

## **Explanations:**

### 1. B) Kalyan Barooah Memorial

- a) The awards are given in recognition of their effort to promote the northeastern region through reporting and storytelling.
- b) The 2nd Kalyan Barooah Memorial Awards-2024 ceremony will be held at the Constitution Club in New Delhi.

### 2. B) Danguajhar Tea Estate

#### Tea Garden Bungalows in Assam

- a) Chameli Memsaab
- b) Bura Sahib
- c) Mancotta heritage
- d) Wathai Heritage

3. A) Asom Divas- Asom Divas, also known as Asom Day or Sukapha Divas, celebrates the legacy of the first king of the Ahom kingdom in Assam and commemorates his arrival in the region in the early 13th century. The founders of the Ahom kingdom had their own language and followed their own religion. Over the centuries, the Ahoms accepted the Hindu religion and the Assamese language. Asom Divas is observed for the first time in Assam on December 2, 1996.

4. A ) Ismail Siddique, who is popularly known as Bagh Hazarika, was a 17th-century commander who fought against the Mughals for the Ahom kingdom. He was a highly skilled front ranking military officer.

5. A) Cyclone Fengal is named by Saudi Arabia.

### 6. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- a) The Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India is implementing Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
- b) A scheme to bring about ecologically healthy, economically viable, and socially inclusive development of the Fisheries sector of India.
- c) PMMSY is being implemented in all the States and Union Territories for a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

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- d) It aims to modernize and strengthen the value chain, enhance traceability and establish a robust fisheries management framework while simultaneously ensuring the socio-economic welfare of fishers and fish farmers.

7. B) India to dominate oil, gas pipeline additions in Asia by 2028

8. A) To act as a nodal point to curb Cybercrime in the country and formulates cyber laws.

#### Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre

- a) initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to deal with cyber crime in the country in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- b) aims to address every aspect of cybercrime for the benefit of the populace, including enhancing cooperation between different law enforcement agencies and stakeholders, promoting change in India's overall capacity to combat cybercrime, and raising citizen satisfaction levels.

#### Objectives of I4C

- To act as a nodal point to curb Cybercrime in the country.
- To strengthen the fight against Cybercrime committed against women and children.
- Facilitate easy filing Cybercrime related complaints and identifying Cybercrime trends and patterns.
- To act as an early warning system for Law Enforcement Agencies for proactive Cybercrime prevention and detection.
- Awareness creation among public about preventing Cybercrime.
- Assist States/UTs in capacity building of Police Officers, Public Prosecutors and Judicial Officers in the area of cyber forensic, investigation, cyber hygiene, cyber-criminology, etc.

9. (C) ii) only

World aids day 1st december. Theme - "Take the rights path: My health, my right!"

HIV prevalence in adults continues to be high in Mizoram and Nagaland, closely followed by Manipur

10. C) Bhomoraguri Rock Inscription at Tezpur

- a) a victory pillar inscribed in Assamese
- b) It marks the victory of Ahom Swargadeo Pratap Singha (1545-1641) over the Mughals in the famous Battle of Samdhana
- c) Bhomoraguri Rock Inscription- This is the rock inscription that we can see now near the Koliabhomora Bridge, Tezpur and thus it is the existing evidence of the Battle of Samadhara, 1616 A.D. and an important part of history that needs to be preserved.

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- d) The Battle of Samdhara was only the beginning of the Ahoms' continued feud with the Mughal expansionists that lasted over 70 years, ending only in 1682 in the Battle of Itakhuli. The win in the Battle of Samdhara resulted in the expansion of the Ahom Kingdom up to the Bornadi in the western limit, creation of two new posts — Borbaruah and Borphukan, to oversee frontier areas and also elevated the self-respect of the Assamese Samdhara in 1616.
- e) Battle of Ghilajharighat was in 1663.

11. C) The mighty Koch Kingdom worked as a buffer zone between the Ahom kingdom and the Mughals, which later disintegrated into two parts — Koch Hajo, ruled by Parikshit Narayan from the Sankosh River to the Bharali in the east near Tezpur, and Koch Behar was ruled by Lakhmi Narayan from Tirhut in the west of Sankosh.

12. A) The term Atreyi was a special identity given to a learned woman and this group of women studied the philosophical portion from the ancient scriptures of India.

13. D)

- i) Equity is about becoming a partner in a business. Debt is lending your money to a business in return for a predefined income or interest.
- ii) with debt, your returns are steady and predictable, arriving within a predefined timeframe. Equity, on the other hand, offers no such guarantee.

14. B) "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood." The line "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood" is from Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken", where the speaker reflects on a moment of choice in the forest. The other options are either from different poems or do not match the lines from "The Road Not Taken".

15. A) India and Cambodia- The CINBAX exercise is a joint military training exercise between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army. It was conducted at the Foreign Training Node in India. The exercise focuses on improving bilateral defense cooperation, enhancing tactical interoperability, and exchanging knowledge between the armed forces of the two countries.

16. B) Anti-government protests, uprisings, and rebellions- The Arab Spring was a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across many countries in the Arab world starting in 2010. These movements were fueled by grievances over government corruption, economic hardship, and the lack of political freedoms. The Arab Spring led to major political changes in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Syria. However, the outcomes were varied, with some countries experiencing regime change, while others descended into civil war or political instability.

## **Explanations:**

17. B) Siu-ka-pha established the Ahom Kingdom in the Brahmaputra valley after defeating the indigenous kingdoms of the region.

Option A is true: Siu-ka-pha (Sukapha) indeed brought with him scholars and instructed them to record the events during his journey, which laid the foundation for the tradition of historical documentation in the region.

Option C is true: Charaideo, the place where Sukapha was buried, became the royal necropolis for Ahom rulers for over 600 years.

Option D is true: Sukapha's death in 1268 CE marked the end of his rule, but the Ahom kingdom continued to thrive with a centralized political system in the later years.

Option B is incorrect because Siu-ka-pha did not conquer indigenous kingdoms through military conquest to establish the Ahom Kingdom. Instead, he migrated peacefully from Mong Mao (present-day Yunnan, China) to the Brahmaputra valley and established the kingdom, largely through peaceful settlements and alliances with local tribes. The early Ahom rulers were not known for their conquests but for gradually consolidating power in the region.

18. A) December 2 marks National Pollution Control Day, observed annually in India to commemorate the tragic Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984, one of the world's most devastating industrial disasters. This day honours the lives lost and raises awareness about the severe impact of pollution on health, the economy and ecosystems. It advocates for eco-friendly practices such as waste management, renewable energy, and emission reduction. The accidental release of toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas from the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, resulted in thousands of deaths and longterm health issues, underscoring the urgent need to address industrial safety, poor risk management, and inadequate emergency responses. The theme for 2024, 'Clean Air, Green Earth: A Step Towards Sustainable Living,' emphasizes the importance of clean air and sustainable practices to tackle environmental challenges

19. B) The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was established in 1959. It was created to explore and develop India's oil and natural gas resources, and over time, it has become one of the largest public sector undertakings in India. ONGC plays a crucial role in the country's energy sector.

20. D) The INROAD (Indian Natural Rubber Operations for Assisted Development) project is focused on Assam, where around 37,000 hectares of land have been planted with rubber. This initiative aims to promote the development of natural rubber plantations in Assam and improve the livelihood of the people involved in rubber cultivation. The state of Assam is becoming an emerging hub for rubber cultivation in India, thanks to projects like INROAD, which assist in providing technical and financial support for the industry.

## **Explanations:**

While Kerala is the leading rubber-producing state in India, Assam is increasingly contributing to rubber cultivation with the help of initiatives like INROAD.

21. B) The Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, one of the most revered Sufi saints in India, is located in Ajmer, Rajasthan. It is a major pilgrimage site for both Muslims and people of other faiths. Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, known for his teachings of love, peace, and harmony, founded the Chishti Order of Sufism in India. His dargah attracts millions of devotees each year who come to pay their respects and seek blessings.

The other cities listed in the options (Delhi, Hyderabad, Lucknow) do not have the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti.

22. C) Australia established the Independent Review of Sexual Misconduct in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to investigate incidents of sexual violence, harassment, and misconduct within the military. This inquiry aimed to create a safer environment for service members and address systemic issues related to sexual violence.

Option A, the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, is focused on suicide rates among veterans, not sexual violence.

Option B, the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART), was earlier established to deal with cases of abuse in the ADF, but it is distinct from the specific review of sexual misconduct.

Option D does not refer to a known specific panel in Australia related to sexual harassment in the military.

The Independent Review of Sexual Misconduct conducted by experts was one of the key steps taken by the Australian government to address sexual violence within the military.

23. D) Centre for Narcotics and Drug Studies (CNDS) - To conduct research on narcotics and drug abuse

The Centre for Narcotics and Drug Studies (CNDS) primarily focuses on research and studies related to narcotics and drug abuse. It works towards understanding the causes, impact, and solutions related to drug misuse and addiction. The center also aims to promote public awareness and formulate policies for drug control and prevention.

Option A is incorrect: While the CNDS may provide insights on rehabilitation, its primary function is research, not direct rehabilitation services.

Option C is incorrect: The CNDS does not focus on regulating pharmaceutical manufacturing but rather studies the abuse and misuse of narcotics and drugs.

Option D is incorrect: Although law enforcement may benefit from CNDS's research, its main role is not training police officers, but conducting scientific research on narcotics and drug abuse.

The CNDS plays a vital role in research, policy formation, and public awareness to address the issues of drug abuse in society.

## **Explanations:**

24. D) A tax levied on excess profits made by companies, particularly in sectors like oil and gas, during periods of high prices.

25.B) 'International Day of Persons with Disabilities'. The colour purple is associated with disability awareness, inclusion, and a positive narrative about the contribution of disabled people to the wider community

26. C) Depsang Plains and Demchok are two areas of contention between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)

27. C) In the case of Aruna Ramchandra Shanbaug vs Union of India (2011), the Supreme Court permitted passive euthanasia for terminally ill patients in certain circumstances. Subsequently, in the Common Cause vs Union of India (2018), the apex court declared the right to die with dignity as a fundamental right and an integral part of the right to live with dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. There is an ongoing debate on the legal acceptance of euthanasia policy reforms. The supporters of the legalization of euthanasia are often proponents of the Quality-of-Life (QOL) doctrine, which is concerned not only with assessing the worthwhileness of the treatment but also the patient's life.

On the other hand, there are counterarguments against the legalization of euthanasia across the globe. They are mostly proponents of the absolutist Sanctity of Life (SOL) doctrine, which views human life as a 'sacred' and supreme Godgiven value. In this case, the artificial destruction of human life is perceived as a serious sinful act and a crime against the laws of the supreme creator.

28. B) Samagra Shiksha, Assam in collaboration with Mission Gyan has unveiled 'e-Kaksha,' a groundbreaking digital learning platform aimed at providing comprehensive and accessible educational content for students from Classes 1 to 10.

By integrating technology with localized content, eKaksha ensures that students can engage with the material more effectively. This initiative seeks to provide equitable learning opportunities for students across Assam.

29. B) Artificial Intelligence blends technological prowess with philosophical introspection, showcasing transformative potential for human progress. The 2024 Physics Nobel Prize was awarded to John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton for their work on neural networks that help AI learn contemporary things. This is the era of AI, and the future of the world is linked with it. India is powered by two AIs. For the world, it is Artificial Intelligence, but in India, it's Aspirational India plus Artificial Intelligence. When the two meet, it accelerates India's growth.

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30. C) The 'Stone pulling ceremony', a significant cultural practice of the Angami Naga community.

31. C) 16th BRICS Summit. The Kazan Declaration reaffirms BRICS ' commitment for an equitable global order as also the need to reform global governance institutions.

32. B) Dhemaji district, Assam

33. A) 1, 2, and 4 - The Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India, is developing the National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap) to integrate State Legal Metrology Departments and their portals into a unified National System. This initiative aims to streamline processes for issuing licenses, conducting verifications and managing enforcement and compliance. By creating a centralized database, eMaap eliminates the need for stakeholders to register on multiple State Portals, fostering ease of doing business and transparency in trade practices. eMaap simplifies critical procedures such as issuing, renewing, and amending licenses, as well as handling verification & stamping of weighing & measuring instrument, registration certificates, and appeals, etc. For traders and industries, it minimizes compliance burdens, reduces paperwork and ensures timely adherence to the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Rules made thereunder, creating a transparent and conducive business environment. The portal is also expected to significantly boost manufacturing growth by fostering efficiency and accountability.

For consumers, eMaap ensures that trade instrument are verified for accuracy, enhancing confidence in market transactions. It provides a transparent legal metrology system, allowing easy access to certificates and promoting awareness of rights and responsibilities. For Governments, the portal enables data-driven decision-making, streamlines enforcement activities, and facilitates policy formation, ensuring a robust and efficient regulatory framework.

34. C) Plastic recycling centre opened in Sivasagar.

35. A) 1 and 3 only. Definitely, folklore can give economic mileage to tourism in such a way that a large amount of revenue can be earned by the State Government and also if the folklore resources are systematically utilized and scientifically displayed in order to make it to be more presentable amongst tourists. The entire tourism scenario in Assam could be transformed and then the collective folklore resources could be commoditized through the process of value addition without hampering its authenticity. Then the host community would get financial benefit to maintain their minimum standard of living and maintain the sustainability of their livelihood. In the case of existing and potential folklore tourism sites, the same conditions have been found to be applicable regarding the issues of the economic mileage that can be given to the tourism sectors by the proper execution of the practices, performances of the folklore or folk cultural heritages maintaining its uniqueness and authentic values.

**Explanations:**

36. B) Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed annually on December 6 to commemorate the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, fondly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

37. A) 1, 2 and 3 only -The Palashbari-Sualkuchi Bridge is a 4-lane bridge and spans 12 km. It is built using the extradosed post-tensioned concrete technique, not a typical suspension bridge. The bridge connects the towns of Palashbari and Sualkuchi in Assam. It is not designed for exclusive pedestrian traffic but for vehicular movement.

38. A) 1, 2, and 4 only. The Raj Mohan Nath Archaeological Park is located in Darrang district of Assam. The park is focused on preserving ancient stone structures and artifacts. It aims to promote heritage tourism in Assam.

Incorrect Statement:

The park is not primarily used for agriculture and farming; it is an archaeological and cultural heritage site.

39. B) Six-Day War (1967)

Explanation:

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six-Day War in June 1967. The Golan Heights was of significant military and strategic value, and its loss to Israel changed the dynamics of the Israel-Syria conflict.

40. A) 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation:

Correct Statements: The SNID Campaign primarily focuses on raising awareness about Sickle Cell Disease and its complications, including neurological injury. The campaign emphasizes genetic screening and counseling as a preventive measure. It also highlights the neurological impacts of sickle cell disease, such as strokes and other related injuries.

Incorrect Statement:

The campaign does not focus on offering neurosurgery but rather aims at prevention, education, and early diagnosis.

41. A) 1 and 4 only

Explanation:

Correct Statements: Kanlaon is located on Negros Island in the Philippines (Statement 1). It is the highest peak on Negros Island (Statement 4).



## **Explanations:**

Incorrect Statements: Kanlaon is not a shield volcano, but rather a stratovolcano (Statement 2). Kanlaon is active and has erupted multiple times, making Statement 3 incorrect. It poses a risk to nearby communities.

42. A) 1 only

Pharingbore Bator Katha Jaane - Sameer Tanti

Bhaskaracaritam - Prof Dipak Kumar Sharma

Swrni Thakhai - Aron Raja

43. B) 2 only- Based in the village of Rampur in the Goalpara district of Assam, Badungduppa Kalakendra

44. B) 2 only- The Dikhow River flows through Sivasagar district.

The Kulsi River is located in the Kamrup district, not Sivasagar.

The Brahmaputra River does flow through Assam, but not directly through Sivasagar district.

The Barak River is located in the southern part of Assam and does not flow through Sivasagar.

45. D)

- PCV is not used for tuberculosis; it protects against pneumococcal infections caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.
- PCV is administered in multiple doses, not a single dose at birth.
- PCV is widely used for children as part of the routine immunization schedule, and not just for adults.
- PCV protects against pneumococcal diseases like pneumonia and meningitis caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

46. B) 3 only. Lasalgaon APMC, the country's largest wholesale market of the key kitchen staple in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

47. (B) 1, 2, and 4

Statement 1: "Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anaemia globally."

Correct: Iron deficiency is indeed the most common cause of anaemia worldwide. It affects both developing and developed countries and is particularly common among women of reproductive

## **Explanations:**

age, pregnant women, and young children. Iron is essential for hemoglobin production, and its deficiency impairs the body's ability to carry oxygen.

Statement 2: "Anaemia can lead to symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, and shortness of breath due to decreased oxygen supply to tissues."

Correct: Anaemia reduces the blood's ability to transport oxygen effectively, leading to symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, pallor, shortness of breath, and dizziness. These symptoms occur because tissues and organs do not receive enough oxygen, affecting their normal functioning.

Statement 3: "Vitamin B12 deficiency is the primary cause of anaemia in children under the age of five."

Incorrect: While vitamin B12 deficiency can cause anaemia (known as pernicious anaemia), it is not the primary cause in children under five years. In this age group, iron deficiency is far more common as the cause of anaemia, primarily due to insufficient dietary iron intake, growth spurts, and inadequate breastfeeding.

Statement 4: "The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends iron supplementation as the first-line treatment for all types of anaemia."

Incorrect: While iron supplementation is the first-line treatment for iron-deficiency anaemia, it is not suitable for all types of anaemia. For example, anaemia caused by vitamin B12 or folate deficiency requires B12 or folic acid supplementation, respectively. The WHO recommends targeted treatment based on the underlying cause of anaemia.

48. C) Bibha Phukan

49. A) Darrang

50. C) Chandubi lake, a freshwater lake created during the major earthquake in 1897, now serving as an economically viable water body supporting the communities around it.

51. (A) 1, 2, and 3

Statement 1: "Farmers' Day is observed on December 23rd to honor the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, who championed the cause of farmers' welfare."

Correct: Farmers' Day (also known as Kisan Diwas) is observed on December 23rd to mark the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh. He was the fifth Prime Minister of India and a strong advocate for the rights and welfare of farmers. His policies were focused on improving the conditions of Indian farmers, making this day a tribute to his efforts.

## **Explanations:**

Statement 2: "The day is celebrated nationwide with a focus on agricultural policy reforms and improving the living standards of farmers."

Correct: Farmers' Day is celebrated across India with an emphasis on agricultural policy reforms and efforts to improve farmers' livelihoods. The day often includes discussions on challenges faced by the farming community, such as access to credit, technology, and better market prices for their produce. It serves as a reminder to address the issues affecting the agricultural sector.

Statement 3: "Chaudhary Charan Singh was known for his advocacy of modern farming techniques and the establishment of a robust agricultural infrastructure in India."

Correct: Chaudhary Charan Singh made significant contributions to the agricultural sector, including advocating for the adoption of modern farming techniques and promoting the establishment of a strong agricultural infrastructure. He worked to protect the interests of farmers, particularly in terms of land reforms, irrigation facilities, and rural credit systems.

Statement 4: "Farmers' Day was first declared a national holiday by the Government of India in 1991."

Incorrect: Farmers' Day was not declared a national holiday in 1991. It has been observed annually since Chaudhary Charan Singh's time, but it is not a national holiday. Instead, it is a special observance, mainly focused on promoting awareness about the contributions of farmers and the challenges they face. The government has not officially declared it a public holiday.

### 52. D) Income Certificate

The Assam Finance Department has issued a clarification stating that beneficiaries of the Orunodoi 3.0 scheme do not need to furnish income certificates to receive financial assistance. Households with valid ration cards are automatically qualified to apply for the welfare program, which offers monthly assistance of Rs 1,250 to economically disadvantaged families.

This clarification was issued by the government in response to widespread misinformation about the required documentation. Authorities have issued warnings of severe legal consequences for individuals or organizations promoting the unnecessary issuance of income certificates. To address such issues, the Finance Department has set up systems to investigate complaints about misleading practices. The Orunodoi 3.0 scheme is a crucial initiative for poverty alleviation in Assam, aimed at providing financial assistance to families experiencing economic difficulties throughout the state.

### 53. (C) 2 only

## **Explanations:**

The SubSea project is a collaboration between the European Space Agency (ESA), the Portuguese Space Agency, and the Portuguese Navy. The primary goal of the project is to simulate the isolation and confinement challenges that astronauts face during long-duration space missions. This is done by creating an underwater environment that mimics the conditions astronauts experience during extended stays in space, such as psychological and physical challenges due to confinement and isolation.

This project is aimed at helping researchers better understand the impacts of these conditions on astronauts, thereby improving space mission planning and preparation for future long-duration missions, such as those to Mars.

54. A) Gharchola is a traditional handicraft from the state of Gujarat, particularly known for its intricate weaving techniques and vibrant patterns. The Gharchola is a type of sari (or dupattas) often worn during special occasions such as weddings and festivals. The craft involves a distinctive method of weaving that combines both ikat (tie-dye) and bandhani techniques.

In recent times, Gharchola has been awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, which acknowledges its unique cultural and geographical origin in Gujarat, particularly the town of Surat and surrounding areas.

55. A) The Union government on Sunday launched the 'Jalvahak' scheme to incentivise cargo movement via inland waterways, marking a major step towards promoting sustainable and cost-effective transportation across National Waterways 1 (Ganga), 2 (Brahmaputra), and 16 (Barak river).

56. C) Assam History

57. A) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is correct: The Indian Parliament is composed of the President, the Lok Sabha (House of the People), and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States).

Statement 2 is correct: The Rajya Sabha is a permanent body and cannot be dissolved, although its members are elected for staggered terms.

Statement 3 is incorrect: Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected indirectly by the members of State Legislative Assemblies and not directly by the people.

58. (A) 1, 3, and 4 only.

### **Explanations:**

Statement 1 is correct: Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure witnessed significant progress in information technology, telecom, and communications, with a focus on making technology accessible to the common citizen.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Golden Quadrilateral Project, which was an important initiative under Vajpayee's government, aimed to improve road connectivity between major urban centers, not air travel.

Statement 3 is correct: The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, launched during Vajpayee's government, aimed to make modern education accessible to marginalized sections of society.

Statement 4 is correct: The Pokhran nuclear tests of 1998 demonstrated India's scientific capabilities and resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, despite international sanctions.

59. (A) 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: The Paik System required every adult male, known as a Paik, to serve the state in various capacities, including agriculture, military service, or public works, in a rotational manner.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The Paik System was not focused on land revenue collection or the administration of local villages, but rather on labor and military service for the state.

60. (A) 1, 2, and 4 only.

Statement 1 is correct: Shyam Benegal is indeed recognized for his significant contributions to the 'parallel cinema' movement with films like Ankur, Mandi, and Manthan.

Statement 2 is correct: Over his career, Shyam Benegal worked on a wide range of themes, including rural issues, feminist concerns, and biographical films, extending his influence across both film and television.

Statement 3 is incorrect: While Samvidhaan is a notable series by Benegal, it was not his last major work. The director's most recent work was the 2023 biographical Mujib: The Making of a Nation. He was also keen to bring to life the story of Noor Inayat Khan, the secret WW II agent.

Statement 4 is correct: Even in his later years, Shyam Benegal was still engaged in filmmaking and was working on multiple projects for the big screen.

61. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only

### **Explanations:**

Statement 1 is correct: The Supreme Court ruled that there are "hierarchies within hierarchies" in SC/ST communities, justifying the subcategorisation.

Statement 2 is correct: The ruling emphasizes that states must exclude the "creamy layer" within the SC/ST groups from the benefits of reservation to ensure more equitable distribution.

Statement 3 is correct: The ruling has triggered political movements in states like Assam and Bihar, where communities like the tea tribes and Mushahars are demanding better representation.

Statement 4 is incorrect: The judgment does not aim to eliminate all forms of discrimination within Dalit communities; rather, it focuses on ensuring more equitable distribution of reservation benefits, particularly for marginalized subgroups.

62. (A) 1 and 4 only

Statement 1 is correct: The POCSO Act was indeed enacted to protect children from various forms of sexual abuse, harassment, and exploitation. It also provides a legal framework for the prosecution of offenders.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The POCSO Act applies to all children under the age of 18, not just those under 16 years.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The burden of proof in cases under the POCSO Act lies with the prosecution, not the accused. The accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Statement 4 is correct: The POCSO Act mandates the establishment of Special Courts to handle cases involving child sexual offences, ensuring faster trials and judgments.

63. (A) 1, 2, and 3 only

Statement 1 is correct: Mawjymbuin Cave, located in the West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, is famous for its striking limestone formations and is of religious importance to the Khasi community.

Statement 2 is correct: The row regarding Mawjymbuin Cave indeed revolves around its religious significance and concerns about environmental damage and loss of its archaeological value due to excessive tourism.

Statement 3 is correct: The local Khasi community has raised concerns over the development of modern infrastructure around the cave, fearing it would harm its sanctity.

### **Explanations:**

Statement 4 is incorrect: While there have been protests and discussions, there has been no complete ban on tourism at Mawjymbuin Cave by the central government as a direct result of these protests.

64. (B) Bhattadeva is regarded as the 'Father of Assamese Prose'. He was a 16th-century scholar and writer who played a pivotal role in the development of Assamese literature, especially prose writing, through his works like Katha Giti and Bhakti Ratnavali.

65. (B) 1, 3, and 4 only

Statement 1 is correct: The Panama Canal is indeed an artificial waterway that connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, significantly shortening maritime trade routes.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The construction of the canal began in the late 19th century, primarily under the direction of the French engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps, and was completed by the United States in the early 20th century after the French attempt failed.

Statement 3 is correct: The Panama Canal was transferred from U.S. control to Panama in 1999 after the Torrijos-Carter Treaties of 1977.

Statement 4 is correct: The canal is a critical waterway, as it reduces the need for ships to travel around the southern tip of South America (Cape Horn), saving time and fuel.

66. (B) Guwahati is the correct answer.

67. A) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1: "Dr. Manmohan Singh served as the 13th Prime Minister of India from 2004 to 2014." This statement is correct.

Dr. Manmohan Singh served as the 13th Prime Minister of India from May 22, 2004, to May 26, 2014. He was the head of the Indian government for two consecutive terms (2004-2009 and 2009-2014) after the Indian National Congress-led UPA coalition won the 2004 general elections. Before becoming the Prime Minister, Dr. Singh had a distinguished career as an economist and served as Finance Minister in the early 1990s.

Statement 2: "He is known for his role in the economic liberalization of India in the early 1990s, serving as the Finance Minister." This statement is correct.

Dr. Manmohan Singh is widely credited with being the architect of India's economic liberalization during his tenure as Finance Minister from 1991 to 1996 under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

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His policies were instrumental in opening up India's economy by reducing trade barriers, privatizing state-owned enterprises, and encouraging foreign investment. The reforms helped transition India from a closed, state-controlled economy to a more market-driven one, leading to higher growth rates and increased integration with the global economy.

Statement 3: "Dr. Singh was awarded the Bharat Ratna before becoming the Prime Minister of India." This statement is incorrect.

While Dr. Manmohan Singh did receive the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian award), he was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2019, after his tenure as Prime Minister.

The Bharat Ratna was conferred on him for his significant contributions to the economic growth and transformation of India, particularly his role in the 1991 economic reforms. Therefore, Dr. Singh did not receive the Bharat Ratna before becoming Prime Minister, as the award was given much later in recognition of his lifetime achievements.

68. (B) 1 and 3 only

Statement 1: Correct. A. Ramaswamy Chettiar was indeed a prominent industrialist who made significant contributions to the economic development of Tamil Nadu, particularly through his efforts in banking, trade, and industrial ventures.

Statement 2: Incorrect. While A. Ramaswamy Chettiar was involved in public life and had significant social contributions, there is no major historical record of him being deeply involved in the Indian National Congress or the Indian independence movement in the same way as other freedom fighters. His main contributions were in economic and social development rather than direct political activism.

Statement 3: Correct. A. Ramaswamy Chettiar played a significant role in the development of the Chettinad region, focusing on banking, trade, and educational initiatives, which had a lasting impact on the region's prosperity.

69. (A) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1: Correct. Lothal is located in the present-day state of Gujarat, India, and it was one of the southernmost cities of the Indus Valley Civilization (also known as the Harappan Civilization).

Statement 2: Correct. Lothal is famous for its dockyard, which is considered one of the earliest examples of dockyard infrastructure in the world. It was used for maritime trade, indicating the significance of Lothal as a port city for trade with regions like Mesopotamia and the Arabian Peninsula.



## **Explanations:**

Statement 3: Incorrect. While Lothal was a significant trade center, there is no concrete evidence that it was particularly known for cotton textiles. However, the city was involved in bead-making and other craftsmanship. The Harappan Civilization did engage in various types of textile production, but Lothal's primary fame lies in its dockyard and trade rather than textile production.

70. (C) 1, 2, and 3

Statement 1: Correct. The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the President of India under Article 239 of the Indian Constitution. The LG serves as the constitutional head of a Union Territory, similar to how a Governor serves a state.

Relevant Article: Article 239: This article authorizes the President to appoint a Lieutenant Governor for a Union Territory that does not have a Legislative Assembly.

Statement 2: Correct. The Lieutenant Governor in Union Territories generally has executive authority vested by the President. In most Union Territories, legislative powers are exercised by the Union Government. However, in Delhi and Puducherry, which have legislative assemblies, the Lieutenant Governor shares powers with the elected government.

Relevant Articles:

Article 239AA (for Delhi): Deals with the special provisions for the National Capital Territory of Delhi, including the establishment of a Legislative Assembly and the relationship between the Lieutenant Governor and the elected Government of Delhi.

Article 239A (for Puducherry): Provides for the establishment of a Legislative Assembly for Puducherry and defines the powers of the Lieutenant Governor in relation to the Legislative Assembly.

Statement 3: Correct. The Lieutenant Governor can indeed dismiss the elected government and dissolve the Legislative Assembly under certain circumstances, especially if the President gives his/her consent. This power is exercised when there is a breakdown in the administration or if the elected government is not functioning according to the constitutional norms.

Relevant Articles:

Article 239: Deals with the administration of Union Territories and the powers of the President to exercise authority through the Lieutenant Governor.

Article 239AA (for Delhi) and Article 239A (for Puducherry) specify the conditions under which the Lieutenant Governor can take such actions in these territories.

Article 356: Though not directly related to the LG, Article 356 (President's Rule) gives the President the authority to take over the administration of a state or Union Territory in case of a breakdown of constitutional machinery.

## **Explanations:**

71. C) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 1: Correct. Inflation in India is measured using two key indices:

Consumer Price Index (CPI): This measures the change in prices of a basket of goods and services typically consumed by households. CPI is more relevant for measuring the impact of inflation on consumers' cost of living.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI): This measures the change in prices at the wholesale level, i.e., the price at which goods are sold in bulk and before reaching the retail market.

These two indices help track inflation, with the CPI being the more widely used indicator for consumer inflation.

Statement 2: Correct. Demand-pull inflation is caused when there is an increase in aggregate demand (for goods and services) exceeding aggregate supply. This situation can occur due to:

An increase in consumer spending (e.g., higher incomes, government spending),

Increased investment, or

Increased demand from foreign countries (exports).

It happens when too much money chases too few goods.

Statement 3: Correct. Cost-push inflation occurs when the cost of production of goods and services increases, typically due to:

- Higher wages,
- Increased prices of raw materials, or
- Supply shocks like oil price increases.
- The producers pass on these higher costs to consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services.

Additional Notes on Inflation:

Types of Inflation:

Demand-pull inflation: Occurs when demand exceeds supply.

Cost-push inflation: Caused by an increase in the cost of production.

Built-in inflation (Wage-price spiral): Occurs when workers demand higher wages to keep up with increasing living costs, and employers raise prices to cover the cost of higher wages.

Measurement of Inflation:

CPI (Consumer Price Index): Used to measure inflation from a consumer's point of view.

WPI (Wholesale Price Index): Measures inflation at the wholesale level.

GDP Deflator: A broader measure that includes all goods and services in the economy, not just those in CPI or WPI.

Effects of Inflation:

## **Explanations:**

Negative: Reduces purchasing power, creates uncertainty in the economy, and erodes savings.

Positive: It can be good for borrowers (as debt becomes cheaper in real terms) and can stimulate economic growth in moderate levels.

72. B) 1 and 3 only

Statement 1: Correct. Cyclones that form over the Bay of Bengal are known to move towards the Indian subcontinent. These cyclones often impact the eastern coastal states of India, such as Odisha, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and sometimes Tamil Nadu. The Bay of Bengal is a common region for tropical cyclones to form due to its warm waters and monsoon dynamics.

Statement 2: Incorrect. The Indian Ocean does not experience the highest frequency of tropical cyclones in the world. While it is a cyclone-prone region, the Pacific Ocean (especially the western Pacific) experiences a higher frequency of cyclones. The Atlantic Ocean also sees frequent hurricanes, particularly in the Caribbean and off the eastern United States. The Indian Ocean region does experience significant cyclonic activity, but it is not the highest in the world.

Statement 3: Correct. The Caribbean Sea is one of the most cyclone-prone regions in the Atlantic Ocean. Cyclones, particularly hurricanes, frequently form in this area and affect the eastern coast of the United States. The Atlantic hurricane season typically runs from June to November, with the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico being key areas for cyclone formation.

73. B) New Delhi

74. D) 1, 2, and 3

Statement 1: Correct. The proposal suggests holding Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections simultaneously to reduce the frequency of elections and improve governance efficiency.

Statement 2: Correct. Implementing this system would require constitutional amendments to align the terms of the Lok Sabha and state assemblies, which are currently set independently by their respective terms.

Statement 3: Correct. While the system is intended to reduce costs and election fatigue, it could result in national issues overshadowing local issues, especially at the state level, leading to challenges for smaller, regional parties.

75. A) Dergaon, Assam

**Explanations:**

76. A) Dipankar Bhattacharjee

77. C) 1, 2, and 3

Statement 1: Correct. The Assam Movement was indeed driven by concerns over the illegal immigration from Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) and the subsequent demographic, cultural, and economic impacts on Assam.

Statement 2: Correct. The movement was led by All Assam Students' Union (AASU), with prominent leaders like Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, demanding the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants and the protection of Assamese identity.

Statement 3: Correct. The Assam Accord (1985) set 24th March 1971 as the cut-off date for determining Indian citizenship and mandated the updating of the NRC to identify illegal immigrants.

78. D) 1, 2, and 3

Statement 1: Correct. Jimmy Carter served as the 39th President of the United States from 1977 to 1981. His presidency focused on human rights, environmental protection, and peace initiatives.

Statement 2: Correct. Jimmy Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his extensive work in promoting global peace, democracy, and human rights, as well as his efforts to resolve international conflicts.

Statement 3: Correct. Carter played a pivotal role in brokering the Camp David Accords in 1978, a historic peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, which helped to end decades of hostility between the two nations.

79. (B) Shri Justice V Ramasubramanian

Shri Justice V Ramasubramanian, former judge of the Supreme Court of India joins as the new Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, (NHRC), India.

80. D) 1, 2, and 3

Statement 1: Correct. Ningol Chakkouba is a traditional festival celebrated in Manipur to honor married women and girls. It is one of the most significant festivals in the Meitei culture.

### **Explanations:**

Statement 2: Correct. The festival is observed on the 15th day of the Meitei lunar month of Hiyanggei, which generally falls in the month of November.

Statement 3: Correct. During Ningol Chakkouba, married women are invited to their parental homes, where a special feast is arranged in their honor. The festival is celebrated with much fanfare, and it symbolizes the strong bond between daughters and their parents.

81. C) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1: Incorrect. The BHUVNEER Portal is not specifically launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change. It is an initiative under the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), which is part of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The portal aims to provide data on groundwater resources, but it is not focused solely on monitoring groundwater in the broader environmental context.

Statement 2: Correct. The BHUVNEER Portal is a platform designed to make data related to the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAAMP) publicly available. The NAAMP aims to map and manage the groundwater resources of India.

Statement 3: Correct. The BHUVNEER Portal provides access to a wide range of information, including real-time data on groundwater levels, water quality, and other related parameters. It supports effective water resource management and planning across India.

82. C) Drone technology

The Namu Drone Didi Scheme is designed to empower women, particularly in rural areas, by providing them training in drone technology. This initiative helps women become entrepreneurs and creates employment opportunities through the use of drones in various sectors like agriculture and surveillance.

83. (D) 1-B, 2-A, 3-C

- Tropical evergreen forests have species like Rosewood, known for their dense foliage.
- Tropical deciduous forests are dominated by Sal trees.
- Sundari trees are characteristic of mangroves, especially in the Sundarbans.

84. B) Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Explanation: The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme is administered by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. It aims to engage young minds in governance and policymaking by offering internships with various government ministries and departments.

## **Explanations:**

85. B. Anuradha Bhasin vs. Union of India

Explanation: In the case of Anuradha Bhasin vs. Union of India (2020), the Supreme Court held that internet access is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to freedom of speech and expression. The case specifically focused on restrictions imposed on internet access in Jammu and Kashmir.

86. C) Ram Nath Kovind Committee

The Ram Nath Kovind Committee, constituted in 2023, was tasked with exploring the feasibility of implementing the "One Nation, One Election" system. The primary objective of the committee was to assess how the synchronization of Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections could be achieved in India. The idea behind this initiative is to reduce the frequency of elections, thus lowering the associated costs and enhancing governance efficiency. By consolidating elections, the country could avoid the logistical challenges and financial burdens of multiple election cycles throughout the year. The committee's focus areas include analyzing the legal, constitutional, and logistical challenges involved in implementing this system, including the potential need for constitutional amendments and adjustments to electoral laws.

87. B. 1 and 3 only

Solution and Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Guarantees 100 days of wage employment for rural households under the scheme.
- Statement 2: Incorrect – Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, not the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Statement 3: Correct – Social audits are mandatory to ensure transparency and accountability.

88. C) Odisha

Explanation:

The Simlipal Tiger Reserve is located in Odisha, specifically in the Mayurbhanj district. It is part of the Eastern Ghats and plays an important role in tiger conservation under the Project Tiger initiative. The reserve is known for its diverse flora and fauna, including species like the Bengal tiger and Indian elephant.

89. C) Accumulation of snow and gravitational pull

## **Explanations:**

Explanation:

An avalanche is a rapid flow of snow, ice, and debris down a slope, typically triggered by the accumulation of snow and the gravitational pull acting on it. Avalanches occur most commonly in mountainous regions where snow has accumulated over time and is unstable. Other factors such as temperature fluctuations, human activities, or earthquakes can also trigger an avalanche. However, the primary cause is the build-up of snow on steep slopes that becomes heavy enough to overcome friction and gravity, leading to a slide.

90. B) India, United States, China, Vietnam

Explanation:

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a trade agreement that includes all 10 ASEAN member countries and 6 FTA partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and India. However, India opted out of RCEP in 2020, citing concerns over trade imbalances and protecting domestic industries. Therefore, India is not part of the final agreement, though it was initially involved in negotiations.

Statement (A): Correct — These countries are part of the RCEP.

Statement (B): Incorrect — India is not part of the RCEP as it withdrew from the agreement. The United States is not involved in the RCEP, which is focused on the Asia-Pacific region.

Statement (C): Correct — These countries are also part of the RCEP.

Statement (D): Correct — These countries are part of the RCEP.

Thus, India and the United States are not part of the agreement, which was negotiated primarily among countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

91. B) United States

Norovirus outbreaks in the United States have seen a significant increase, with 91 reported cases in early December, compared to 69 in late November. Known for causing gastroenteritis, often referred to as the “stomach flu” or “winter vomiting bug,” norovirus is a highly contagious virus that can affect individuals of all ages. It spreads rapidly through contaminated food, water, surfaces, or direct contact. Responsible for 90% of viral gastroenteritis outbreaks, norovirus accounts for nearly 50% of global cases. Due to the variety of strains, individuals can be infected multiple times. To curb its transmission, emphasis is placed on maintaining proper hygiene and food safety practices.

92. C) Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean

## **Explanations:**

US President-elect Donald Trump has indicated that his administration may explore the possibility of regaining control of the Panama Canal. This 40-mile-long man-made waterway, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans through the Isthmus of Panama, was constructed by the United States and completed in August 1914. Alongside the Suez Canal, it is one of the world's most strategically important artificial waterways. The U.S. controlled the canal from its completion in 1914 until 1979, after which management was transferred to the Panama Canal Commission, and full control was handed over to Panama on December 31, 1999. The canal operates using a complex lock system that compensates for the elevation differences between the two oceans, functioning like water elevators to raise and lower ships. It has three lock sets, which are supported by artificial lakes and channels.

### 93. D) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- ISRO to launch 24 scientific experiments on the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM).
- Part of the SpaDeX Mission aimed at developing autonomous space docking technology.
- Mission will use PSLV-C60 for docking demonstration with Chaser (SDX01) and Target (SDX02).
- Key for future lunar missions and Bharatiya Antariksh Station.
- Orbit: 470 km, inclination: 55°.

### 94. B) Lord Krishna and Rukmini

Explanation:

The Madhavpur Fair is a five-day annual cultural event held in Madhavpur village in Gujarat, India. It celebrates the marriage of Lord Krishna and Rukmini. The fair is marked by various cultural activities, including traditional dances, music, and rituals, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the region.

### 95. B) Lakshminath Phookan

Explanation:

Lakshminath Phookan was the first editor of The Assam Tribune when it was launched as a weekly in 1939. He was a distinguished journalist who had previously worked on the editorial staff of the Hindustan Standard, a leading daily in Kolkata. His leadership helped shape the early direction of the newspaper.

### 96. B) British attempts to control the Khasi Hills

Explanation:

Tirot Sing, the Khasi chief, led a resistance against British colonization in the early 19th century. The conflict arose when the British attempted to take control of the Khasi Hills. Tirot Sing initially had an agreement with the British regarding a road project between Guwahati and Sylhet, but



### **Explanations:**

tensions escalated when the British reinforced their forces and began to assert control over the Khasi territory. Tirot Sing's resistance led to the Anglo-Khasi War, which he fought using guerrilla tactics despite the Khasis lacking firearms. He was captured by the British in 1833 and later deported to Dhaka.

97. B) Rajasthan

Explanation:

Sariska National Park is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan, India. It is famous for its wildlife, including tigers, and is part of the Project Tiger initiative. The park also has historical significance with ancient temples and forts.

98. B) Hematite

Explanation:

Iron is primarily extracted from the ore Hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ) and also from Magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ). These ores are rich in iron and are processed in a blast furnace to obtain iron metal, which is later used in the production of steel and other alloys.

99. B) Max Müller

Explanation:

Max Müller, a German scholar, is credited with popularizing the Aryan Invasion Theory in the 19th century, proposing that Indo-European-speaking Aryans migrated into India and played a crucial role in shaping the Vedic culture.

100. B) The Parliament of India

Explanation:

The President of India can be removed from office through impeachment by the Parliament. The process of impeachment involves a resolution being passed by a two-thirds majority in both the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). This is outlined in Article 61 of the Indian Constitution.