

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

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HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Historical Events/Government Initiatives in News

1. With reference to tribal resistance movements in British India, consider the following statements regarding the Serengsia Battle of 1837:

1. It was an armed military resistance led by the Ho Adivasi community against the expansion of the East India Company.
2. The conflict took place in the Serengsia valley located within the Kolhan region of present-day Jharkhand.
3. The military operations of the Ho fighters were organized under the leadership of Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu.
4. Following the suppression of the battle, major leaders including Poto Ho and Berai Ho were publicly executed by the British.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Serengsia battle (1837) was a direct, organized armed conflict where the indigenous Ho Adivasis fought against the encroachment and taxation policies of the British East India Company.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The battle took place in the narrow Serengsia valley, situated in the West Singhbhum district of the Kolhan division in modern-day Jharkhand.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The principal leader of this specific Ho resistance was Poto Ho (along with Berai Ho, Nara Ho, and Pandua Ho). Sidhu and Kanhu Murmu were the historic leaders of the Santhal Rebellion of 1855, not the Serengsia Battle of 1837.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** By December 1837, the British forces captured the primary leaders. Poto Ho, Berai Ho, and Nara Ho were publicly hanged at Jagannathpur on January 1, 1838, to terrify the local population.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Revolt of 1946:

1. The uprising initiated as a hunger strike on February 18, 1946, at the shore establishment HMIS Talwar in Bombay.
2. The mutiny remained limited and isolated to ships stationed in Bombay.
3. A Naval Central Strike Committee was elected by the ratings to coordinate actions and present political demands.
4. The revolt concluded on February 23, 1946, following the intervention and advice of national political leaders.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The revolt began on February 18, 1946, on HMIS Talwar when naval ratings went on a hunger strike protesting against racial discrimination, low pay, and unpalatable food.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The mutiny spread rapidly beyond Bombay, encompassing 78 ships and 20 shore establishments across Karachi, Madras, Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam, and the Andaman Islands, involving nearly 20,000 ratings.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** To manage the strike and negotiate efficiently, the ratings formed the Naval Central Strike Committee, led by M. S. Khan and Madan Singh.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** On February 23, 1946, after receiving assurances and critical interventions from leaders like Vallabhbhai Patel and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the striking naval ratings formally surrendered.

3. With reference to the imperial Chola dynasty, consider the following statements regarding Emperor Rajendra Chola I:

1. He assumed the title Gangaikondachola following his successful military campaign against the Pala dynasty of Bengal.
2. He launched a historic naval expedition in 1025 CE that defeated the Srivijaya Empire, securing control over the strategic Malacca Strait.
3. He stopped the maritime expansion policies of his father, Rajaraja Chola I, to focus on land conquests in South India.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** To commemorate his military march to the banks of the Ganges and his victory over Mahipala I of the Pala dynasty, Rajendra Chola I took the title Gangaikondachola and built the new capital city, Gangaikonda Cholapuram.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1025 CE, Rajendra Chola I sent a formidable naval fleet across the Bay of Bengal to defeat the maritime empire of Srivijaya (Indonesia/Malaysia), ensuring unhindered trade routes through the Strait of Malacca for Chola merchants.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rather than abandoning his father's policies, Rajendra Chola I significantly expanded upon the maritime blueprint laid down by Rajaraja Chola I, elevating the Chola navy to a dominant superpower in Southeast Asia.

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the Buddhist monasteries in Arunachal Pradesh is/are correct?

1. The Tawang Monastery is the largest monastery in India and houses a massive gilded Buddha statue.
2. The Urgelling Monastery, dating back to the 15th century, is historically celebrated as the birthplace of the 6th Dalai Lama.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tawang Monastery, situated at an altitude of approximately 10,000 feet in Arunachal Pradesh, is the largest Buddhist monastery in India (and the second-largest in the world after the Potala Palace in Lhasa). It features a prominent 18-foot gilded image of the Buddha.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Located close to Tawang town, the ancient Urgelling Monastery is famous in Tibetan Buddhism as the birthplace of Tsangyang Gyatso, the 6th Dalai Lama, born there in 1683.

5. Which of the following statements with regard to the Gyan Bharatam Mission is/are correct?

1. It is a national initiative launched under the Ministry of Education to digitize manuscripts across India.
2. The mission is operationally anchored by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Gyan Bharatam Mission is a revamped national initiative dedicated to identifying, conserving, cataloging, and digitizing India's vast manuscript wealth (rare historical texts). It operates under the Ministry of Culture.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission is anchored by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), targeting the preservation of over one crore manuscripts spread across museums, academic bodies, and private collections.

6. With reference to the Gyan Bharatam Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It was announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Culture.
2. It aims to survey, catalogue, and preserve over one crore manuscripts from both public institutions and private collectors.
3. Aims to promote Sanskrit and Indian classical knowledge systems.

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The mission is a major cultural conservation scheme funded by the central government, formally introduced in the Union Budget 2025–26.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The main objective of the mission is to systematically document, restore, and digitize more than 10 million rare manuscripts to prevent the loss of India's classical knowledge systems.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Aims to promote Sanskrit and Indian classical knowledge systems. Linked with institutions like CIIL, IIT Bombay, Samskriti Foundation.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Santhali Language is/are correct?

1. It belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family, making it structurally distinct from Indo-European languages.
2. It was included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Unlike the surrounding Indo-Aryan or Dravidian languages, Santhali is classified under the Austroasiatic language family (specifically the Munda sub-branch), sharing features with languages like Ho and Mundari.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Santhali obtained official constitutional recognition when it was integrated into the Eighth Schedule alongside Bodo, Dogri, and Maithili by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003. It utilizes its own phonetic script, Ol Chiki, created by Pandit Raghunath Murmu in 1925.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Dogri Language is/are correct?

1. It is a Indo-Austro language spoken predominantly by the tribal populations of the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. It is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India and was designated as an official language of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in 2020.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Dogri is an Indo-Aryan language. It is spoken predominantly in the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir, as well as parts of Himachal Pradesh and northern Punjab.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dogri was added to the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution in 2003. Furthermore, the Parliament passed the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act in 2020, establishing Dogri (along with Kashmiri, Hindi, Urdu, and English) as an official language of the UT.

9. With reference to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) framework, consider the following statements:

1. The Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage was adopted by UNESCO in 2003, and India ratified it in 2005.
2. To qualify for the Representative List, a cultural practice must be derived entirely from material archaeological monuments rather than living community traditions.
3. The ICH framework recognizes five distinct domains, including oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, and traditional craftsmanship.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNESCO finalized the global ICH safeguarding convention in 2003, which officially entered into force in 2006. India became one of the early state parties by ratifying the treaty in 2005.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Tangible heritage covers physical monuments, archeological ruins, and artifacts. In contrast, Intangible Heritage focuses entirely on living cultural expressions, oral histories, rituals, and knowledge systems that are actively maintained and transmitted by human communities.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The UNESCO operational guidelines organize ICH into five broad domains: (i) Oral traditions and expressions; (ii) Performing arts; (iii) Social practices, rituals and festive events; (iv) Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; (v) Traditional craftsmanship.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to the State Emblem of India is/are correct?

1. It is an adaptation of the ancient Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath and was officially adopted on January 26, 1950.
2. The national motto inscribed below the abacus, Satyameva Jayate, is rendered in the Kharosthi script.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The State Emblem of India is a graphic modification of the 3rd-century BCE stone monolithic capital carved under Emperor Ashoka at Sarnath. It was adopted as India's official seal on January 26, 1950, when the Constitution came into effect.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The motto Satyameva Jayate (Truth Alone Triumphs), which is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad, is written underneath the circular abacus in the Devanagari script.

Miscellaneous News

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple is/are correct?

1. It is located in Victoria, the capital of Seychelles, and stands as the only Hindu temple in the country.
2. The temple architecture is constructed in the traditional North Indian Nagara style, featuring a white limestone shikhara.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Arul Mihi Navasakthi Vinayagar Temple was built in 1992 in Victoria, the capital of Seychelles. It is the only Hindu temple in the island nation, serving a Hindu community that accounts for about 2% of the population.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The temple does not follow the North Indian Nagara style. It is designed in the vibrant and intricate South Indian Dravidian architectural style, resembling the temples of Tamil Nadu. Its most defining feature is a colorful 100-foot *gopuram* (entrance tower).

2. Which of the following statements with regard to Thewa Art is/are correct?

1. It is a traditional decorative craft that involves the precise fusion of hand-carved sheets of pure gold onto vibrant, specially treated molten glass.
2. The craft is exclusively practiced and preserved in the Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan and holds a Geographical Indication status.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Thewa art is a highly specialized jewelry-making technique where extremely thin, intricately patterned sheets of pure gold are fused onto colored molten glass sheets, creating a brilliant, glowing visual effect.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This centuries-old luxury craft is completely localized to the Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. To protect its unique heritage and prevent counterfeits, it was officially granted a Geographical Indication (GI) status in 2013–2014.

3. With reference to Indian rock-cut heritage, consider the following statements regarding the Masroor Rock-Cut Temples:

1. This 8th-century monolithic temple complex is located in the Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh and exhibits the North Indian Nagara architecture style.
2. Unlike the vast majority of traditional Hindu temples that face eastward, the main shrine faces northeast toward the Dhauladhar mountains.
3. The complex features an layout where smaller shrines are arranged in a circular Dravidian-style open *mandapam* plan.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Masroor Rock-Cut Temples are a 1,200-year-old complex in Himachal Pradesh carved out of a single monolithic rock. Due to its structural form, it is often called the "Ellora of Himachal" and represents the early Nagara style with elements showing Gupta influences.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The complex possesses a unique geographic alignment. Instead of facing the standard eastern direction, it is oriented directly toward the northeast, facing the Dhauladhar mountain range.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The temple plan does not utilize a Dravidian mandapam layout. It is laid out on a symmetrically arranged square grid, where the primary central temple is surrounded by smaller shrines following a strict mandala pattern.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the traditional Kalamkari painting tradition:

1. It is a heritage form of hand-painted or block-printed cotton textiles produced in Andhra Pradesh using purely organic dyes.
2. Srikalahasti Kalamkari relies heavily on wood-block printing techniques to create geometric patterns under Persian artistic influence.
3. Machilipatnam Kalamkari is characterized by freehand drawings made with a bamboo stick pen, focusing on Hindu temple iconography.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Kalamkari is a widely celebrated textile art form from Andhra Pradesh. It uses natural dyes derived from roots, seeds, leaves, and minerals, processed through complex steps involving treatment with buffalo milk and astringents.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This describes the Machilipatnam style. The Srikalahasti style is the one executed entirely by hand using a *kalam* (pen) to depict Hindu mythological narratives and deities.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** This describes the Srikalahasti style. The Machilipatnam style (or Pedana Kalamkari) utilizes hand-carved wooden blocks to stamp intricate floral and geometric layouts, which were historically influenced by Persian motifs due to the patronage of the Golconda Sultanate.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the features and history of the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi:

1. It is situated on the southern bank of the Tungabhadra River within Karnataka and is part of a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. The temple has remained continuously operational without interruption since its establishment around the 7th century AD.
3. The main architectural complex was built during the Bijapur dynasty period to serve as an administrative repository.
4. The temple architecture incorporates advanced optical engineering, projecting an inverted pinhole camera image of its main tower onto an inner wall.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Virupaksha (or Pampapathi) temple is located at Hampi, Karnataka, along the banks of the Tungabhadra River. It is a key element of the 'Group of Monuments at Hampi', inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1986.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is celebrated as one of the oldest functioning temple complexes in India, keeping its sacred sanctuary operational since its modest 7th-century origin.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It was systematically expanded across centuries by pre-colonial dynasties, including the Chalukyas, Hoysalas, and notably the Vijayanagara Empire under rulers like Deva Raya II and Krishnadevaraya.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** The building displays early mastery of physical concepts. Light passing through a small slit in the structural masonry acts as a natural pinhole camera, casting an inverted shadow image of the massive eastern gopuram onto an internal wall.

6. With reference to the cultural and religious geography of Karnataka, consider the following statements regarding the Kukke Subrahmanya Temple:

1. It is located in the Dakshina Kannada district, situated at the foothills of Kumara Parvatha along the banks of the Kumaradhara River.
2. The temple serves as one of the country's premier centers for *Sarpa* (serpent) worship, where Lord Subrahmanya is revered as the lord of serpents.
3. The temple complex is built in the North Indian Panchayatana architectural style, featuring flat-roofed stone structures.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kukke Subrahmanya Temple is located in a dense forest pocket of the Western Ghats in coastal Karnataka, positioned beneath the Kumara Parvatha peak near the Kumaradhara River.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is an important center for serpent rituals (*Nagaradhana*). According to legend, Lord Subrahmanya offered refuge to the divine serpent Vasuki here, making it a prominent spot for *Sarpa Samskara* ceremonies.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The temple does not feature a flat-roofed North Indian Panchayatana style. It is designed in the traditional Dravidian architectural style, characterized by intricate columns, tall gateways (*gopurams*), and pillared courtyard corridors.

7. With reference to the temple festivals of Southern India, consider the following statements regarding Thrissur Pooram:

1. It is celebrated annually at the Thekkinkadu Maidanam surrounding the ancient Vadakkunnathan Temple in Kerala.
2. The modern format of the festival was envisioned and institutionalized by Sakthan Thampuran, the Maharaja of Cochin, in the late 18th century.
3. The festival rituals are unique for their exclusion of percussive music, relying solely on silent meditation.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Thrissur Pooram is held every year in the Malayalam month of Medam (April-May) at the sprawling grounds of the historic Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur city.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Often called the "Mother of all Poorams," it was organized over 200 years ago by Raja Rama Varma (Sakthan Thampuran), the Maharaja of Cochin, to unite ten local temples in a friendly, structured competition.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Percussion and instrumental music are central to the festival. It is famous for its vibrant musical ensembles, such as the Ilanjithara Melam and Panchavadyam, where hundreds of traditional instrumentalists play alongside a line of adorned elephants.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Aoleang Festival is/are correct?

1. It is the premier spring and pre-harvest festival celebrated annually by the Konyak Naga tribe to mark the arrival of the tribal New Year.
2. The festival is celebrated across Nagaland during the first week of December to mark the end of winter harvesting activities.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Aoleang (or Aoleang Monyu) is the most important cultural festival of the Konyak community. It welcomes spring and the tribal New Year right after the community completes its jhum sowing activities, serving to preserve their heritage and ancestral customs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The festival does not take place in December. It is celebrated annually in the first week of April (1st–6th), lining up with the spring planting cycle rather than the winter harvest.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the Padma Doree initiative is/are correct?

1. It is a cross-regional textile project that blends the Eri silk of Northeast India with the Chanderi weaving traditions of Madhya Pradesh.
2. The initiative is launched and implemented by Ministry of Culture.

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

Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Padma Doree is a unique textile project that combines two distinct Indian heritage crafts: the warm, sustainably harvested Eri (Ahimsa) silk from the Northeast and the delicate, sheer woven textures of Chanderi from Madhya Pradesh.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It was developed and implemented by the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) to support local artisans by introducing traditional regional textiles to the luxury contemporary market.

10. Which of the following statements with regard to Ru-Soam Bridges is/are correct?

1. They are indigenous cane and bamboo suspension bridges built by the Lepcha community within the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve of Sikkim.
2. The bridges can be 100 metres long, and two or three people can cross them at a time.

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

Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In the Lepcha language, 'Ru' means cane/rattan and 'Soam' means a bridge. These suspension structures are built by the Lepcha community in Sikkim using local bamboo, wood, and rattan vines, showcasing an eco-friendly approach to building infrastructure.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** These bridges do not use any modern industrial elements like steel cables or concrete blocks. Instead, they are made entirely from natural materials, using parallel rattan ropes (*soamgyang*) tied securely to sturdy trees on opposite riverbanks to support a split-bamboo walking deck. The bridges can be 100 metres long, and two or three people can cross them at a time. This engineering practice reflects a sophisticated understanding of ecological balance and structural resilience.

Miscellaneous News-II

1. With reference to the Buddhist heritage site of Lalitagiri in Odisha, consider the following statements:

1. It is situated on the Nandapahad hillock within the Assia hill range and the Birupa river valley.
2. Archaeological excavations here revealed a massive Theravada stupa containing khondalite relic caskets.
3. Inscribed terracotta sealings deciphered from the site indicate its historic name as Madhavapura Mahavihara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Lalitagiri is one of the foundational sites of Odisha's Diamond Triangle (along with Udayagiri and Ratnagiri). It is positioned precisely on the Nandapahad hill within the Assia range.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** A defining feature of Lalitagiri is its large structural stupa built during the early Theravada phase. Excavations yielded sacred khondalite stone caskets that preserved inner containers made of steatite, silver, and gold.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** This is a conceptual trap. An inscribed sealing from Lalitagiri identifies it as the Sri Chandraditya Vihara. The institutional name Madhavapura Mahavihara is specifically associated with the nearby site of Udayagiri, not Lalitagiri.

2. Which of the following statements with regard to the Udayagiri Buddhist site in Jajpur is/are correct?

1. It features the Simhaprastha Mahavihara, which is a double-storied brick monastic complex.
2. Unlike Lalitagiri, it shows absolutely no architectural remains of a structural chaityagriha.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Udayagiri houses significant monastic remains. The Simhaprastha Mahavihara is notable for being a well-preserved, double-storied brick structure complete with an upper shrine chamber.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Udayagiri does indeed possess the remains of a significant chaityagriha (assembly hall). This structure is archaeologically important because it shows evolutionary phases, transitioning from circular to apsidal and finally to rectangular plans.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the Ratnagiri Buddhist site in Odisha is/are correct?

1. It flourished between the 4th and 12th centuries CE and experienced its peak development under the Bhaumakara dynasty.
2. A copper plate inscription recording the residence of Queen Karpurashri provides clear evidence of historical female patronage at the site.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Ratnagiri (Hill of Jewels) is renowned as a prominent epicenter for the Mahayana and later Vajrayana schools. It reached its zenith between the 8th and 10th centuries CE under the active patronage of the Bhaumakara dynasty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Ratnagiri provides tangible proof of royal female involvement in its affairs. A specific copper plate inscription records that Queen Karpurashri of the Bhaumakara line chose this monastery as her residence, confirming high-status female patronage.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the historic Mahad Satyagraha:

1. It was launched in 1927 under the leadership of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar to claim the rights of Dalits to collect water from the public Chawdar Tank.

2. The non-violent public protest was operationally organized by the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha.
3. The second phase of the satyagraha was immediately called off because Mahatma Gandhi publicly opposed the movement in his journal Young India.
4. A legal decree by the Bombay High Court in 1937 ultimately affirmed that the Chawdar Tank was public property.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 1927 Mahad Satyagraha was a watershed moment in the Indian social reform movement. Dr. Ambedkar led a peaceful march to exercise the right to access water from the publicly funded Chawdar Tank in Mahad, Maharashtra.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The logistical organization of this protest was managed by the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha, an organization founded by Dr. Ambedkar in 1924 to champion the rights of marginalized classes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The second march planned for December 1927 was not stopped by Gandhi. It was postponed by Dr. Ambedkar himself out of respect for a temporary court injunction obtained by caste Hindus claiming the tank was private property. Gandhi actually supported the satyagraha in his writings.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** This is a pivotal legal fact. Ten years after the event, on March 17, 1937, the Bombay High Court delivered a landmark ruling in favor of the Depressed Classes, formally declaring the Chawdar Tank open to all as public property.

5. With reference to the medieval Suryavamsi Gajapati Dynasty of Odisha, consider the following statements:

1. The dynasty was established by Kapilendradeva by overthrowing the final ruler of the Eastern Ganga dynasty.
2. The administrative apparatus included a ministerial council featuring positions like Sandhivigrahi and Pariksha.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1435 CE, Kapilendradeva, a charismatic leader, overthrew Bhanu Deva IV, the last king of the weakened Eastern Ganga dynasty. He established a powerful new empire with Cuttack as its capital and adopted the Suryavamsi (Solar) title for legitimacy.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Historical records indicate that the Gajapati rulers maintained a highly specialized council of ministers (Amatyas) for imperial administration. Notable positions included the Sandhivigrahi (handling foreign affairs, war, and peace) and the Pariksha (managing the state treasury and accounts).

6. Which of the following statements with regard to the ancient ruler Samrat Samprati is/are correct?

1. He was a Mauryan emperor who succeeded to the throne as the grandson of Ashoka.
2. Historical accounts describe him as a staunch patron who actively worked to spread Buddhism across Southeast Asia.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Samrat Samprati (3rd century BCE) was a significant ruler of the later Mauryan period. He was the son of Kunal and the grandson of the great Emperor Ashoka.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a critical religious identity trap. While his grandfather spread Buddhism, Samrat Samprati is celebrated in history and legend as the Jain Ashoka. He played a pivotal role in promoting Jainism and its core principle of ahimsa (non-violence) by building and repairing thousands of Jain temples throughout his empire.

7. With reference to the life and contributions of Raja Ravi Varma, consider the following statements:

1. He belonged to the royal family of Travancore in modern-day Kerala.
2. Founded the Ravi Varma Fine Art Lithographic Press in Bombay in 1894 to mass-produce his artwork.
3. Formally granted the title of Raja through the award of the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal by Lord Lytton in 1877.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** He was born into the Kilimanoor royal lineage in Travancore, Kerala, and is considered the father of modern Indian art for pioneering the fusion of Indian imagery with Western oil painting techniques.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** He established this press in Bombay in 1894. This innovative step allowed for the mass production of affordable lithographs of his paintings, making his depictions of Indian mythological figures popular across diverse social classes.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While he was always addressed as Raja due to his royal connections, the title was formally and officially recognized by the British administration only in 1904. It was Lord Curzon who bestowed the Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal on him in that year, and the accompanying citation officially used the title Raja for the first time. Lord Lytton's 1877 Delhi Durbar had no connection to this specific honor.

8. With reference to Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, consider the following statements:

1. Organized and led the Vedaranyam March in 1930 to protest against the colonial salt tax laws.

2. Formulated the C.R. Formula to find a solution to the political deadlock between the Congress and the Muslim League.
3. Following India's independence, he served as the final Governor-General of India from 1948 to 1950.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In response to Mahatma Gandhi's call for Civil Disobedience, C. Rajagopalachari (popularly known as Rajaji) replicated the Salt Satyagraha in Tamil Nadu. He led the historic Vedaranyam Salt March in April 1930 to break the restrictive British salt laws.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In 1944, he proposed the C.R. Formula as a mechanism to break the pre-Partition political deadlock between the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League over the demand for Pakistan.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** After India became free, Rajaji succeeded Lord Mountbatten to become the first (and only) Indian Governor-General of independent India, serving from 1948 until the country declared itself a Republic on January 26, 1950. All three statements are accurate.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the cultural significance of Amaravati is/are correct?

1. It served as an ancient imperial capital city for the Satavahana dynasty around the 3rd century BCE.
2. The historic Amaravati School of Art is distinct for its exclusive use of red sandstone to construct highly stylized, non-narrative icons.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ancient city of Amaravati (historically known as Dhanyakataka) in the Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh was a major power center and served as the capital for the mighty Satavahana rulers around the 3rd century BCE.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This is a classic material and style trap. The distinguishing building material of the Amaravati School was white limestone, not red sandstone. Artistically, this school is celebrated for its highly emotional, dynamic, and intricate narrative relief sculptures that depict specific stories and events, rather than just non-narrative icons.

10. The Vishwa Sutra initiative, recently in the news has been launched by which of the following organizations?

- (a) Ministry of Textiles
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Vishwa Sutra– Weaves of India for the World initiative was conceptualized and launched by the Ministry of Textiles. It is being operationalized through the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) with the aim of reinterpreting and promoting 30 distinct Indian handloom weaves for global contemporary markets.

Miscellaneous News-III

1. Which of the following statements with regard to the Maru-Gurjara architectural style is/are correct?

1. It reached its zenith under the patronage of the Eastern Chalukya dynasty of Vengi.
2. In this style, the haveli functions as a large residential mansion organized around a central courtyard.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Maru-Gurjara style originated around the 6th century in Rajasthan and Gujarat. It reached its architectural peak under the Solanki dynasty (the Chalukyas of Gujarat), not the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi. Historic records like the 1169 CE Bhadrakali Inscription highlight the Solanki ruler Kumarapala's specific efforts in restoring these temples.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A classic feature of this regional style is the haveli, a large aristocratic mansion. These mansions were structurally designed around a central courtyard, which functioned as a micro-climate modifier to enhance ventilation, light, and privacy.

2. With reference to the centenary history and historical role of the Communist Party of India (CPI), consider the following statements:

1. The CPI was the first political entity to demand complete independence from British rule at the Ahmedabad session (1921) of the Indian National Congress.
2. The institutional idea of a Constituent Assembly for India was formally proposed by Communist leader M.N. Roy in 1934.
3. In 1925, the CPI adopted a constitutional mandate that allowed members of communal organizations to simultaneously hold leadership ranks within its party structure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The CPI pioneered the demand for total independence (Purna Swaraj) by releasing open letters during the Ahmedabad (1921) and Gaya (1922) sessions of the Indian National Congress, years before the INC officially adopted the resolution at Lahore in 1929.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The official, formal proposal for a dedicated Constituent Assembly to frame an independent constitution for India was first put forward by the radical communist thinker M.N. Roy in 1934.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In 1925, the CPI became the first political party in India to strictly bar members of communal organizations from joining its ranks, maintaining a firm ideological stance on secularism.

3. Which of the following statements with regard to the tribal freedom fighter Veer Surendra Sai is/are correct?

1. He led a prolonged guerrilla-style resistance movement against British rule utilizing tribal combatants primarily from the Ho and Santhal communities.
2. His armed rebellion resurged during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 after the British applied the Doctrine of Lapse to annex the princely state of Sambalpur.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Veer Surendra Sai was a prominent tribal leader born into the Chauhan royal family of Sambalpur, Odisha. The indigenous communities he organized into guerrilla forces were the Binjhal and Gond tribes of western Odisha, not the Ho and Santhal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** When the ruler of Sambalpur died without a direct male heir, the British East India Company applied the aggressive Doctrine of Lapse to annex the state in 1849, ignoring Sai's legitimate claim. This grievance caused Sai to relaunch a fierce rebellion during the 1857 uprising, mobilizing local landlords (Zamindars) and village leaders (Gauntias).

4. Which of the following statements with regard to the traditional Bagurumba dance is/are correct?

1. It is an indigenous folk dance form associated exclusively with the Bodo community of Assam.
2. It is performed in lines or circles by young women, while men accompany them as musicians using traditional instruments.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bagurumba is the most celebrated traditional folk dance of the Bodo community living in Assam. Its rhythmic movements are deeply inspired by nature, mimicking elements like blooming flowers and butterflies.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Structurally, the dance is performed collectively in visually elegant formations of lines or circles by young Bodo women. Bodo men participate directly in the performance as musicians, playing traditional folk instruments to guide the dancers. It is closely tied to seasonal festivals like Bwisagu (Bodo New Year).

5. With reference to the institutional structure of India's Gallantry Awards, consider the following statements:

1. The wartime awards Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra were formally instituted on Independence Day, August 15, 1947.
2. The recommendations for these awards are processed twice a year by the Ministry of Defence alongside the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The final conferring authority for both wartime and peacetime gallantry decorations is the President of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The three premier wartime gallantry awards (Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, and Vir Chakra) were officially instituted on January 26, 1950 (Republic Day), although they were given retrospective effect from August 15, 1947.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The administrative pipeline requires the Ministry of Defence to invite recommendations twice every year from the Armed Forces branches and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** As the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, the President of India is the constitutional authority who formally confers these honors twice a year on Republic Day and Independence Day.

6. With reference to prehistoric and rock art archaeology, consider the following statements regarding Petroglyphs:

1. They are distinct from petrographs because they are created by physical carving or material engraving rather than simple surface painting.
2. Globally, these symbolic rock engravings have been documented across all continents except Antarctica.
3. The Edakkal Caves located in Wayanad, Kerala, serve as a prominent example of a petroglyph site within India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Petroglyphs are specific rock engravings made by removing the top layers of a stone surface using harder stone or metal tools (through scratching, pecking, or carving). This sets them apart from petroglyphs, which are drawings or paintings applied onto the rock face.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** These ancient markings are found globally and exist on every single continent on Earth with the sole exception of Antarctica.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The famous Edakkal Caves in Wayanad, Kerala, contain highly significant prehistoric rock carvings, making it one of the most prominent examples of a petroglyph site within the Indian subcontinent.

7. Which of the following statements with regard to the Prambanan Temple complex is/are correct?

1. It was built in the 9th century CE by the Sailendra dynasty, a prominent Mahayana Buddhist kingdom of Central Java.
2. It stands as the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia and is dedicated structurally to the Hindu Trimurti.

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

Answer: (b)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Prambanan Temple complex was built in the 9th century CE by the Sanjaya dynasty, a powerful Hindu kingdom ruling central Java. The contemporary Sailendra dynasty was primarily responsible for building nearby Buddhist monuments, such as Borobudur.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Prambanan is recognized as the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia (inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991). The complex features soaring spires dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti: Shiva (the presiding deity), Vishnu, and Brahma.

8. Which of the following statements with regard to the Balirajgarh Fort archaeological site is/are correct?

1. It is a centrally protected national monument managed under the Patna Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
2. Archaeological excavations have revealed a five-fold cultural sequence starting from the Gupta Empire down to the Mughal era.

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

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Balirajgarh Fort (located in the Madhubani district of Bihar) is an ancient fortified settlement. It is an officially protected monument of national importance managed by the Patna Circle of the ASI.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The five-fold cultural sequence uncovered at the site is far older. It begins with the ancient Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) phase (circa 700–200 BCE), and continues

sequentially through the Shunga, Kushan, and Gupta periods, ending around the Pala period (12th century CE). It does not begin with the Guptas or extend to the Mughals.

9. Which of the following statements with regard to the traditional Thanjavur painting style is/are correct?

1. It is a classical art form that originated and flourished primarily under the patronage of the Nayakas rulers of Tanjore in the 19th century.
2. A defining technical feature of this artwork is the use of gesso work made from a mixture of chalk and gypsum to create embossed relief patterns.

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

Answer: (c)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Thanjavur (Tanjore) paintings originally emerged and flourished around 1600 AD under the patronage of the Nayakas of Thanjavur.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A unique characteristic of this GI-tagged art style is its embossed, three-dimensional texture. This is achieved by applying gesso, a thick paste made of chalk, gypsum, and glue onto a canvas attached to a wooden plank (palagai padam), which is then covered with glittering gold leaf and semi-precious stones.

10. With reference to global musical heritage, the Boreendo a rare spherical clay vessel-flute recently inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding list is historically linked to the sonic lineage of which ancient civilization?

- (a) Indus Valley Civilization
- (b) Mesopotamian Civilization
- (c) Egyptian Civilization
- (d) Mayan Civilization

Answer: (a)

Detailed Explanation:

- **Option (a) is correct:** The Boreendo is an ancient, spherical clay vessel-flute played primarily in the Sindh region of Pakistan. Musicologists and archaeologists have successfully traced its structural and sonic design directly back to clay artifacts excavated at Mohenjo-daro, confirming its deep historical lineage to the Indus Valley Civilization.

Important Islands

1. Consider the following statements regarding Greenland:

1. Geographically, it is part of the North American continent, but politically it is an autonomous territory associated with Europe.
2. The island is separated from Canada to its west by the Davis Strait and Baffin Bay.
3. It is one of the eight member states of the Arctic Council.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Geologically and geographically, Greenland sits on the North American continental shelf. However, politically it remains an autonomous constituent territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, associating it closely with Europe.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Greenland is separated from Canada's Arctic islands (like Ellesmere Island) to the north and west by the Nares Strait, Baffin Bay, and the Davis Strait.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Greenland is not a sovereign country and therefore cannot be an independent member state of the Arctic Council. Instead, the Kingdom of Denmark (representing both Denmark and its autonomous territories, including Greenland) is one of the eight permanent member states of the Arctic Council.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the island of New Guinea:

1. It is the second-largest island in the world and is politically divided between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.
2. The island is separated from Australia by the Torres Strait and falls entirely within the geographical region of Oceania.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** New Guinea is the world's second-largest island (after Greenland). The western half is administered by Indonesia (provinces of Papua, West Papua, etc.), while the eastern half constitutes the independent nation of Papua New Guinea.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The island lies just north of Australia and is separated from it by the 150 km wide Torres Strait. Despite Indonesia's administrative control over the western half, the island itself is physically located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, making it a prominent part of the Melanesian subregion of Oceania.

3. Consider the following statements with reference to the island of Borneo:

1. The island is politically divided among three countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.
2. It is primarily formed due to recent Cenozoic volcanic deposition and is a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The island of Borneo is politically divided among three nations. Indonesia controls the southern region (known as Kalimantan), Malaysia controls the northwestern states of Sabah and Sarawak, and the sovereign state of Brunei is located on the northern coast.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Borneo is not of volcanic origin and is relatively stable tectonically, differentiating it from the highly volcanic Indonesian islands to its south and east (such as Java and Sulawesi). Its geological foundation is primarily attributed to tectonic processes, including Mesozoic accretion of microcontinental fragments on a Paleozoic continental core.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Madagascar:

1. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the southern part of the island nation, giving it a largely tropical climate.
2. The Mozambique Channel separates Madagascar from the African mainland.
3. The island harbors significant endemic biodiversity, with the majority of its flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Tropic of Capricorn passes directly through the southern portion of Madagascar. Because of its latitude and vast size, the country has a tropical climate along its coasts, temperate inland regions in the highlands, and arid conditions in the deep south.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Madagascar is an island nation in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa, completely separated from the African mainland by the highly strategic Mozambique Channel.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Due to its millions of years of geographic isolation, Madagascar features remarkable biogeography. Nearly 90% of all its plant and animal life (such as lemurs) are endemic, meaning they are native only to this island.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Baffin Island:

1. It is the largest island in Canada and is separated from Greenland by the Baffin Bay and the Davis Strait.
2. The capital city of Nunavut, Iqaluit, is located on its southern coast.

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Baffin Island is the largest island in Canada and the fifth-largest island in the world. It is situated in the territory of Nunavut and is separated from Greenland to its north and east by the Baffin Bay and the Davis Strait.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The territorial capital of Nunavut is Iqaluit, which sits at the head of Frobisher Bay on the southern coast of Baffin Island.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the island of Sumatra:

1. The equator bisects the island of Sumatra, passing directly through its central region.
2. The island is entirely located in the Indian Ocean, with no boundaries adjoining the Pacific Ocean.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The equator does indeed bisect central Sumatra, contributing to the island's hot, humid, and equatorial climate with dense rainforests.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Sumatra is not solely bound by the Indian Ocean. To the northeast, the Strait of Malacca separates it from the Malay Peninsula, connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) in the west with the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean) in the east.

7. Consider the following statements about the island of Honshu:

1. It is the largest and most populous island in the Japanese archipelago, and the second most populous island in the world.
2. The island is separated from Hokkaido in the north by the Tsugaru Strait.
3. The Japanese Alps are located on Honshu, which is home to Mount Fuji, Japan's highest peak.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Honshu is Japan's largest island and constitutes over 80% of the country's population. It is the seventh-largest island globally and the second most populous after the Indonesian island of Java.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tsugaru Strait physically separates Honshu from the northern island of Hokkaido, with the Seikan Tunnel running beneath it.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Japanese Alps traverse the central part of the island, which also features Mount Fuji, an iconic active stratovolcano and the highest peak in Japan.

8. Consider the following statements about Victoria Island:

1. It straddles the administrative boundary between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories of Canada.
2. It features the world's largest known island within a lake, located on an unnamed island within a lake on the island itself.
3. The Prince of Wales Strait separates Victoria Island from Banks Island to its west, forming part of the disputed Northwest Passage.

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

Correct Answer: (d)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Victoria Island lies entirely within the Arctic Circle and is administratively divided, with the western third falling in the Inuvik Region (Northwest Territories) and the remainder in the Kitikmeot Region (Nunavut).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Deep in its interior, the island hosts a Guinness World Record-holding geographical oddity: a lake that contains an island, which in turn contains another lake, which features a final, tiny island.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Situated to the west of Victoria Island, Banks Island is separated by the Prince of Wales Strait. These waterways connect to form segments of the contested Northwest Passage.

9. Consider the following statements about the island of Great Britain and its surrounding regions:

1. The island of Great Britain comprises the countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
2. The Strait of Dover separates Great Britain from continental Europe and connects the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
3. The North Sea is bordered by Great Britain to the west and by countries like Norway and Denmark to the east.

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

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** The island of Great Britain consists exclusively of England, Scotland, and Wales. Great Britain. Northern Ireland is located on the separate island of Ireland. Great Britain, and together these four regions comprise the United Kingdom.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Strait of Dover is the narrowest part of the English Channel and serves as a vital maritime boundary between Great Britain and continental Europe. It directly links the North Sea with the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Statement 3 is Correct:** Geographically, the shallow North Sea lies between the island of Great Britain and mainland northwestern Europe. It is bordered to the west by Scotland and England, and to the east by Norway, Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Ellesmere Island:

1. It contains Cape Columbia, which is the most northerly point of land in Canada.
2. The Arctic Cordillera mountain system covers much of the island, making it the most mountainous island in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.
3. It is separated from northwestern Greenland by the Robeson Channel and Kennedy Channel.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one statement
- (b) Only two statements

- (c) All three statements
(d) None of the above

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Cape Columbia is indeed located on Ellesmere Island and serves as the most northerly point of land in Canada.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Arctic Cordillera mountain system spans a vast portion of the island, making it the most rugged and mountainous island within the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The island's eastern shores are separated from northwestern Greenland by a series of narrow marine passages, specifically Smith Sound, the Kennedy Channel, and the Robeson Channel.

Important Water Bodies of The World

1. With reference to the Red Sea, consider the following statements:

1. It does not receive water from any permanent rivers.
2. The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
3. It lies on a divergent plate boundary formed by the separation of the African Plate and the Arabian Plate.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one statement
(b) Only two statements
(c) All three statements
(d) None of the statements

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Red Sea is situated in an extremely arid region between the Sahara and Arabian deserts. It receives very little precipitation and is completely unique among large bodies of water for having no permanent (perennial) rivers that drain into it.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Bab el-Mandeb Strait connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden (and subsequently the Indian Ocean) in the south. The Red Sea is connected to the Mediterranean Sea in the north via the man-made Suez Canal.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Geologically, the Red Sea is a classic example of an axial trough. It sits in a rift depression formed by a divergent plate boundary, where the African (or Nubian) Plate and the Arabian Plate are pulling apart from one another.

2. Consider the following statements about the Arabian Sea:

1. The mean surface salinity of the Arabian Sea is higher than that of the Bay of Bengal.
2. The rivers flowing into the Arabian Sea generally form estuaries rather than deltas due to a steep topographic gradient.
3. The coral islands of the Lakshadweep archipelago are situated in the Arabian Sea.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one statement
(b) Only two statements
(c) All three statements
(d) None of the statements

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The mean surface salinity of the Arabian Sea is higher than that of the Bay of Bengal. This is primarily due to higher evaporation rates (due to arid climatic conditions along the Arabian Peninsula) and a lower freshwater discharge, as it receives significantly less river inflow compared to the Bay of Bengal.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Unlike the eastward-flowing rivers that deposit huge amounts of sediments and form large deltas into the Bay of Bengal, the rivers draining into the Arabian Sea (such as the Narmada and Tapi) pass through steep terrains of the Western Ghats. These fast-flowing rivers carry fewer sediments and drop directly into the sea, forming **estuaries** rather than deltas.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Lakshadweep Islands are an archipelago of coral atolls, reefs, and submerged banks located in the Arabian Sea, off the southwestern coast of mainland India.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Andaman Sea:

1. It is formed by the subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Burma microplate, making the region highly prone to tectonic activity.
2. The Andaman Sea is a critical maritime bottleneck connecting the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean via the Strait of Malacca.
3. Barren Island, located in this sea, is the only dormant volcano in South Asia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Andaman Sea and its associated islands are a direct result of the tectonic subduction of the Indian Plate under the Burma microplate. This uplift formed the submarine mountain range linked to the Arakan Yoma of Myanmar.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Andaman Sea is a highly strategic body of water. Situated at the eastern edge of the Indian Ocean, it acts as a maritime corridor/chokepoint funneling global shipping traffic into the Strait of Malacca.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Located within the Andaman Sea, Barren Island is India's and South Asia's only historically confirmed active volcano.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the South China Sea:

1. It is a marginal sea of the Pacific Ocean connected to the East China Sea via the Taiwan Strait.
2. The Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands are subject to overlapping territorial claims by several nations, including China, Vietnam, and the Philippines.
3. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) serves as the primary universally binding legal framework for resolving all maritime claims in the region.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The South China Sea is a marginal sea of the Western Pacific Ocean. It is connected to the East China Sea via the Taiwan Strait and to the Philippine Sea via the Luzon Strait.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Paracel Islands and the Spratly Islands are major areas of contention. They involve overlapping claims by countries such as China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While UNCLOS provides the legal framework for maritime claims, it does not act as a final universally binding resolution tool for sovereignty over the disputed land features. China's expansive nine-dash line historical claims are fundamentally in dispute, and China largely rejects the binding nature of UNCLOS tribunal rulings (such as the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling in favor of the Philippines).

5. With reference to the East China Sea, consider the following statements:

1. The Kuroshio Current, a warm ocean current analogous to the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic, flows northward through this sea.
2. The Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, which are a major point of territorial dispute between China and Japan, are located in this region.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Kuroshio Current is a warm, northward-flowing ocean current on the western edge of the North Pacific. It enters the East China Sea east of Taiwan and travels parallel to the Ryukyu Islands, regulating the regional climate much like the Gulf Stream.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The uninhabited but highly strategic Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands are located in the East China Sea, northeast of Taiwan. They are claimed by both Japan and China, making the area a geopolitical flashpoint regarding Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundaries and seabed resources.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Yellow Sea:

1. It is bordered by mainland China to the west, and both North Korea and South Korea to the east.
2. The Bohai Sea is its innermost northwestern extension, which receives the discharge of the Yellow River.
3. The distinct yellow coloration of its waters is entirely attributed to silt brought in by the Yangtze River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Yellow Sea lies to the north of the East China Sea. It is geographically bordered by mainland China to the west and north, and by the Korean Peninsula (North Korea and South Korea) to the east.
- **Statement 2 is Correct:** The Bohai Sea (often referred to as the Bohai Gulf) is the innermost, northwestern-most extension of the Yellow Sea. Several of northern China's major rivers, most notably the Yellow River (Huang He) and the Hai River, empty into the Bohai Sea.
- **Statement 3 is Incorrect:** While the Yangtze River is a massive river system in the region, the characteristic golden-yellow color of the Yellow Sea is primarily due to the heavy loads of **loess sediment** (silt) from the Yellow River and wind-blown dust from the Gobi Desert sandstorms.

7. With reference to the Sea of Japan, consider the following statements:

1. It is almost entirely enclosed by the Japanese archipelago, Sakhalin, the Korean Peninsula, and mainland Russia, and shares maritime borders with four countries.
2. Like the Mediterranean Sea, it has almost no tides due to its near-complete isolation from the Pacific Ocean.
3. It features high biological productivity due to the interaction of the warm Tsushima Current and the cold Liman Current.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Correct Answer: (c)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sea of Japan is a marginal sea of the western Pacific Ocean. It is bounded by Russia and Sakhalin Island to the north, North Korea to the west, South Korea to the southwest, and the Japanese archipelago to the east and south. A total of four countries share a coast along it.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to its near-complete enclosure by surrounding landmasses and narrow connecting straits (such as the Korea and Tsugaru straits), the sea has almost no tides, sharing this specific oceanographic characteristic with the Mediterranean Sea.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The sea is a prime fishing ground globally. This high biological productivity is driven by high dissolved oxygen concentrations and the convergence of two major oceanic currents: the warm Tsushima Current and the cold Liman Current.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Caspian Sea:

1. It is an endorheic basin.
2. Its waters are entirely fresh, as it is primarily fed by the Volga River system.
3. It is bordered by exactly five countries: Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one statement
- (b) Only two statements
- (c) All three statements
- (d) None of the statements

Correct Answer: (b)

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Caspian Sea is the world's largest enclosed inland body of water and is technically an endorheic basin, meaning its water levels are balanced purely by evaporation and river inflows.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Although it receives massive freshwater inflows (the Volga River alone supplies about 80% of its water), the Caspian Sea is a saltwater (brackish) lake. Its salinity varies significantly, being nearly fresh in the north and saltier in the south, but it is not entirely fresh.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Caspian is uniquely bordered by exactly five littoral states: Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Azerbaijan.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Black Sea:

1. The deep waters of the Black Sea are anoxic, meaning they contain virtually no dissolved oxygen.
2. It has a higher salinity than the open global oceans due to its enclosed nature and high evaporation rates.
3. The countries bordering the Black Sea include Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Turkey.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Option: (b)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Black Sea is recognized as the world's largest meromictic basin. The absence of vertical mixing between surface and deeper layers makes the deep waters permanently anoxic.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Contrary to popular belief, the Black Sea has lower salinity than the global oceans. This is because it receives massive volumes of freshwater inflow from major rivers (like the Danube and Dnieper) and has a restricted exchange of water with the saltier Mediterranean.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Black Sea is bordered by exactly six countries: Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Turkey.

10. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sea of Azov:

1. It is globally recognized as the shallowest sea in the world and is connected to the Black Sea via the Kerch Strait.
2. It has relatively high salinity due to the heavy inflow of marine water from the Black Sea.

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

Correct Answer: (a)

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Sea of Azov holds the geographical distinction of being the shallowest sea on Earth, with a maximum depth of only about 14 meters. It is located in Eastern Europe and is connected to the Black Sea exclusively through the strategic Kerch Strait.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Sea of Azov exhibits exceptionally low salinity, to the point of being practically freshwater in certain areas (such as the northeastern Taganrog Gulf). This is due to massive, continuous freshwater discharge from inflowing rivers, primarily the Don and Kuban rivers.