

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

12th to 18th December 2022

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



Polity- Governance and Governance

Q.1) Which of the following is/are benefit/s of e-governance?

1. Better delivery of government services to citizens.
2. Citizen empowerment through access to information.
3. Less corruption in administration.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The benefits (or advantages or goals) of e-Governance are as follows:

- Better delivery of government services to citizens
- Improved interactions with business and industry
- Citizen empowerment through access to information
- More efficient government management
- Less corruption in administration
- Increased transparency in administration
- Greater convenience to citizens and businesses
- Cost reductions and revenue growth

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.2) Which of the following initiative/s is/are taken by government to promote e – governance in India?

1. Creation of Ministry of Information Technology.
2. The Information Technology Act (2000) was enacted.
3. The National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) was set-up at Hyderabad.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The various steps taken to promote e-Governance in India are as follows:

- A National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development was set-up in 1998.
- The Ministry of Information Technology was created at the Centre in 1999.
- In the year 2000, a 12-point minimum agenda for e-Governance was identified for implementation in all the central ministries and departments.
- The Information Technology Act (2000) was enacted. This Act was amended in 2008.
- The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Design Act (2000) was enacted.
- The first National Conference of States IT Ministers was organized in the year 2000, for arriving at a Common Action Plan to promote IT in India.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- The National Institute for Smart Government (NISG) was set-up at Hyderabad in the year 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.3) Which of the following pair/pairs is/are correct?

1. E- Seva : Tamil Nadu
2. FRIENDS : Andhra Pradesh
3. E – Mitra : Rajasthan

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The state governments launched e-Governance projects like e-seva (Andhra Pradesh), Bhoomi (Karnataka), Gyandoot (Madhya Pradesh), Lokvani (Uttar Pradesh), FRIENDS (Kerala), e-mitra (Rajasthan) and so on.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.4) The national e – Governance plan was launched in which of the following year?

- a) 2004
- b) 2005
- c) 2006
- d) 2008

ANS: C

Explanation: The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was launched in 2006. Initially, it consisted of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 8 support components.

Later, in 2011, 4 more projects (health, education, PDS and posts) were introduced. With this, the number of MMPs increased from 27 to 31.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.5) Which of the following is/are function/s of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

1. Regulating the business in stock exchanges and any other securities markets.
2. Registering and regulating the working of venture capital funds and collective investment schemes including mutual funds.
3. Promoting and regulating self-regulatory organizations.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. Its objective is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market. Its functions are:

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- regulating the business in stock exchanges and any other securities markets
- registering and regulating the working of intermediaries who are associated with securities markets in any manner
- registering and regulating the working of venture capital funds and collective investment schemes including mutual funds
- promoting and regulating self-regulatory organizations and
- Prohibiting fraudulent and unfair trade practices relating to securities markets.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)”:

1. It was constituted under the provisions of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.
2. It ensures uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under the provisions of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006. Its mandate is:

- to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas
- to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country
- to ensure development of essential infrastructure and its optimum utilisation
- to protect the interests of both consumers as well as the entities operating in this sector
- to facilitate and promote a competitive market and
- to provide a level playing field to ensure flow of massive investments.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Bar Council of India (BCI)”:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Bar Council of India (BCI) is a statutory body constituted under the Advocates Act, 1961 to regulate and represent the Indian bar. Its functions are as follows:

- To lay down standards of professional conduct and etiquette for advocates.
- To safeguard the rights, privileges and interests of advocates.
- To promote and support law reform.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- To promote legal education and to lay down standards of legal education.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)”:

1. The chairman of the council is Prime Minister.
2. The council deals with macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up as the apex level forum in 2010.

- The Chairman of the Council is the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC); Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Financial Services; and Chief Economic Adviser.
- The Council deals with issues relating macro prudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.9) The “National Green Tribunal (NGT)” is often seen in news was established in?

- a) 2005
- b) 2008
- c) 2010
- d) 2014

ANS: C

Explanation: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in the year 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

It also deals with the cases pertaining to the enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “Law Commission of India”:

1. It is a non-statutory advisory body.
2. Its function is to recommend the legislative measures for the purpose of consolidation and codification of laws.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory advisory body. It is established by an order of the Central Government from time to time for a fixed tenure. Its function is to recommend the legislative measures for the purpose of consolidation and codification of laws. However, its recommendations are not binding on the government.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Polity - RTI, Citizen's Charter & Anticorruption

Q.1) Which of the following country was the first to introduce citizen charter?

- a) United States of America
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Russia
- d) Australia

ANS: B

Explanation: The concept of a citizens' charter was first articulated and implemented in the United Kingdom by the Conservative Government of John Major in 1991 as a national programme with a simple aim: to continuously improve upon the quality of public services for the people of the country so that these services respond to the needs and wishes of the users.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the principle/s of citizen charter?

- 1. Quality
- 2. Accountability
- 3. Transparency

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: The six principles of the citizens' charter movement, as originally framed, were:

- Quality: Improving the quality of services
- Choice: For the users wherever possible
- Standards: Specifying what to expect within a time frame and how to act if standards are not met
- Value: For the taxpayers' money
- Accountability: Of the service provider (individual as well as an organisation) and
- Transparency: In rules, procedures, schemes and grievances redressal.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.3) "Sevottam model" is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Decentralized administration
- b) Citizen charter
- c) Peoples participation in administration
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: The citizens' charter is one of the three modules/components of the "Sevottam Model"—the other two being public grievance redressal and service delivery capability.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- Sevottam is a “Service Delivery Excellence Model” which provides an assessment-improvement framework to bring about excellence in public service delivery.
- The term “Sevottam” is formed by joining two Hindi words “seva” and “uttam” meaning “service” and “excellence” respectively.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.4) In which of the following year the RTI Act was introduced?

- a) 2000
- b) 2001
- c) 2005
- d) 2010

ANS: C

Explanation: The right to information is a fundamental right under Article 19 (1) of the Indian Constitution.

- In 1976, in the Raj Narain vs the State of Uttar Pradesh case, the Supreme Court ruled that Right to information will be treated as a fundamental right under article 19.
- The Supreme Court held that in Indian democracy, people are the masters and they have the right to know about the working of the government.
- Thus the government enacted the Right to Information act in 2005 which provides machinery for exercising this fundamental right.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.5) “Section 2 (h)” of RTI act is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Public authorities
- b) Proactively disclose information
- c) Simple procedure for securing information
- d) Information exempted from disclosure

ANS: A

Explanation: Section 2(h): Public authorities mean all authorities and bodies under the union government, state government or local bodies.

The civil societies that are substantially funded, directly or indirectly, by the public funds also fall within the ambit of RTI.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Committee on Public Undertakings:

1. It was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee.
2. It consists of 22 members.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Committee on Public Undertakings: This committee was created in 1964 on the recommendation of the Krishna Menon Committee.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- Originally, it had 15 members (10 from the Lok Sabha and 5 from the Rajya Sabha). However, in 1974, its membership was raised to 22 (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).
- The members of this committee are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its own members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote.

Source: Laxmikanth Governance

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding ethics committee in Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha:

1. It was constituted in rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha in 2000.
2. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Ethics Committee: This committee was constituted in Rajya Sabha in 1997 and in Lok Sabha in 2000.

- It enforces the code of conduct of members of Parliament. It examines the cases of misconduct and recommends appropriate action.
- Thus, it is engaged in maintaining discipline and decorum in Parliament.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)”:

1. It was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi.
2. It exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states.

- At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow.
- These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts. The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it.
- Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Under Article 323 B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to which of the following?

1. Taxation
2. Foreign Exchange
3. Land Reforms

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Under Article 323 B, the Parliament and the state legislatures are authorised to provide for the establishment of tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to the following matters:

(a) Taxation (b) Foreign exchange, import and export (c) Industrial and labour (d) Land reforms (e) Ceiling on urban property (f) Elections to Parliament and state legislatures (g) Food stuffs (h) Rent and tenancy rights.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Part VI” of Indian Constitution is related to which of the following?

- a) Tribunals
- b) Subordinate courts
- c) Scheduled languages
- d) Seats allocation for Rajya Sabha

ANS: B

Explanation: Articles 233 to 237 in Part VI of the Constitution make the following provisions to regulate the organization of subordinate courts and to ensure their independence from the executive.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity - Special Provisions, Civil Society and Social audit

Q.1) “Article 371 – A” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Nagaland
- b) Tripura
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Gujarat

ANS: A

Explanation: Article 371-A makes the following special provisions for Nagaland: The Acts of Parliament relating to the following matters would not apply to Nagaland unless the State Legislative Assembly so decides:

- religious or social practices of the Nagas;
- Naga customary law and procedure;
- administration of civil and criminal justice involving decision according to Naga customary law; and
- Ownership and transfer of land and its resources.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/jammu-kashmir-amit-shah-what-is-article-371-what-does-it-say-5884176/>

Q.2) Which of the following is/are the recommendation/s of Balwant Rai G Mehta committee?

1. Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system.
2. All three tier system would be elected directly.
3. All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: In January 1957, the Government of India appointed a committee to examine the working of the Community Development Programme (1952) and the National Extension Service (1953) and to suggest measures for their better working. The chairman of this committee was Balwant Rai G Mehta.

The committee submitted its report in November 1957 and recommended the establishment of the scheme of ‘democratic decentralisation’, which ultimately came to be known as Panchayati Raj.

The specific recommendations made by it are:

- Establishment of a three-tier panchayati raj system—gram panchayat at the village level, panchayat samiti at the block level and zila parishad at the district level. These tiers should be organically linked through a device of indirect elections.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- The village panchayat should be constituted with directly elected representatives, whereas the panchayat samiti and zila parishad should be constituted with indirectly elected members.
- All planning and development activities should be entrusted to these bodies.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are recommendation/s of Ashok Mehta Committee?

1. The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system.
2. Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
3. There should be an official participation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: In December 1977, the Janata Government appointed a committee on panchayati raj institutions under the chairmanship of Ashok Mehta.

It submitted its report in August 1978 and made 132 recommendations to revive and strengthen the declining panchayati raj system in the country. Its main recommendations were:

- The three-tier system of panchayati raj should be replaced by the two-tier system, that is, zila parishad at the district level, and below it, the mandal panchayat consisting of a group of villages with a total population of 15,000 to 20,000.
- A district should be the first point for decentralization under popular supervision below the state level.
- Zila parishad should be the executive body and made responsible for planning at the district level.
- There should be an official participation of political parties at all levels of panchayat elections.
- The panchayati raj institutions should have compulsory powers of taxation to mobilize their own financial resources.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) “The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government” is related to?

- a) Article 36
- b) Article 40
- c) Article 243
- d) Article 243 – G

ANS: B

Explanation: This act has added a new Part-IX to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as ‘The Panchayats’ and consists of provisions from Articles 243 to 243 O.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- In addition, the act has also added a new Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains 29 functional items of the panchayats. It deals with Article 243-G.
- The act has given a practical shape to Article 40 of the Constitution which says that, “The State shall take steps to organise village panchayats and endow them with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as units of self-government.”
- This article forms a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/panchayats-at-the-cusp-of-new-phase-of-governance/articleshow>

Q.5) Which of the following statement is NOT correct regarding 73rd Constitutional Amendment?

- a) Gram Sabha is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.
- b) All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people.
- c) The act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women.
- d) A state having a population not exceeding 40 lakh may not constitute panchayats at the intermediate level.

ANS: D

Explanation: The act provides for a Gram Sabha as the foundation of the panchayati raj system. It is a body consisting of persons registered in the electoral rolls of a village comprised within the area of Panchayat at the village level.

- The act provides for a three-tier system of panchayati raj in every state, that is, panchayats at the village, intermediate, and district levels.
- Thus, the act brings about uniformity in the structure of panchayati raj throughout the country.
- However, a state having a population not exceeding 20 lakh may not constitute panchayats at the intermediate level.
- All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people.
- Further, the chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels shall be elected indirectly-by and from amongst the elected members thereof.
- The act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging the SCs and STs).

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.6) Which of the following functional item/s is/are under the purview of panchayats under 11th Schedule?

1. Land improvement
2. Watershed development
3. Fisheries

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: 11th Schedule contains the following 29 functional items placed within the purview of panchayats:

- Agriculture, including agricultural extension
- Land improvement, implementation of land reforms, land consolidation and soil conservation
- Minor irrigation, water management and watershed development
- Animal husbandry, dairying and poultry
- Fisheries
- Social forestry and farm forestry
- Minor forest produce
- Small-scale industries, including food processing industries
- Khadi, village and cottage industries
- Rural housing
- Drinking water

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following state/s is/are part of fifth scheduled area/s?

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Telangana
3. Karnataka

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: B

Explanation: At present (2019), ten states have Fifth Schedule Areas. These are: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Rajasthan.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following is the first municipal corporation of India?

- a) Madras
- b) Bombay
- c) Calcutta
- d) Mysore

ANS: A

Explanation: The institutions of urban local government originated and developed in modern India during the period of British rule. The major events in this context are as follows:

- (i) In 1688, the first municipal corporation in India was set up at Madras.
- (ii) In 1726, the municipal corporations were set up in Bombay and Calcutta.
- (iii) Lord Mayo's Resolution of 1870 on financial decentralisation visualised the development of local self-government institutions.
- (iv) Lord Ripon's Resolution of 1882 has been hailed as the 'Magna Carta' of local self-government. He is called as the father of local-self government in India.
- (v) The Royal Commission on decentralisation was appointed in 1907 and it submitted its report in 1909. Its chairman was Hobhouse.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) Which of the following statement is NOT correct regarding 74th amendment act?

- a) The act has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India.
- b) The act has added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution.
- c) The act gave constitutional status to the municipalities.
- d) The twelfth schedule contains twenty eight functional items of municipalities.

ANS: D

Explanation: The Act has added a new Part IX-A to the Constitution of India. This part is entitled as 'The Municipalities' and consists of provisions from Articles 243-P to 243-ZG.

- In addition, the act has also added a new Twelfth Schedule to the Constitution. This schedule contains eighteen functional items of municipalities. It deals with Article 243-W.
- The act gave constitutional status to the municipalities. It has brought them under the purview of justiciable part of the Constitution.
- In other words, state governments are under constitutional obligation to adopt the new system of municipalities in accordance with the provisions of the act.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) Which of the following functional item/s is/are under the purview of municipalities under 12th Schedule?

1. Urban planning
2. Regulation of land use
3. Fire services

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: contains the following 18 functional items placed within the purview of municipalities:

- Urban planning including town planning;
- Regulation of land use and construction of buildings;
- Planning for economic and social development;
- Roads and bridges;
- Water supply for domestic, industrial and commercial purposes;
- Public health, sanitation, conservancy and solid waste management;
- Fire services;

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Polity - Political Parties & Public Policy

Q.1) “Tenth Schedule” is often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Reservation in employment & education
- b) Anti – defection law
- c) Classical languages
- d) Seat allocation of Rajya Sabha

ANS: B

Explanation: The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution (which talks about the anti-defection law) is designed to prevent political defections prompted by the lure of office or material benefits or other like considerations.

The Anti-defection law was passed by Parliament in 1985 and reinforced in 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.2) Which of the following action/s come/s under the definition of disqualification of Anti – defection law?

1. A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified, if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party.
2. A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified, if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
3. An independent member of a House becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House,

- if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.

From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.

Independent Members: An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.3) Which of the following is/are provision/s of 91st Amendment Act of 2003?

1. The total number of ministers, excluding the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
2. A member of either House of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
3. The number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The 91st Amendment Act of 2003 has made the following provisions to limit the size of Council of Ministers, to debar defectors from holding public offices, and to strengthen the antidefection law:

- The total number of ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Central Council of Ministers shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Lok Sabha.
- A member of either House of Parliament belonging to any political party who is disqualified on the ground of defection shall also be disqualified to be appointed as a minister.
- The total number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a state shall not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the Legislative Assembly of that state.
- But, the number of ministers, including the Chief Minister, in a state shall not be less than 12.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.4) Which of the following is/are pressure group/s (business group/s)?

1. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
2. Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India
3. Federation of All India Food grain Dealers Association

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: A large number of pressure groups exist in India. But, they are not developed to the same extent as in the US or the western countries like Britain, France, and Germany and so on. The pressure groups in India can be broadly classified into the following categories:

Business Groups: The business groups include a large number of industrial and commercial bodies. They are the most sophisticated, the most powerful and the largest of all pressure groups in India. They include:

- (i) Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI); major constituents are the Indian Merchants Chamber of Bombay, Indian Merchants

- Chamber of Calcutta and South Indian Chamber of Commerce of Madras. It broadly represents major industrial and trading interests.
- (ii) Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM); major constituents are the Bengal Chamber of Commerce of Calcutta and Central Commercial Organisation of Delhi. ASSOCHAM represents foreign British capital.
 - (iii) Federation of All India Food grain Dealers Association (FAIFDA). FAIFDA is the sole representative of the grain dealers.
 - (iv) All-India Manufacturers Organization (AIMO). AIMO raises the concerns of the medium-sized industry.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.5) Which of the following is/are goal/s of National Health Policy 2017?

1. Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 5 % by 2025.
2. Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 80 by 2025.
3. Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The indicative, quantitative goals and objectives are outlined under three broad components viz. (a) health status and programme impact, (b) health systems performance and (c) health system strengthening. These goals and objectives are aligned to achieve sustainable development in health sector in keeping with the policy thrust.

Life Expectancy and healthy life:

- Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
- Establish regular tracking of Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY) Index as a measure of burden of disease and its trends by major categories by 2022.
- Reduction of TFR to 2.1 at national and sub-national level by 2025.

Health finance:

- Increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP from the existing 1.15% to 2.5 % by 2025.
- Increase State sector health spending to > 8% of their budget by 2020.
- Decrease in proportion of households facing catastrophic health expenditure from the current levels by 25%, by 2025.

Source: https://www.nhp.gov.in/nhpfiles/national_health_policy_2017.pdf

Q.6) “Gujral Doctrine” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) National integration policy
- b) Space policy
- c) Foreign policy
- d) Agricultural policy

ANS: C

Explanation: The Gujral Doctrine is a milestone in India’s foreign policy. It was propounded and initiated in 1996 by I.K. Gujral, the then Foreign Minister in the Deve Gowda Government.

- The doctrine advocates that India, being the biggest country in South Asia, should extend unilateral concessions to the smaller neighbours.
- In other words, the doctrine is formulated on India’s accommodating approach towards its smaller neighbours on the basis of the principle of non-reciprocity.
- It recognises the supreme importance of friendly and cordial relations with India’s neighbours.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.7) Which of the following is/are salient feature/s of Indian Nuclear Doctrine?

1. Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
2. A posture of “No First Use”.
3. Nuclear retaliatory attacks can only be authorized by the civilian political leadership.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: India adopted its nuclear doctrine in 2003. The salient features of this doctrine are as follows:

- Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
- A posture of “No First Use” - nuclear weapons will only be used in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian Territory or on Indian forces anywhere.
- Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.
- Nuclear retaliatory attacks can only be authorized by the civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.
- Non-use of nuclear weapons against nonnuclear weapon states.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.8) Which of the following country/countries is/are NOT part of “Connect Central Asia” policy of India?

1. Azerbaijan
2. Kazakhstan
3. Uzbekistan

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: India launched the “Connect Central Asia” Policy in 2012. This policy is aimed at strengthening and expanding of India’s relations with the Central Asian countries.

These countries include Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.9) “M.N. Venkatachaliah commission” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Constitution review
- b) Tax reforms
- c) Bilateral partnership agreements
- d) Finance commission

ANS: A

Explanation: The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) was set up by a resolution of the Government of India in 2000.

The 11-member Commission was headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah, the former Chief Justice of India. It submitted its report in 2002.

Source: Laxmikanth Polity

Q.10) “Paris Club” is often seen in news is related to?

- a) Creditor nations
- b) UNSC reforms
- c) Export control regimes
- d) Island countries to control sea rise

ANS: A

Explanation: It is an informal group of official creditors from 22 wealthy countries who find sustainable solutions for challenges faced by debtor countries.

- It provides a platform for governments facing financial difficulties to reduce and renegotiate their debt repayments.
- Formed in 1956, it has signed more than 400 agreements to date, worth more than half a trillion dollars to about 100 countries.
- The “G20 Common Framework” is an initiative endorsed by the G20 together with the Paris Club.
- Other creditor nations are allowed to participate in negotiation meetings on a case-by-case basis, if they meet certain conditions.

Source: FORUMIAS

History – Pre historic India and Indus Valley Civilization

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “early stone age”:

1. The first Paleolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote.
2. The Acheulian tradition is predominantly found in the Western Ghats, coastal areas and north-eastern India.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The earliest lithic artefacts come from different parts of the Indian subcontinent. During the Lower Paleolithic cultural phase, human ancestor species of Homo erectus is believed to have lived in India.

- The first Paleolithic tools were identified at the site of Pallavaram near Chennai by Robert Bruce Foote in 1863. He found many prehistoric sites when he extensively surveyed different parts of South India.
- Since then, numerous Paleolithic sites have been identified and excavated all over India. The industries of Palaeolithic cultures are divided into the Early, Middle and Late Acheulian Industries.
- The early Acheulian tools include polyhedrons, spheroids, hand axes, cleavers and flake tools.
- The Acheulian tradition is absent in the Western Ghats, coastal areas and north-eastern India. Heavy rainfall is attributed to its absence.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) “Hunsgi valley” is a famous Paleolithic site located in which of the following state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

ANS: D

Explanation: Lower Paleolithic tools are found in most parts of India, except in a few regions of the Ganges valley, southern Tamil Nadu and in the hilly areas of the Western Ghats.

Athirampakkam, Pallavaram and Gudiyam near Chennai, Hunsgi valley and Isampur in Karnataka, and Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh are some important Paleolithic sites where the Acheulian tools are found.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) “Acheulian and Sohanian industries” are related to which of the following?

- a) Cave paintings
- b) Stone tools industry
- c) Metallic tools industry
- d) None of the above

ANS: B

Explanation: Based on research, two independent cultural traditions of hand axe (Acheulian) and pebble-flake (Sohanian) industries were confirmed in India.

- Acheulian industry mainly had hand axes and cleavers. The Sohan industry is considered to have used only chopper and chopping tools.
- The Sohan industry gets its name from the Sohan river valley of Pakistan. These two cultural traditions are not considered distinct any longer.
- Recent studies argue that there was no independent Sohan tradition as Acheulian tools are found in the Sohan industry as well.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Which of the following Neolithic site/s pair/s is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Burzahom : Kashmir
- 2. Sangankallu : Tamil Nadu
- 3. Daojali Hading : West Bengal

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The Neolithic period marked the beginning of agriculture and animal domestication. It is an important phase in Indian history.

- Neolithic culture in Kashmir region was contemporary to the Harappan civilisation. Burzahom, an important site of this culture, provides evidence for the Megalithic and Early Historic Periods.
- Sanganakallu, Tekkalakota, Brahmagiri, Maski, Piklihal, Watkal, Hemmige and Hallur in Karnataka, Nagarjunakonda, Ramapuram and Veerapuram in Andhra Pradesh and Paiyyampalli in Tamil Nadu are the major Neolithic sites in South India.
- Daojali Hading and Sarutaru are the Neolithic sites in the Assam region.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Indus Valley Civilization:

1. It represent first phase of urbanization in India.
2. Harappa was the first site to be identified in this civilization.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indus Civilisation represents the first phase of urbanisation in India.

- The civilisation that appeared in the northwestern part of India and Pakistan in third millennium BCE is collectively called the Indus Civilisation.
- Since Harappa was the first site to be identified in this civilisation, it is also known as Harappan Civilisation.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Which of the following is/are the feature/s of Harappan Civilization?

1. Fortification, wellplanned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns.
2. The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks, and stones for construction.
3. The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks.

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Harappa (Punjab, Pakistan), Mohenjo-Daro (Sindh, Pakistan), Dholavira, Lothal, and Surkotada (Gujarat, India), Kalibangan and Banawali (Rajasthan, India), and Rakhigarhi (Haryana, India) are the major cities in the Harappan period.

- Fortification, wellplanned streets and lanes and drainages are noticed in the Harappan towns. A civic authority perhaps controlled the planning of the towns.
- The Harappans used baked and unbaked bricks, and stones for construction. The towns had a grid pattern and drainages were systematically built.
- The houses were built of mud bricks while the drainages were built with burnt bricks. Houses had more than one floor.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) The term “Zebu” is related to which of the following?

- a) Cattle
- b) Horse
- c) Gharial
- d) Elephant

ANS: A

Explanation: Pastoralism was also practised by the Harappans. They domesticated sheep, goat and fowl.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- They had knowledge of various other animals including buffalo, pig and elephant. But horse was not known to them.
- The Harappan cattle are called Zebu. It is a large breed, often represented in their seals.
- They also ate fish and birds. Evidence of boar, deer and gharial has been found at the Harappan sites.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?

1. Lapis lazuli : Shortughai
2. Carnelian : Lothal
3. Copper : Rajasthan

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Certain Harappan sites specialised in the production of certain craft materials. The following table presents the major centres of craft production.

Material	Site or Source
Shell	Nageshwar and Balakot
Lapis lazuli	Shortughai
Carnelian	Lothal
Steatite	South Rajasthan
Copper	Rajasthan and Oman

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The term “Meluhha” for Indus valley civilization was used by?

- a) Sumerians
- b) Mesopotamians
- c) Persians
- d) Egyptians

ANS: B

Explanation: One of the sources of Harappan economy was trade and exchange activities. Harappans had close trade contacts with the Mesopotamians and also with various cultures of India.

- The Harappan seals and materials have been found in the Sumerian sites in Oman, Bahrain, and Iraq and Iran.
- The cuneiform inscriptions mention the trade contacts between Mesopotamia and Harappans.
- The mention of “Meluhha” in the cuneiform inscriptions refers to the Indus region.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Indus Valley Civilization:

1. The Indus people worshipped nature.
2. The people in Indus valley had developed proper weights which exhibit a binary system.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indus people worshipped nature. They worshipped the pipal tree. Some of the terracotta figures appear to be mother goddess.

- Fire altars have been identified at Kalibangan. They buried the dead. Burials were made elaborately and evidence of cremation is also reported.
- The Harappan burials have pottery, ornaments, jewellery, copper mirrors and beads. These suggest their belief in an afterlife. Harappans had developed proper weights and measures.
- Since they were involved in commercial transactions, they needed standard measures. Cubical chert weights have been unearthed from Harappan sites.
- The weights exhibit a binary system. The ratio of weight is doubled as 1:2:4:8:16:32. The small weight measure of 16th ratio weighs 13.63 grams.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

History – Early and Later Vedic civilization

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding early & later Vedic civilization:

1. The Early Vedic culture is correlated with some of the Chalcolithic cultures of India.
2. The Later Vedic culture is correlated with the Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age in North India.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The Early Vedic culture is correlated with some of the Chalcolithic cultures of India, while the Later Vedic culture is correlated with the Painted Grey Ware Culture of the Iron Age in North India.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.2) The “Zend Avesta” is related to which of the following?

- a) Zoroastrianism
- b) Buddhism
- c) Jainism
- d) Sikhism

ANS: A

Explanation: The Zend Avesta is a Persian/Iranian text of Zoroastrianism. This book speaks about the lands and gods of the people speaking the Indo-Iranian languages.

- It has references to the regions of northern and north-western parts of India. It has terms which show linguistic similarity with the Vedas.
- This text is indirect evidence that the early home of the Aryans was outside the Indian subcontinent.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.
2. Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The main collections of Vedic hymns are called samhitas. The Rig Vedicsamhita is the earliest text. The Rig Veda is dated to between 1500 and 1000 BCE.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- The Rig Veda contains 10 books. Books 2 to 7 are the earliest and the Books 1, 8, 9 and 10 are assigned to a later period.
- Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.
- Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. The Upanishads contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages.
2. The Aranyakas deal with philosophical enquiries.

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Samhitas are ritualistic texts, and they explain the social and religious importance of rituals.

- Each samhita has added texts called brahmanas, which have commentaries on the hymns and rituals.
- Each brahmana has an aranyaka (forest text) and an upanishad.
- The aranyakas contain mystical ritual instructions to be undertaken in secret by the sages who live in the forests.
- Upanishads deal with philosophical enquiries.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.5) Which of the following Veda contains charms and magical spells?

- a) Rig Veda
- b) Sama Veda
- c) Yajur Veda
- d) Atharva Veda

ANS: D

Explanation: The Yajur, Sama and Atharva Vedas are dated to a slightly later period.

- The samhitas of the Sama, Yajur and Atharva Vedas, and the brahmanas, aranyakas and upanishads attached to the Vedas are the Late Vedic texts.
- The Sama Veda was composed in musical notes which are considered to constitute the basis of Indian music.
- The Yajur Veda has rituals and hymns. The Atharva Veda contains charms and magical spells.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Ochre Coloured Pottery Ware culture:

1. It dates to 2600- 1200 BCE and is found in the Indo - Gangetic plain.
2. It is an urban culture and has evidence of the cultivation of rice, barley, and legumes.

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

ANS: A

Explanation: The OCP culture dates to 2600- 1200 BCE and is found in the IndoGangetic plain and may have had some associations with early Vedic culture.

- The OCP culture is seen as an impoverished Harappan culture and some scholars see it as unrelated to the Harappan culture.
- The OCP sites produced copper figures and objects and therefore it is also known as “copper hoard culture.”
- It is a rural culture and has evidence of the cultivation of rice, barley, and legumes. They also had pastoralism with evidence of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and dogs.
- The villages had wattle-and-daub houses. They used copper and terracotta ornaments. Animal figurines have also been found.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.7) Which of the following is/are chalcolithic sites of India?

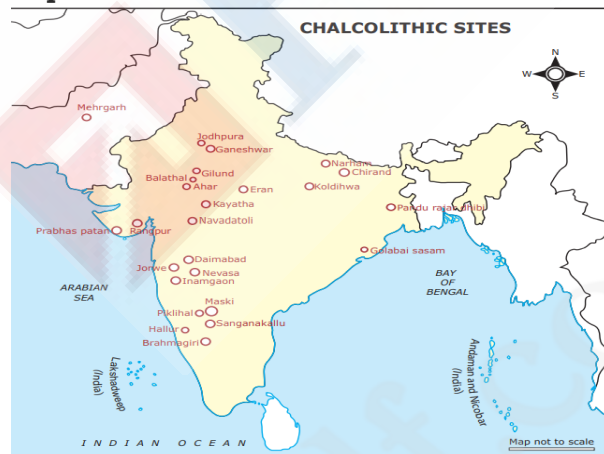
1. Gilund
2. Navadatoli
3. Jorwe

Choose the correct answer from below given codes:

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

ANS: D

Explanation:



Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.8) The term “urn” is related to which of the following?

- a) Nature worship
- b) Burial system
- c) Water transportation
- d) Weights & Measures

ANS: B

Explanation: The burial system followed by the people of Neolithic period continued into the Megalithic period.

- A circular tomb using big stone slabs built upon the place of burial is known as a megalith. Such megaliths have been found in many parts of Tamilnadu.
- The urn burial system was another type of practice and is evidenced in Adichanallur (present Thoothukudi district).

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.9) The terms “syama-ayas or krishna-ayas” are associated with which of the following?

- a) Bronze
- b) Copper
- c) Gold
- d) Iron

ANS: D

Explanation: Iron was an important metal used for implements in this period. It was called syama-ayas or krishna-ayas or the dark metal.

- Iron is believed to have played an important role in the conversion of the forests of the Ganga Valley into agricultural lands.
- By the end of Vedic period, the knowledge of iron had reached eastern Uttar Pradesh and Videha.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Q.10) “Satyameva Jayate” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Mundaka Upanishad
- b) Taittiriya Upanishad
- c) Mandukya Upanishad
- d) Aitareya Upanishad

ANS: A

Explanation: Satyameva Jayate is from Mudaka Upanishad.

Source: Tamil Nadu NCERT

Ancient History

Q.1) Consider the following:

1. Complex rituals of later vedic period
2. High philosophical nature of Upanishads
3. Sacrificial ceremonies were expensive

Which of the above mentioned is/are causes of rise of Jainism and Buddhism in India?

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Causes for the Rise of Jainism and Buddhism:

- The primary cause for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism was the religious unrest in India in the 6th century B.C.
- The complex rituals and sacrifices advocated in the Later Vedic period were not acceptable to the common people.
- The sacrificial ceremonies were also found to be too expensive.
- The superstitious beliefs and mantras confused the people. The teachings of Upanishads, an alternative to the system of sacrifices, were highly philosophical in nature and therefore not easily understood by all.
- Therefore, what was needed in the larger interests of the people was a simple, short and intelligible way to salvation for all people. Such religious teaching should also be in a language known to them. This need was fulfilled by the teachings of Buddha and Mahavira.
- Other than the religious factor, social and economic factors also contributed to the rise of these two religions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.2) Which of the following statement is/are correct with respect to Jainism and Buddhism in India?

1. Both the religion originated from Kshatriyas.
2. Merchant class did not extended any support to these new religions.

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

ANS: A

Explanation:

- The rigid caste system prevalent in India generated tensions in the society. Higher classes enjoyed certain privileges which were denied to the lower classes. Also, the

Kshatriyas had resented the domination of the priestly class. It should also be noted that both Buddha and Mahavira belonged to Kshatriya origin. The growth of trade led to the improvement in the economic conditions of the Vaisyas.

- As a result, they wanted to enhance their social status but the orthodox Varna system did not allow this. Therefore, they began to extend support to Buddhism and Jainism. It was this merchant class that extended the chief support to these new religions.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.3) Which of the following forms the triratnas of Jainism?

1. Ahimsa
2. Right Knowledge
3. Right Conduct

Select the correct answer 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

ANS: B

Explanation:

The three principles of Jainism, also known as Triratnas (three gems), are:

- right faith
- right knowledge
- right conduct.

Right faith is the belief in the teachings and wisdom of Mahavira. Right Knowledge is the acceptance of the theory that there is no God and that the world has been existing without a creator and that all objects possess a soul. Right conduct refers to the observance of the five great vows:

- not to injure life
- not to lie
- not to steal
- not to acquire property
- not to lead immoral life.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.4) First Jainism Council held at which of the following location?

- a) Valabhi
- b) Patliputra
- c) Sarnath
- d) Rajagriha

ANS: B

Explanation: Spread of Jainism:

- The first Jain Council was convened at Pataliputra by Sthulabahu, the leader of the Digambaras, in the beginning of the 3rd century B.C. The second Jain Council was held at Valabhi in 5th century A.D.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- The final compilation of Jain literature called Twelve Angas was completed in this council.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.5) Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Council	Location
1. Second Buddhist Council	Rajagraha
2. Third Buddhist Council	Pataliputra
3. Fourth Buddhist Council	Kashmir
4. First Buddhist Council	Vaisali

How many of the pairs above is/are correctly matched?

- One pair only
- Two pairs only
- Three pairs only
- All four pairs

ANS: B

Explanation: Buddhist Councils:

- The first Buddhist Council was held at Rajagraha under the chairmanship of Mahakasapa immediately after the death of Buddha.
- Its purpose was to maintain the purity of the teachings of the Buddha.
- The second Buddhist Council was convened at Vaisali around 383 B.C. The third Buddhist Council was held at Pataliputra under the patronage of Asoka. Moggaliputta Tissa presided over it.
- The final version of Tripitakas was completed in this council. The fourth Buddhist Council was convened in Kashmir by Kanishka under the chairmanship of Vasumitra. Asvagoshha participated in this council.
- The new school of Buddhism called Mahayana Buddhism came into existence during this council. The Buddhism preached by the Buddha and propagated by Asoka was known as Hinayana.
- The Buddhist texts were collected and compiled some five hundred years after the death of the Buddha. They are known as the Tripitakas, namely the Sutta, the Vinaya and the Abhidhamma Pitakas. They are written in the Pali language.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.6) Which one of the following kingdom was situated on the banks of the river Yamuna, and its capital was Kausambi near modern Allahabad?

- Avanti
- Kosala
- Magadha
- Vatsa

ANS: D

Explanation:

- The Buddhist literature Anguttara Nikaya gives a list of sixteen great kingdoms called 'Sixteen Mahajanapadas'. They were Anga, Magadha, Kasi, Kosala, Vajji, Malla, Chedi, Vatsa, Kuru, Panchala, Matsya, Surasena, Asmaka, Avanti, Gandhara and Kambhoja.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER. [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- The Jain texts also contain references to the existence of sixteen kingdoms. In course of time, the small and weak kingdoms either submitted to the stronger rulers or gradually got eliminated.
- Finally in the mid 6th century B.C., only four kingdoms – Vatsa, Avanti, Kosala and Magadha survived.

Vatsa: The Vatsa kingdom was situated on the banks of the river Yamuna.

- Its capital was Kausambi near modern Allahabad. Its most popular ruler was Udayana.
- He strengthened his position by entering into matrimonial alliances with Avanti, Anga and Magadha. After his death, Vatsa was annexed to the Avanti kingdom.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.7) Who among the following assumed the title “ekarat” in Ancient India?

- a) Ashoka
- b) Ajatashatru
- c) Mahapadma Nanda
- d) Udayin

ANS: C

Explanation: Nandas:

- The fame of Magadha scaled new heights under the Nanda dynasty. Their conquests went beyond the boundaries of the Gangetic basin and in North India they carved a well-knit and vast empire.
- Mahapadma Nanda was a powerful ruler of the Nanda dynasty. He uprooted the kshatriya dynasties in north India and assumed the title ekarat.
- The Puranas speak of the extensive Conquests made by Mahapadma.
- The Hathigumpha inscription of Kharavela of Kalinga refers to the conquest of Kalinga by the Nandas. Many historians believe that a considerable portion of the Deccan was also under the control of the Nandas. Therefore, Mahapadma Nanda may be regarded as a great empire builder.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.8) Which of the following is/are the reason of Magadha becoming the most important Mahajanpada in about two hundred years?

1. Many rivers such as Ganga and Son flowed through Magadha.
2. Parts of Magadha were forested.
3. There were iron ore mines in the region.

Select the correct answer 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

ANS: D

Explanation: Magadha:

- Of all the kingdoms of north India, Magadha emerged powerful and prosperous. It became the nerve centre of political activity in north India.

PRELIMS MARATHON COMPILATION FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, [SECOND WEEK] 2022

- Magadha was endowed by nature with certain geographical and strategic advantages. These made her to rise to imperial greatness.
- Her strategic position between the upper and lower part of the Gangetic valley was a great advantage. It had a fertile soil.
- The iron ores in the hills near Rajgir and copper and iron deposits near Gaya added to its natural assets. Her location at the centre of the highways of trade of those days contributed to her wealth.
- Rajagriha was the capital of Magadha. During the reign of Bimbisara and Ajatasatru, the prosperity of Magadha reached its zenith.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.9) With reference to fourth century B.C. Alexander of Macedonia used which among the following pass to enter India?

- a) Banihal pass
- b) Khyber pass
- c) Zojila pass
- d) Pir Panjal pass

ANS: B

Explanation:

- In the fourth century BC, the Greeks and Iranians fought for the supremacy of the world. Under the leadership of Alexander of Macedonia, the Greeks finally destroyed the Iranian empire.
- Alexander conquered not only Asia minor and Iraq but also Iran.
- The Indian campaign of Alexander the Great began in 327 BC.
- Following the conquest of Iran, Alexander moved on to Kabul, from where he marched to India through the Khyber pass in 326 BC.
- It took him five months to reach the Indus.
- Ambhi, the ruler of Taxila, readily submitted to the invader, augmenting Alexander's army and replenishing his treasure.
- When he reached the Jhelum, Alexander encountered the first and the strongest resistance from Porus.
- Although Alexander defeated Porus, he was impressed by the bravery and courage of the Indian prince.
- He, therefore, restored his kingdom to him and made him his ally.
- He then advanced as far as the Beas River.
- He wanted to move still further eastward, but his army refused to accompany him.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11

Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Cyrus, the Archaemadian ruler of Iran was contemporary to Bindusara.
2. Darius - I conquered Indus valley as a whole & annexed Punjab & Sindh.
3. Darius - I employed Indian infantry & cavalry in the war against Greece.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Persian Invasions:

Cyrus (558 – 530 B.C.):

- Cyrus the Great was the greatest conqueror of the Achaemenian Empire. He was the first conqueror who led an expedition and entered into India. He captured the Gandhara region.
- All Indian tribes to the west of the Indus river submitted to him and paid tribute. His son Cambyses had no time to pay attention towards India.

Darius I (522 – 486 B.C.)

- Darius I, the grandson of Cyrus, conquered the Indus valley in 518 B.C. and annexed the Punjab and Sindh. This region became the 20th Satrapy of his empire. It was the most fertile and populous province of the Achaemenian Empire. Darius sent a naval expedition under Skylas to explore the Indus.

Xerxes (465-456 B.C.)

- Xerxes utilized his Indian province to strengthen his position.
- He deployed Indian infantry and cavalry to Greece to fight his opponents. But they retreated after Xerxes faced a defeat in Greece.
- After this failure, the Achaemenians could not follow a forward policy in India. However, the Indian province was still under their control.
- Darius III enlisted Indian soldiers to fight against Alexander in 330 B.C. It is evident that the control of Persians slackened on the eve of Alexander's invasion of India.

Source: Tamil Nadu state Board Class 11