.
3. It was during the reign of Deva Raya II of Vijayanagara Empire that Vasco da Gama reached the coast of Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 3 only
(d) 2 and 3

Q 23. Consider the following statements regarding the rule of Iltutmish:

1. He shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi.
2. The hereditary succession to Delhi Sultanate was initiated by Iltutmish.
3. He introduced coin of Silver known as Jital and Copper as Tanka.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 3 only
(D) None of the above

Q 23. (A)

Explanation:

• **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Iltutmish introduced the Arabic coinage into India. He introduced Silver Tanka and Copper Jital, the two coins of the Delhi Sultanate.

Supplementary notes:

Iltutmish (1211-1236)

- Iltutmish belonged to the Ilbari tribe and hence his dynasty was named as Ilbari dynasty. His half-brothers sold him as a slave to Aibak, who made him his son-in-law by giving his daughter in marriage to him.
- In 1211 Iltutmish defeated Aram Baksh and became Sultan. He shifted his capital from Lahore to Delhi. During the first ten years of his reign, he concentrated on securing his throne from his rivals.
- In the meantime, Temujin popularly known as Chengiz Khan, the leader of the Mongols, started invading Central Asia. He defeated Jalaluddin Mangabarni, the ruler of Kwarizam. Mangabarni crossed the river Indus and sought asylum from Iltutmish.
- Iltutmish refused to give him shelter to save his empire from the onslaught of the Mongols. Fortunately for Iltutmish, Chengiz Khan returned home without entering into India. The Mongol policy of Iltutmish saved India from the wrath of Chengiz Khan. Iltutmish marched against Bengal and Bihar and reasserted his control over them.
- He nominated his daughter Raziya as his successor. Thus the hereditary succession to Delhi Sultanate was initiated by Iltutmish. He patronized many scholars and several Sufi saints came to India during his reign.
- The Iqta system was a practice of Tax farming under Iqtadars, was introduced by Iltutmish in Delhi Sultanate. It was a grant of revenue from territory in place of salary. This grant was not hereditary and was subject to passing from officer to officer. Iqta system linked the farthest part of the Sultanate linked to the Central Government.

{20} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 42
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-27 Q-42 | Test-44 Q-91

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42. Consider the following statements :

1. The Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919 recommended granting voting rights to all the women above the age of 21.
2. The Government of India Act of 1935 gave women reserved seats in legislature.

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

Q 42. Which of the following are features of Government of India Act, 1919?

1. Ministers had to resign if a no-confidence motion was passed against them.
2. Women were given the right to vote.
3. Subjects were divided into 'reserved' and 'transferred' lists.

Select the correct code:

- A) 1 and 2 only
B) 1 and 3 only
C) 2 and 3 only
D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 91. Consider the following statements about the "Government of India Act, 1935":

1. It allowed Provinces of British India to collect taxes independently and abolished federal distribution of taxes.
2. It introduced voting rights for women to the elections to the Provincial Legislative Councils.
3. The British Parliament had withdrawn its supremacy over the Indian legislatures both at the provincial and federal level.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 2 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 42. (D)

The main features of the Government of India Act, 1919 were as follows:

- Dyarchy, i.e., rule of two—executive councilors and popular ministers was introduced.
- Subjects were divided into two lists: "reserved" which included subjects such as law and order, finance, land revenue, irrigation, etc., and "transferred" subjects such as education, health, local government, industry, agriculture, excise, etc. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**
- The ministers were to be responsible to the legislature and had to resign if a noconfidence motion was passed against them by the legislature, while the executive councilors were not to be responsible to the legislature. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- Provincial Legislative Councils were further expanded-70% of the members were to be elected.
- The system of communal and class electorates was further consolidated.
- Women were also given the right to vote. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The Legislative Councils could initiate legislation but the governor's assent was required. The governor could veto bills and issue ordinances.

{21} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 43

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-15 Q-67 | Test-35 Q-62 | Test-39 Q-10 | Test-44 Q-95 | Test-45 Q-88 | Test-49 Q-70

43. With reference to 8th August, 1942 in Indian history, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) The Quit India Resolution was adopted by the AICC.
- (b) The Viceroy's Executive Council was expanded to include more Indians.
- (c) The Congress ministries resigned in seven provinces.
- (d) Cripps proposed an Indian Union with full Dominion Status once the Second World War was over.

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Q 70. Consider the following statements:

1. At the 1942 Gowalia Tank meeting, while ratifying the Quit India Resolution, Gandhi gave his famous 'Do or Die' mantra.
2. Gandhi here asked the government servants to resign, join the Quit India Movement and declare their allegiance to the Congress.

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

Test: 49 (2021) | Test Code: A-21149

Contact :

Q 95. (A)

EXPLANATION:-

Ballia - First parallel government formed under Chittur Pandey, Tamluk (Midnapur, Bengal), Satara (Maharashtra) - longest running parallel government. So, Option (a) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Also known as the India August Movement or August Kranti.
- It was officially launched by the Indian National Congress (INC) led by Mahatma Gandhi on 9 August 1942.
- The movement gave the slogans 'Quit India' or 'Bharat Chodo'. Gandhi gave the slogan to the people – 'Do or die'.
- In line with the Congress ideology, it was supposed to be a peaceful non-violent movement aimed at urging the British to grant India independence.
- The Quit India Resolution was passed by the Congress Working Committee on 8 August 1942 in Bombay. Gandhi was named the movement's leader.
- The resolution stated the provisions of the movement as:
 1. An immediate end to British rule over India.
 2. Declaration of the commitment of free India to defend itself against all kinds of imperialism and fascism.

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{22} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 45

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-45 Q-67

45. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

- (a) Paragana—Sarkar—Suba
- (b) Sarkar—Paragana—Suba
- (c) Suba—Sarkar—Paragana
- (d) Paragana—Suba—Sarkar

Q 67. Consider the following statements regarding the administration under Sher Shah Sur:

1. The Land revenue was one-third of the average produce and it was paid in cash or crop.
2. He introduced new silver coins called "Dam".

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 67. (C)

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

Sher Shah Sur (1540-1545)

- Although his rule lasted for five years, he organized a brilliant administrative system. The central government consisted of several departments. The king was assisted by four important ministers:
- Diwan -i- Wizarat – also called as Wazir - in charge of Revenue and Finance.
- Diwan-i-Ariz – in charge of the Army.
- Diwan-i-Rasalat - Foreign Minister.
- Diwan-i-Insha- Minister for Communications.
- Sher Shah's empire was divided into fortyseven sarkars.
- Chief Shiqdar (law and order) and Chief Munsif (judge) were the two officers in charge of the administration in each sarkar. Each sarkar was divided into several Parganas. Shiqdar (military officer), Amin (land revenue), Fotedar (treasurer) Karkuns (accountants) were in charge of the administration of each pargana.
- There were also many administrative units called iqtas.
- The land revenue administration was well organized under Sher Shah. A land survey was carefully done. All cultivable lands were classified into three classes – good, middle, and bad. **The state's share was one-third of the average production and it was paid in cash or crop.**
- His revenue reforms increased the revenue of the state. Sher Shah introduced new silver coins called "Dam" and they were in circulation till 1835.

{23} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 49
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-46 Q-67

49. Which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Ajanta Caves lie in the gorge of Waghora river.
- (b) Sanchi Stupa lies in the gorge of Chambal river.
- (c) Pandu-lena Cave Shrines lie in the gorge of Narmada river.
- (d) Amaravati Stupa lies in the gorge of Godavari river.

Q 67. Consider the following statements regarding Ajanta and Ellora caves:

1. The paintings of Ajanta cave predominantly belong to Buddhism while Ellora is also related to Jainism and Hinduism along with Buddhism.
2. A sculpture on the wall of Kailash temple depicting Ravana shaking Mount Kailasha is part of Ellora caves.
3. Blue colour is absent from Ajanta cave paintings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1 and 3 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

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Q 67. (D)

Explanation:

- All statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

Ajanta Caves

- Ajanta is a series of rock-cut caves in the Sahyadri ranges on Waghora river near Aurangabad in Maharashtra.
- There are a total of 29 caves of which 25 were used as Viharas or residential caves while 4 were used as Chaitya or prayer halls. The caves were developed in the period between 200 B.C. to 650 A.D.
- The Ajanta caves were inscribed by the Buddhist monks, under the patronage of the Vakataka kings – Harishena being a prominent one.
- The figures in these caves were done using fresco painting and demonstrate considerable naturalism.
- The colours were obtained from local vegetation and minerals.
- The outlines of the paintings were done in red colour and then the inside was painted.
- One of the striking features is the absence of blue colour in the paintings.
- Cave No. 16 is one of the most elegant specimens of cave architecture.
- The paintings are generally themed around Buddhism – the life of Buddha and Jataka stories.
- Of the 29 caves, 5 were developed during the Hinayana phase while the remaining 24 were developed during the Mahayana phase of Buddhism.
- Reference of the Ajanta caves can be found in the travel accounts of Chinese Buddhist travellers Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang.
- Some prominent sculptures of Ajanta Caves are:
 - Mahaparinirvana of Buddha in Cave.no 26.
 - Naga king and his consort in Cave.no 19

{24} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 53

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-37 Q-100 | Test-04 Q-99 | Test-05 Q-13 | Test-06 Q-19

53. With reference to the Indus river system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of them which joins the Indus direct. Among the following, which one is such river that joins the Indus direct?

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Sutlej

Q 19. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the river Indus?

- 1. Indus has the second largest drainage basin in India after Ganga.
- 2. It originates in Tibet near Mansarover lake.
- 3. Satluj, Chenab, Beas, Ravi and Jhelum are its right bank tributaries.

Select the code from below:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) All of the above

Q 13. Which of the following statements are correct about the Chenab?

- 1. The Chenab is formed by two streams, the Chandra and the Bhaga.
- 2. It flows in Himachal Pradesh.
- 3. It does not enter into Pakistan.

Select the correct answer:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q 100. (A)

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Chenab is the largest tributary of the river Indus.

Supplementary notes:

Jhelum

- Jhelum in the valley of Kashmir is still in its youth stage and yet forms meanders.
- This meander is caused by local base level provided by the erstwhile larger lake of which the present Dal Lake is a small part.
- It is originated from spring at Verinag situated at the foot of PirPanjal ranges.
- Chenab is the largest tributary of the river Indus.

{25} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 54
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-50 Q-67

54. With reference to India, Didwana, Kuchaman, Sargol and Khatu are the names of

- (a) glaciers
- (b) mangrove areas
- (c) Ramsar sites
- (d) saline lakes

Q 67. Which of the following is correct the Stone Age sites in India?

1. Belan Valley in UP is an important Paleolithic site that shows the evidence of cattle exploitation.
2. Bogar in Rajasthan, a Neolithic site, was a distinctive microlith industry.
3. Maski, Brahmagiri and Hallur are important Neolithic sites in Karnataka.

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

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• Statement 2 is incorrect, so using elimination method one can arrive at the correct answer which is option (c).

• Statement 2 is incorrect: Bogar in Rajasthan, a Mesolithic site, was a distinctive microlith industry.

Supplementary notes:

The Stone Ages in India:

• **Paleolithic:**

• The Palaeolithic Age in India is divided into **three phases** in accordance with the type of stone tools used by the people and also according to the nature of climatic change. The first phase is called Early or Lower Palaeolithic, the second Middle Palaeolithic, and the third Upper Palaeolithic.

• The Lower Palaeolithic or the Early Old Stone Age covers the greater part of the ice age. The Early Old Stone Age may have begun in Africa around two million years ago, but in India it is not older than 600,000 years. **This date is given to Bori in Maharashtra, and this site is considered to be the earliest Lower Palaeolithic site.**

• Lower Palaeolithic tools have also been found in the Belan valley in UP and in the desert area of Didwana in Rajasthan.

• The Middle Palaeolithic industries were largely based upon flakes or small pieces of stone which have been found in different parts of India with regional variations. The principal tools comprise blades, points, borers, and scrapers, all made of flakes.

{26} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 55

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-12 Q-79 | Test-19 Q-75 | Test-37 Q-44

55. Consider the following rivers :

1. Brahmani
2. Nagavali
3. Subarnarekha
4. Vamsadhara

Which of the above rise from the Eastern Ghats?

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 4
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 1 and 3

Q 79. Consider the following Rivers

1. Subarnarekha
2. Vamsadhara
3. Baitarani

Which of the above rivers flows through Odisha?

- a. 1 and 2 only
b. 1 and 3 only
c. 2 and 3 only
d. 1, 2 and 3

Q 44. (B)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Mahi emerges from Vindhya ranges.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Ponnaiyar River is called the 'little Ganga of the South'.

Supplementary notes:

Small Rivers flowing towards east/west

- Small west flowing rivers
- Mahi River
- Luni River
- Small east flowing rivers
- Subarnarekha
- Brahmani River
- Pennar River
- Ponnaiyar River
- Vaigai River
- It is an ephemeral river that originates in the Pushkar valley of the Aravalli Range, near Ajmer, passes through the southeastern portion of the Thar Desert, and ends in the marshy lands of Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, after travelling a distance of 495 km.
- The Subarnarekha river rises from the Chota nagpur plateau near Nagri village in Ranchi District in the state of Jharkhand. It drains its waters into the Bay of Bengal.
- The Ponnaiyar River is known as the 'little Ganga of the South'

Polavaram Project

- Andhra Pradesh government recently said that it is planning to complete the Polavaram project by 2022 kharif season, and six other projects — Vamsadhara-Phase 2, Vamsadhara-Nagavali link, Owk tunnel-2, Velugonda-Phase 1 and Nellore and Sangam barrages — in 2020-21.
- The dam is being built across the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.

{27} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 56
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-14 Q-39 | Test-37 Q-16

56. Consider the following statements :

1. The Global Ocean Commission grants licences for seabed exploration and mining in international waters.
2. India has received licences for seabed mineral exploration in international waters.
3. 'Rare earth minerals' are present on seafloor in international waters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q 16. Which of the following statements are the incorrect about of the Maritime Zones?

1. "Territorial sea" extending up to 12 nautical miles (nm) from base line is sovereign water of the concerned state.
2. In the Exclusive economic zone, sovereign right and jurisdiction also extend to air space above the sea water
3. Under Deep Ocean Mission, India is planning to mine Polymetallic nodules (PMNs) from EEZ of Indian ocean known as Central Indian Ocean basin (CIOB)

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 2 and 3 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 39. (A)

> ASEAN leaders held their annual summit by video recently, with the COVID-19 pandemic and the long-raging territorial disputes high on the agenda.

> Southeast Asian leaders said a **1982 UN oceans treaty** should be the basis of sovereign rights and entitlements in the South China Sea, in one of their strongest remarks opposing China's claim to virtually the entire disputed waters on historical grounds.

> The leaders were referring to the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**, a 1982 international agreement that defines the rights of nations to the world's oceans.

> They reaffirmed that the 1982 UNCLOS is the basis for determining maritime entitlements, sovereign rights, jurisdiction and legitimate interests over maritime zones, in a statement.

Q 16. (B)

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 and 3 is incorrect:** In the Exclusive economic zone (EEZs), sovereign right and jurisdiction extend **only to ocean floor (seabed and subsoil)** and **rights to carry out energy production from the water, currents and wind**. Central Indian Ocean basin (CIOB) lies at around **1600 km** away from the southern tip of India which is part of **high sea** as per UNCLOS 1982

Supplementary notes:

- **Maritime Zones:** United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982, also divides marine sea into **five zones** namely- **Internal Waters, Territorial Sea, Contiguous Zone, Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the High Seas**.

- These demarcation of the maritime water forms the basis of offshore governance by the respective coastal states. All the zonation is provided with specific guidelines for the states' rights and responsibilities. Following is the important components of the UNCLOS 1982.

{28} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 57

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-04 Q-86 | Test-50 Q-09 | Test-42 Q-73

57. Among the following, which one is the **least** water-efficient crop?

- (a) Sugarcane
- (b) Sunflower
- (c) Pearl millet
- (d) Red gram

Q 86. Which of the following statements is/are true related to dryland farming and wetland farming?

1. Rainfall of 75 cm forms a boundary line between dryland farming and wetland farming.
2. Telangana plateau generally comes under wetland farming due to presence of swamps.
3. Jowar, Bajra & Sugarcane come under dryland farming. Codes:

- A) Only 1
- B) 1 and 2 only
- C) Only 3
- D) All

Q 9. (D)

Explanation:

- All statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

Sugarcane:

- Sugarcane is a crop of tropical areas. Under rainfed conditions, it is cultivated in subhumid and humid climates. But it is largely an irrigated crop in India.
- In Indo-Gangetic plain, its cultivation is largely concentrated in Uttar Pradesh. Sugarcane growing area in western India is spread over Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- In southern India, it is cultivated in irrigated tracts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Uttar Pradesh produces about two-fifth of sugarcane of the country.** Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are other leading producers of this crop where yield level of sugarcane is high. Its yield is low in northern India.
- More exhaustive crops should be followed by less exhaustive crops because crops like potato, sugarcane, maize etc. need more inputs such as better tillage, more fertilizers, greater number of irrigation etc.
- Selection of crop should be based on need or demand
- Crops of same family should not be grown in succession because they act as alternate hosts for insect pests and diseases

{29} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 58

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-05 Q-72 | Test-06 Q-12 | Test-47 Q-88

58. Consider the following statements :

1. In the tropical zone, the western sections of the oceans are warmer than the eastern sections owing to the influence of trade winds.
2. In the temperate zone, westerlies make the eastern sections of oceans warmer than the western sections.

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

Q 88. (B)

Explanation:

• **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Not all the western coasts of the temperate zone receive Westerlies throughout the year. Some of them like California, Iberia, central Chile, southern Africa and south-western Australia receive Westerlies only in winter. This is caused by the 'shifting of the wind belts' of such regions which lie approximately between the latitudes 30° and 40°N and S.

Supplementary notes:

Pattern of Planetary Winds

- Within the permanent pressure belts on the globe, winds tend to blow from the high pressure belts to the low pressure belts as the planetary winds. Instead of blowing directly from one pressure belt to another, however, the effect of the rotation of the earth (Coriolis force) tends to deflect the direction of the winds. In the northern hemisphere, winds are deflected to their right, and in the southern hemisphere to their left.
- For this reason, winds blowing out from the Sub Tropical High Pressure Belt in the northern hemisphere towards the Equatorial Low become North East Trade Winds and those in the southern hemisphere become the South East Trade winds. **These trade winds are the most regular of all the planetary winds.** They blow with great force and in a constant direction. They were thus helpful to early traders who dependent on the wind when sailing the high seas, hence the name trade winds.
- In the southern hemisphere where there is a large expanse of ocean from 40°S to 60°S, **Westerlies** blow with much greater force and regularity throughout the year. They bring much precipitation to the western coasts of continents. The weather is damp and cloudy and the seas are violent and stormy. It is thus usual for seafarers to refer to the Westerlies as the Roaring Forties, Furious Fifties and Shrieking or Stormy Sixties, according to the varying degree of storminess in the latitudes in which they blow.
- The **Polar Easterlies** blow out from the Polar High Pressure Belts towards the Temperate Low Pressure Belts. These are extremely cold winds as they come from the tundra and ice-cap regions. **They are more regular in the south than in the north.**

Q 72. Why deserts are not located on the eastern side of continents?

1. Absence of offshore trade winds.
2. Absence of cold ocean current.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 88. With reference to general circulation of the atmosphere, consider the following statements:

1. Trade winds are the most regular of all the planetary winds.
2. All the western coasts of the temperate zone receive Westerlies throughout the year.
3. Polar easterlies are more regular in the southern than in the northern hemisphere.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 3 only
(C) 2 only
(D) 2 and 3 only

{30} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 60
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-43 Q-39 | Test-04 Q-62

60. "Leaf litter decomposes faster than in any other biome and as a result the soil surface is often almost bare. Apart from trees, the vegetation is largely composed of plant forms that reach up into the canopy vicariously, by climbing the trees or growing as epiphytes, rooted on the upper branches of trees." This is the most likely description of

- (a) coniferous forest
- (b) dry deciduous forest
- (c) mangrove forest
- (d) tropical rain forest

Q 62. Which of the following is/are unique characteristic/characteristics of equatorial forests?

- 1. Presence of tall, closely set trees with crowns forming a continuous canopy.
- 2. Presence of numerous varieties of epiphytes.
- 3. Temperature is uniform throughout the year.

Choose the correct code

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 and 3 only
- C) 1 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

the afternoons. Equatorial Vegetation

Ø High temperature and abundant rainfall support a luxuriant tropical rain forest.

Ø In the Amazon lowlands, the forest is so dense that it is called selvas'. [selvas: A dense tropical rainforest usually having a cloud cover (dense canopy)]

Ø Unlike the temperate regions, the growing season here is all the year round-seeding, flowering, fruiting and decaying do not take place in a seasonal pattern. Ø The equatorial vegetation comprises a multitude of evergreen trees that yield tropical hardwood, e.g. mahogany, ebony, dyewoods etc.

Ø Many parts of the tropical rain forests have been cleared either for lumbering or shifting cultivation.

Ø In the coastal areas and brackish swamps, mangrove forests thrive. Canopy

Ø From the air, the tropical rain forest appears like a thick canopy of foliage, broken only where it is crossed by large rivers or cleared for cultivation.

Ø All plants struggle upwards (most epiphytes) for sunlight resulting in a peculiar layer arrangement.

Ø Epiphyte: An epiphyte is a plant that grows harmlessly upon another plant (such as a tree) and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and sometimes from debris accumulating around it.

Q 39. With reference to the Biomes, consider the following statements:

- 1. Only terrestrial part of the biosphere is called a biome.
- 2. Vegetation consisting of Pine, spruce and Firs are features of Tundra biome.
- 3. Epiphytic plants are associated with Tropical Rain Forest.
- 4. Temperate Deciduous Forest consists of tallest trees in the world and hence is famous for lumbering and logging.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 4 only

{31} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 61
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-47 Q-28

61. The vegetation of savannah consists of grassland with scattered small trees, but extensive areas have no trees. The forest development in such areas is generally kept in check by one or more or a combination of some conditions. Which of the following are such conditions?

1. Burrowing animals and termites
2. Fire
3. Grazing herbivores
4. Seasonal rainfall
5. Soil properties

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 4 and 5
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 3 and 5

Q 28. Which one of the following is the characteristic climate of the Tropical Savannah Region?

- (A) Rainfall throughout the year
(B) Rainfall in winter only
(C) An extremely short dry season
(D) A definite dry and wet season

Explanation:

- Option (d) is correct

Supplementary notes:

Savanna climate

- Savanna climate is a transitional type of climate found between the equatorial forests & trade wind hot deserts.
- It is confined within the tropics (Tropic of Cancer & Tropic of Capricorn) & is best developed in Sudan, where dry & wet climate are most distinct, hence named Sudan climate.
- It covers much of Africa (Kenya, Nigeria, Gambia) as well as large areas of Australia, South America (Brazilian highlands), and India.
- Tropical savanna climates are relatively hot since they lie within the tropical latitudes.
- The dry season in savanna grasslands is cooler than the wet season by a few degrees. It has well defined wet and dry season.

{32} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 62
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-06 Q-61

62. With reference to the water on the planet Earth, consider the following statements :

1. The amount of water in the rivers and lakes is more than the amount of groundwater.
2. The amount of water in polar ice caps and glaciers is more than the amount of groundwater.

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

BXC-U-FTHI/68A

29

Q 61. Which of the Following options represent a correct order of share of water resources in the Earth in descending order?

- (A) Groundwater — Inland seas and salt lakes — Atmosphere — Rivers
(B) Oceans — Ice caps — Freshwater lakes — Groundwater
(C) Ice caps — Atmosphere — Rivers — Groundwater
(D) Rivers — Inland seas and salt lakes — Groundwater — Ice caps

Q 61. (A)

So option (a) is correct.

Table 13. 1 shows distribution of water on the surface of the earth. About 71 per cent of the planetary water is found in the oceans. The remaining is held as freshwater in glaciers and icecaps, groundwater sources,

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lakes, soil moisture, atmosphere, streams and within life. Nearly 59 per cent of the water that falls on land returns to the atmosphere through evaporation from over the oceans as well as from other places. The remainder runs-off on the surface, infiltrates into the ground or a part of it becomes glacier

{33} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 70

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-32 Q-73 | Test-30 Q-31 | Test-12 Q-29

70. Consider the following statements :

1. Adenoviruses have single-stranded DNA genomes whereas retroviruses have double-stranded DNA genomes.
2. Common cold is sometime caused by an adenovirus whereas AIDS is caused by a retrovirus.

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

Q 73. Consider the following statements about the COVID-19 vaccines:

1. Covishield is based on weakened adenovirus whereas Covaxin is based on inactivated virus.
2. The gap is increased, in doses of Covishield, because it boosts the efficacy
3. ZyCoV-D is India's first indigenously developed DNA vaccine.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/ are correct?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) 1 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 73. (D)

Explanation:

• All statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

- Covishield, also known as ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 (AZD1222), is based on a weakened version of a common cold virus or the adenoviruses found in chimpanzees.
- This viral vector contains the genetic material of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein—protrusions present on the outer surface of the virus that help it bind with the human cell.
- As per scientific data, adenovirus-based vaccines are found to induce antigen-specific immune responses in humans

• HIV

o The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) targets cells of the immune system, called CD4 cells, which help the body respond to infection. Within the CD4 cell, HIV replicates and in turn, damages and destroys the cell. Without effective treatment of a combination of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, the immune system will become weakened to the point that it can no longer fight infection and disease.

{34} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 72
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-22 Q-44

72. With reference to street-lighting, how do sodium lamps differ from LED lamps?

1. Sodium lamps produce light in 360 degrees but it is not so in the case of LED lamps.
2. As street-lights, sodium lamps have longer life span than LED lamps.
3. The spectrum of visible light from sodium lamps is almost monochromatic while LED lamps offer significant colour advantages in street-lighting.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 3 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q 44. Consider the following statements with respect to Gram Ujala Programme

1. It is a customized program launched by the Ministry of Power for rural India, based uniquely and innovatively on carbon finance.
2. Under the programme, LED bulbs will be given at an affordable cost to rural consumers against submission of working Incandescent bulbs.
3. The Programme will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- A) 3 only
B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1, 2 and 3
D) None of the above

Q 44. (C)

- Ministry of Power has recently launched the Gram Ujala Programme in Arrah, Bihar through a virtual event.

Gram Ujala Programme

- It is a customized program for rural India, based uniquely and innovatively on carbon finance.
- Under the programme, 7 watt and 12-Watt LED bulbs with 3 years warranty will be given by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) to rural consumers against submission of working Incandescent bulbs.
- It will be implemented in villages of the 5 districts only and consumers can exchange a maximum of 5 LED bulbs available for only Rs.10 each.
- The programme will have a significant impact on India's climate change action.
- If all 300 million lights in India were replaced, the total energy savings would be 40,743 million kWh/year, avoided peak demand of 22,743MW/year and CO2 reductions of 37 million tons per year.
- Gram Ujala will not only give a fillip to our fight against climate change by increasing energy efficiency, but also usher in a better standard of life, financial savings, and better safety for the citizens in rural areas.
- Gram Ujala Programme will be financed entirely through carbon credits and will be the first such programme in India.

{35} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 73
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-18 Q-62 | Test-23 Q-56

73. The term 'ACE2' is talked about in the context of

- (a) genes introduced in the genetically modified plants
- (b) development of India's own satellite navigation system
- (c) radio collars for wildlife tracking
- (d) spread of viral diseases

XC-U-FTHI/68A

33

Q 62. Consider the following statements with respect to Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2)

1. It would cause blood vessels to dilate and helps in lowering blood pressure.
2. The spikes or S1 proteins of Covid-19 virus will binds to the ACE2 enzymes to get into cells and causes infection.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 62. (C)

Angiotensin Converting Enzyme 2 (ACE2)

- An enzyme called ACE alters a chemical, Angiotensin I, and converts it into Angiotensin II, which causes blood vessels to constrict.
- The tightening of the blood vessels leads to an increase in blood pressure.
- The ACE2 molecule comes in to counteract the effects of ACE, causing blood vessels to dilate and lowering blood pressure.
- The spikes that make up the crown of coronavirus bind to ACE2 enzymes to get into our cells.
- These spikes on the surface of virus are called S1 proteins, and they are what binds to the ACE2 molecule on our cells.
- The virus is then able to invade the cell by a process called endocytosis, where the cell membrane engulfs the virus and internalizes it within a bubble called an endosome.
- SARS-CoV-2, the virus behind COVID-19, has a high binding capacity for ACE2 between 10 and 20 times more than that of the original SARS virus.

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{36} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 77
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-36 Q-69

77. We adopted parliamentary democracy based on the British model, but how does our model differ from that model?

1. As regards legislation, the British Parliament is supreme or sovereign but in India, the power of the Parliament to legislate is limited.
2. In India, matters related to the constitutionality of the Amendment of an Act of the Parliament are referred to the Constitution Bench by the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 69. Parliamentary System of India is inspired from British Parliamentary System, but it is different in the sense that:

1. India has a republican system in place of British monarchical system.
2. Indian system is not based on the doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 69. (C)

Explanation:

- Both statements are correct

Supplementary notes:

Parliamentary System of India:

- The parliamentary system of government

in India is largely based on the British parliamentary system. However, it never became a replica of the British system and differs in the following respects:

- India has a republican system in place of British monarchical system. In other words, the Head of the State in India (that is, President) is elected, while the Head of the State in Britain (that is, King or Queen) enjoys a hereditary position.
- The British system is based on the doctrine of the sovereignty of Parliament, while the Parliament is not supreme in India and enjoys limited and restricted powers due to a written Constitution, federal system, judicial review and Fundamental Rights.
- In Britain, the Prime Minister should be a member of the Lower House (House of Commons) of the Parliament. In India, the Prime Minister may be a member of any of the two Houses of Parliament.
- Usually, the members of Parliament alone are appointed as Ministers in Britain. In India, a person who is not a Member of Parliament can also be appointed as minister, but for a maximum period of six months.
- Britain has the system of legal responsibility of the minister while India has no such system. Unlike in Britain, the ministers in India are not required to countersign the official acts of the Head of the State.
- 'Shadow cabinet' is a unique institution of the British cabinet system. It is formed by the opposition party to balance the ruling cabinet and to prepare its members for future ministerial office. There is no such institution in India.

{37} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 79

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-03 Q-86 | Test-50 Q-81

79. 'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 19
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 29

Q 81. Which of the following rights come under Article 21?

- 1. Right to live with human dignity.
- 2. Right to privacy
- 3. Right to freedom of silence
- 4. Right to free education up to 14 years of age.
- 5. Right to health.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (A) 1 and 5 only
- (B) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (C) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Protection of Life and Personal Liberty: Article 21

- Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens. It has declared the following rights as part of Article 21:
 - Right to live with human dignity.
 - Right to decent environment including pollution free water and air and protection against hazardous industries.
 - Right to livelihood.
 - Right to privacy.
 - Right to shelter.
 - Right to health.
 - Right against custodial harassment.
 - Right to emergency medical aid.
 - **Right to timely medical treatment in government hospital.**
 - Right not to be driven out of a state.
 - Right to fair trial.



{38} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 82
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-22 Q-64

82. With reference to India, consider the following statements :

1. Judicial custody means an accused is in the custody of the concerned magistrate and such accused is locked up in police station, not in jail.
2. During judicial custody, the police officer in charge of the case is not allowed to interrogate the suspect without the approval of the court.

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

Q 64. Consider the following statements with respect to Right to Counsel in Custody

1. It is right of an accused to be informed of the reasons for an arrest, the charges against him and the right to be provided legal assistance.

2. In police custody, officials need permission of the court for questioning while in judicial custody, the investigating authority can interrogate a person.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are incorrect?

- A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
D) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 64. (B)

Right to Counsel in Custody

- In India, the safeguards available to a person in such circumstances are enshrined in the Constitution.
- Article 20 (3) states that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
- Article 22 states that a person cannot be denied the right to consult and to be defended by a legal practitioner of his choice.
- It includes provisions that grant an accused the —right to consult|| a lawyer.
- Unlike in some countries, the lawyers in India are not allowed to be with an accused throughout their investigation.

Police v/s judicial custody

- **Police custody** means that the person is confined at a lock up or remains in the custody of the officer.
- The magistrate may remand an accused person to custody of police for a period not more than 15 days as a whole
- After lapse of 15 days or the police custody period granted by the magistrate, the person may be further remanded to judicial custody.
- In police custody, the person has the right to legal counsel, right to be informed of the grounds which the police have to ensure.
- **Judicial custody** means that the person is detained under the purview of the judicial magistrate is lodged in central or state prison.
- In judicial custody, the person can apply for a bail as per the CrPC chapter 33 pertaining to the bails and bonds.
- The judicial custody can extend up to 60 or 90 days as a whole, depending upon the maximum punishment prescribed for the offence.
- In the judicial custody in jails, while the person under responsibility of the magistrate, the Prison Manual comes into picture for routine conduct of the person.
- Thus in police custody, the investigating authority can interrogate a person while in judicial custody, officials need permission of the court for questioning.

{39} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 84

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-07 Q-54 | Test-08 Q-74 | Test-48 Q-06

84. At the national level, which ministry is the nodal agency to ensure effective implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006?

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Ministry of Rural Development
- (d) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Q 54. Consider the following statements about the Forest Rights Act, 2006:

1. It ensures livelihood and food security of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes but does not include conservation rights of the forests.
2. Land recognised under this Act can be sold or transferred between the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes.
3. According to this Act, the rights of the dwellers extend to extracting Minor Forest Produce.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 3 only
- B) 1 and 2 only
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 74. (C)

Forest Right Act, 2006 empowers the Grama sabha to manage the forest. **Hence statement 2 is incorrect.**

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is unique in being a legislation that guarantees traditional local communities, the right over forest land on which they have been dependent since ancient times. The act recognises the rights of forest dwellers, including Scheduled Tribes and others, to use, protect and manage forest resources where they live. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

It recognizes the right of ownership and also to use and collect minor forest produce. **Hence statement 3 is correct.**

It also provides for Intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity. **Hence statement 4 is correct.**

Q 6. (C)

Explanation:

• **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Land recognized under this Act cannot be sold or transferred. This can be solved through elimination also as the land under Schedule Tribes Act are not allowed to be sold.

Supplementary notes:

Schedule Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers Act 2006:

- The act recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for generations.
- The act also establishes the responsibilities and authority for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity and maintenance of ecological balance of FDST and OTFD.

{40} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 85

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-01 Q-35 | Test-03 Q-54 | Test-41 Q-70

85. A legislation which confers on the executive or administrative authority an unguided and uncontrolled discretionary power in the matter of application of law violates which one of the following Articles of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 28
- (c) Article 32
- (d) Article 44

Q 70. In the context of Polity, which of the following elements are the embodiments of Rule of Law?

- 1. Clear, publicized and stable laws.
- 2. Accountability of both Public and Private Actors under the Law.
- 3. Accessible process of legislation.
- 4. Accessible and Impartial Dispute Resolution.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (C) 1 and 4 only
- (D) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q 54.

(A) Option (a) is correct: In the given case, **Right to Equality** is violated **Right to Equality**

- It is given under Article 14 and is one of the Fundamental Rights.
- It ensures the guarantee the right to equality before law & equal protection of the laws to every person.
- It is available to both citizens and foreigners except enemy aliens.

Right to Equality contains the following provisions:

- Equality Before Law and Equal Protection of Law (Article 14)
- **Article 14** says that the State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.
- The concept of '**equality before the law**' is of **British origin** while the concept of '**equal protection of laws**' has been taken from the **American Constitution**. **Equality Before Law connotes:**
 - The absence of any special privileges,
 - The equal subjection of all persons to the ordinary law of the land administered by ordinary law courts, and
 - No person is above the law.
- The concept of '**equality before the law**' is an element of the concept of '**Rule of Law**', propounded by **A.V. Dicey, the British jurist**. **Equal Protection of Law connotes:**

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{41} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 87
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-02 Q-41

87. Which one of the following **best** defines the term 'State'?

- (a) A community of persons permanently occupying a definite territory independent of external control and possessing an organized government
- (b) A politically organized people of a definite territory and possessing an authority to govern them, maintain law and order, protect their natural rights and safeguard their means of sustenance
- (c) A number of persons who have been living in a definite territory for a very long time with their own culture, tradition and government
- (d) A society permanently living in a definite territory with a central authority, an executive responsible to the central authority and an independent judiciary

Q 41. Which of the following statements defines the difference between the 'Government' and 'State'?

1. The State is more or less permanent and continues from time immemorial whereas the Government can change with elections.
2. The state refers to a political institution representing a sovereign people occupying a definite territory whereas Government possesses no sovereignty.

Select the correct option using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 2 both
- d) None of these

Q 41.

(C) Differences between State and Government:

- The State has four elements like population, territory, Government and sovereignty. Government is a narrow concept and it is an element of the State.
- The State is more or less permanent and continues from time immemorial. But the government is temporary. It changes frequently.
- The State is generally composed of all citizens but all of them are not members of the government. The government consists of only a few selected citizens.
- The State possesses sovereignty. Its authority is absolute and unlimited. Government possesses no sovereignty, no original authority, but only derivative powers delegated by the State through its constitution. Powers of government are delegated and limited.
- The State is an abstract concept whereas government is a concrete one.
- All States are identical in character and nature. Whether big or small, the characteristics of the State do not undergo changes. But governments are of different types.
- Lastly the citizens possess rights to go against, government and not against the State. **Hence, both the statements are correct.**

{42} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 88
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-24 Q-79

88. With reference to Indian judiciary, consider the following statements :

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with prior permission of the President of India.
2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

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

Q 79. Consider the following statements:

1. Ad hoc judges are appointed by Chief Justice of India whenever there is a lack of quorum to hold or continue any session of the court.
2. The Chief Justice of the High Court concerned consults a collegium of two senior most judges for appointment of judge as an Ad hoc judge in Supreme Court.
3. The Chief Justice of India with previous consent of President can compel a retired judge to serve as a judge of Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 only
(B) 1 and 2 only
(C) 2 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 79. (A)

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Chief Justice of the High Court concerned consults the Chief Minister of that state for appointment of judge as an Ad hoc judge in Supreme Court.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** A retired judge can be appointed as a judge of Supreme Court only if he consents to do so. Thus CJI cannot compel any retired judge to serve as a judge of Supreme Court.

Supplementary notes:

Ad hoc and Retired Judges of Supreme Court

- Article 127(1) states "If at any time there should not be a quorum of the Judges of the Supreme Court available to hold or continue any session of the Court, the Chief Justice of India may, with the previous consent of the President and after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, request in writing the attendance at the sittings of the Court, as an ad hoc Judge, for such period as may be necessary, of a Judge of a High Court duly qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court to be designated by the Chief Justice of India".
- The Chief Justice of the High Court will communicate his consent to the release of a particular Judge after consulting the Chief Minister of the State in which the High Court is situated.
- Article 128 states "the Chief Justice of India may at any time, with the previous consent of the president, request any person who has held the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court or of the Federal Court or who has held the office of a Judge of a High Court and is duly qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court to sit and act as a Judge of the Supreme Court, and every such person so requested shall, while so sitting and acting, be entitled to such allowances as the President may by order determine and have all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of, but shall not otherwise be deemed to be, a Judge of that Court: Provided that nothing in this article shall be deemed to require any such person as aforesaid to sit and act as a Judge of that Court unless he consents so to do".

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court recently cleared the way for appointment of retired judges as ad-hoc judges in High Courts to deal with mounting backlog of cases.

{43} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 89

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-02 Q-05 | Test-03 Q-72 | Test-36 Q-55

89. With reference to India, consider the following statements :

1. There is only one citizenship and one domicile.
2. A citizen by birth only can become the Head of State.
3. A foreigner once granted the citizenship cannot be deprived of it under any circumstances.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 2 and 3

Q 5. In which of the following ways a person can lose a citizenship of India?

1. By renunciation
2. By termination
3. By deprivation

Identify the correct answer:

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1,2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Q 55. Consider the following:

1. When an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country.
 2. The citizen has been ordinarily resident out of India for seven years continuously.
 3. The citizen has, within five years after registration or naturalization, been imprisoned in any country for two years.
- Which of the above is/are some of the ways of losing citizenship whether acquired under the Act or prior to it under the Constitution?

- (A) 1 and 2 only
- (B) 3 only
- (C) 1 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 5.

(C) Loss of Citizenship

The Citizenship Act, 1955 lays down three modes by which an Indian citizen may lose his/her citizenship. These are renunciation, termination and deprivation. Renunciation It is a voluntary act by which a person, after Requiring the citizenship of another country, gives up his Indian citizenship. This provision is subject to certain conditions. Termination Takes place by operation of law when an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires the citizenship of another country. He automatically ceases to be an Indian citizen. Deprivation It is a compulsory termination of the citizenship of India obtained by registration or Naturalization, by the Government of India, on charges of using fraudulent means to acquire citizenship.

{44} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 91
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-03 Q-87 | Test-41 Q-80

91. Under the Indian Constitution, concentration of wealth violates

- (a) the Right to Equality
- (b) the Directive Principles of State Policy
- (c) the Right to Freedom
- (d) the Concept of Welfare

Q 87. Which of the following Directive Principles of State Policy is/are not based on Socialist principles?

1. Equal pay for equal work.
2. Free legal aid to the poor.
3. Participation of workers in the management of industries.
4. Protection and improvement of the environment.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

Q 80. (D)

EXPLANATION:

Article 39 - The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing

- (a) that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means to livelihood;
- (b) that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good;
- (c) that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment;
- (d) that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women;
- (e) that the health and strength of workers, men and women, and the tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength;;
- (f) that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment. So, Option (a) is not correct.

{45} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 92

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-02 Q-63 | Test-03 Q-04 | Test-03 Q-23

92. What is the position of the Right to Property in India?

- (a) Legal right available to citizens only
- (b) Legal right available to any person
- (c) Fundamental Right available to citizens only
- (d) Neither Fundamental Right nor legal right

Q 4. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding the Right to Property?

- (a) Constitution of India originally provided for a Fundamental Right to 'acquire, possess and maintain' property.
- (b) In 1973, the Supreme Court of India held that the Right to Property was not a part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
- (c) The 44th amendment to the Constitution was related to Right to Property.
- (d) Presently, Right to Property is a legal right under Article 31A.

Q 4.

(D) Option (d) is incorrect: In 1978, the 44th amendment to the Constitution removed the Right to Property from the list of Fundamental Rights and converted it into a **legal right under Article 300 A. Right to Property**

- In the Constitution, originally, there was a Fundamental Right to 'acquire, possess and maintain' property.
- But the Constitution made it clear that property could be taken away by the government for public welfare.
- Finally, in 1973, the Supreme Court of India gave a decision that the **Right to Property was not a part of the basic structure of the Constitution** and therefore, Parliament had the power to abridge this right by an amendment.

{46} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 93

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-01 Q-62 | Test-01 Q-95 | Test-03 Q-81

93. What was the exact constitutional status of India on 26th January, 1950?

- (a) A Democratic Republic
- (b) A Sovereign Democratic Republic
- (c) A Sovereign Secular Democratic Republic
- (d) A Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic

Q 81. Consider the following statements regarding the Preamble of the Indian Constitution:

- 1. It is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
- 2. It is a part of the Indian Constitution.
- 3. Since the time of adoption, it has been amended two times.
- 4. The words Socialist, Secular and Republic were added by 42nd amendment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q 81.

(B) Statement 1 is incorrect: The Preamble to the Indian Constitution is based on the 'Objectives Resolution', drafted and moved by **Pandit Nehru**, and adopted by the Constituent Assembly.

• **Statement 3 and 4 are incorrect:** Since the time of adoption, it has been amended only once by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976), which added three new words: **Socialist, Secular and Integrity.**
Preamble of Indian Constitution

• **In the Berubari Union case 1960;** the Supreme Court stated that **Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.**

• But, in 1973, in the **Kesavananda Bharati case**, the Supreme Court held that **Preamble is a part of the Indian Constitution.** Hence, the current opinion held by the Supreme Court that the Preamble is **a part of the Constitution**, is in consonance with the opinion of the founding fathers of the Constitution.

• However, two things should be noted:

• The Preamble is neither a source of power to legislature nor a prohibition upon the powers of legislature.

• It is **non-justiciable**, that is, its provisions are not enforceable in courts of law.

{47} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 94

> UPSC with Nikhil Test-36 Q-11 | Test-32 Q-90 | Test-02 Q-62

94. Constitutional government means

- (a) a representative government of a nation with federal structure
- (b) a government whose Head enjoys nominal powers
- (c) a government whose Head enjoys real powers
- (d) a government limited by the terms of the Constitution

Q 62. The Constitution limits the power of the Government by means of:

- 1. Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression.
- 2. Right to Constitutional Remedies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 11. Consider the following statements regarding the function of Constitution:

- 1. It provides a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of a society.
- 2. It enables the government to fulfill the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society.
- 3. It expresses the fundamental identity of people.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (A) 1 and 3 only
- (B) 1 and 2 only
- (C) 2 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 62.

(C)

Both statements are correct
Supplementary notes: Constitutions limit the power of government in many ways

- The most common way of limiting the power of government is to specify certain fundamental rights that all of us possess as citizens and which no government can violate. Citizens will be protected from being arrested arbitrarily and for no reason. This is one basic limitation upon the power of government.

Right to Constitutional Remedies

- **Right to freedom of speech and expression** has established media as the fourth pillar of democracy and ensured a check on government.

• **Limitations on the powers of government**

- Another important function of a constitution is to set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that government may never trespass them.

- The most common way of limiting the power of government is to specify certain fundamental rights that all of us possess as citizens and which no government can ever be allowed to violate.

- Citizens will be protected from being arrested arbitrarily and for no reason. This is one basic limitation upon the power of government. Citizens will normally have the right to some basic liberties: to freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of association, freedom to conduct a trade or business etc.

{48} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 95
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-04 Q-79

95. With reference to India, the terms 'Halbi, Ho and Kui' pertain to
- (a) dance forms of Northwest India
 - (b) musical instruments
 - (c) pre-historic cave paintings
 - (d) tribal languages

Q 79. Consider the following pairs:

(Tribes)	(State)
1. Cholanayakkan -	Kerala
2. Rabha -	Andhra Pradesh
3. Kui -	Assam

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 1 and 3 only
- (C) 2 and 3 only
- (D) 1, 2 and 3

Q 79. (A)

The Cholanaikkans or Cholanayakkan are an ethnic group of India. They primarily inhabit the southern Kerala State, especially Silent Valley National Park, and are one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes of the region. The Cholanaikkans speak the Cholanaikkan language, which belongs to the Dravidian family. So, pair 1 is correctly matched.

Rabha is a little known Scheduled Tribe community of West Bengal and Assam and Meghalaya. The language/dialect spoken by the Rabha people is also of the same name. The whole area of Eastern and Western Dooars may be termed as the cradle land of the Rabhas. So, pair 2 is not correctly matched.

Kuitribals are one of the 18 Kondh tribes in the State list of the Orissa Government. Kondhs speak the Kui and Kuvi languages. Traditionally hunter-gatherers, they are divided into the hill-dwelling Khonds and plain-dwelling Khonds for census purposes. These tribals still continue to call themselves as 'Kui people' and their hills as 'kui country'. Kondhs are a Dravidian-speaking tribal people of India. So, pair 3 is not correctly matched.

{49} UPSC 2021/ Set-A / Q- 99
> UPSC with Nikhil Test-35 Q-12

99. Consider the following statements in respect of the 32nd Summer Olympics :

1. The official motto for this Olympics is 'A New World'.
2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this Olympics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q 12. Which of the following sport has recently been included in Olympics by International Olympic Committee to make debut in Paris 2024 Olympics?

- (A) Skateboarding
(B) Surfing
(C) Breakdancing
(D) None

Q 12. (C)

Explanation:

- Option (c) is correct

Supplementary notes:

Olympics

- Breakdancing will make its Olympics debut at Paris 2024, as decided by International Olympic Committee.
- It will be the first Dance Sport event to appear at an Olympic Games, having been staged at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires few years ago.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board had also announced that skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing will debut at the postponed Tokyo Olympic- 2020.
- Games at Tokyo 2021



Thank You!