

1. Which one of the following personalities was associated with the Passive Resistance Association?
- Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - Mahadev Govind Ranade
 - Sardar Patel
 - Mahatma Gandhi**

EXPLANATION:

The personality associated with the Passive Resistance Association is Mahatma Gandhi.

- In 1906, a new legislation in South Africa made it compulsory for Indians to carry registration certificates with their fingerprints at all times. Under Gandhi's leadership, the Indian community refused to submit to this discriminatory measure.
- Gandhi formed the Passive Resistance Association to organize a campaign of defiance, where participants accepted all penalties resulting from their noncompliance.
- This movement marked the birth of Satyagraha, or devotion to truth—a method of resisting injustice without violence.
- The government jailed Gandhi and others who refused to register. When the authorities later used deceit to enforce registration, the Indians retaliated by publicly burning their certificates, exposing the unfairness of the South African government. The campaign eventually ended in a compromise settlement. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PERSONALITIES	
Gopal Krishna Gokhale	Social Reformer and Political Leader: ➤ Promoted non-violence and reforms within government institutions. ➤ Influenced by John Stuart Mill and Edmund Burke. Role in Indian National Congress: ➤ Joined the Congress in 1889. ➤ Arranged for Irish nationalist Alfred Webb to serve as Congress President in 1894. ➤ Elected Congress President in 1905 at Benares (Varanasi). Other Contributions: ➤ Founded the Servants of Indian Society ➤ Elected to Bombay Legislative Assembly (1899) and later to the Council of India (1903). ➤ Appointed Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1904. ➤ Mentored both Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Jinnah; Gandhi wrote "Gokhale, My Political Guru". Legacy: Praised by Bal Gangadhar Tilak at his funeral as "this diamond of India, this jewel of Maharashtra, this prince of workers."
Mahadev Govind Ranade	Scholar and Social Reformer ➤ Born in Niphad, Nashik, Maharashtra. ➤ Advocated against child marriage and the caste system; promoted widow remarriage and women's education. Contributions to Reform Societies and Education ➤ Founder of Prarthana Samaj, Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, and Vaktruttvottejak Sabha. ➤ Edited Anglo-Marathi newspaper Induprakash to promote social and religious reform. ➤ Co-founded Maharashtra Girls Education Society and Huzurpaga Girls' High School, Pune. Political and Social Influence:

	➤ Participated in forming the Indian National Congress for constitutional struggle against colonial rule. ➤ Motto: "Humanize, Equalize and Spiritualize", inspiring women to join the freedom movement.
Sardar Patel	Leader in India's Freedom Struggle: ➤ Born in Nadiad, Gujarat. ➤ Senior Congress leader who led peasant movements in Kheda, Borsad, and Bardoli through non-violent civil disobedience. Role in Government: ➤ Served as Home Minister during India's political integration and Indo-Pakistani War (1947). ➤ First Deputy Prime Minister of India. ➤ Chaired Congress resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Policy (1931). Contributions to National Integration: ➤ Organized refugee relief during Partition. ➤ Integrated princely states into independent India, earning the title "Iron Man of India". ➤ Known as the "Patron Saint of India's Civil Servants" for establishing the modern all-India services system. Death and Legacy: ➤ Died on December 15, 1950, at Birla House, Bombay. ➤ Honored with the Statue of Unity (182 m / 597 ft), the world's tallest statue, dedicated in 2018.

2. Which of the following Acts first introduced the principle of "representative institutions" in India?

(a) **Indian Councils Act, 1861**

(b) Indian Councils Act, 1892

(c) Indian Councils Act, 1909

(d) Government of India Act, 1919

EXPLANATION:

Indian Councils Act, 1861

- It introduced the idea of non-official Indians in legislative bodies, marking a step forward in participation.
- Laws were to be made after deliberation, so law-making was no longer only the executive's business.
- The portfolio system introduced by Lord Canning laid the foundation for cabinet government, with each branch having a responsible head.
- Legislative powers were given to Bombay and Madras, and provisions were made for councils in other provinces, which led to the foundation of legislative devolution.
- Limitations of the acts were:
 - Councils had no real power, as they could not discuss important matters or finances without government approval.
 - The council could not control the budget or discuss the actions of the executives.
 - Bills needed the Viceroy's approval, and the Secretary of State could disallow them.
 - Non-official members were mostly from elite sections.

The Indian Council Act, 1861, did not introduce the principle of "representative institutions" in India.

So, Option (a) is not correct.

Indian Councils Act, 1892

- This act was in response to the Congress demand that the legislative councils be expanded that the number of non-official members was increased both in the central (Imperial) and provincial legislative councils by the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

- Universities, district boards, municipalities, zamindars, and trade bodies could recommend members to the councils, thereby introducing the principle of representation of institutions.
- Though the term 'election' was firmly avoided in the Act, an element of indirect election was accepted in the selection of some of the non-official members.
- Members could now express their views on financial statements in council and ask questions to the executive on public matters with six days' notice.

Thus, it is the Indian Councils Act, 1892, that first introduced the principle of "representative institutions" in India. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

Indian Councils Act, 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)

- Strengthened the representative and popular element, but real power remained with the Government.
- First Indian in the Viceroy's Executive Council: Satyendra Prasad Sinha.
- Increased members in Provincial Executive Councils.
- Introduced separate electorates for Muslims, giving them representation beyond their population proportion.
- Elections remained indirect, and councils mainly had the power to criticise the Government.

The Indian Council Act, 1909, did not start the principle of "representative institutions" in India. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms)

- **Objective:** Gradually introduce responsible Government in India, as part of the British Empire.
- Replaced the central Legislative Council with a bicameral system:
 - Council of State (Upper House)
 - Legislative Assembly (Lower House)
- Direct elections were introduced, though the franchise was limited (property, tax, and education).
- Extended communal representation: Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Anglo-Indians.
- The Act introduced dyarchy in the provinces, which was a substantial step towards the transfer of power to the Indian people.
- Provinces could now manage their own budgets, separated from central budgets.
- Appointed a High Commissioner in London to oversee Indian trade.
- The Secretary of State for India is now paid by the British Exchequer instead of Indian revenue.
- Despite major reforms, the responsible Government was not achieved:
 - Dyarchy in provinces largely failed.
 - The central legislature could vote on supplies, but could not replace the Government.
 - The Governor-General retained veto powers and overriding authority.

The Government of India Act, 1919, was not the first to introduce the principle of "representative institutions" in India. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

3. Consider the following information:

Sl.no.	Theory	Propounded by
1.	Safety valve theory	Lala Lajpat Rai
2.	Conspiracy theory	R.P. Dutt
3.	Lightning Conductor theory	Dadabhai Naoroji

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

- **Safety Valve theory** propounded by **Lala Lajpat Rai** states that A.O. Hume formed the Indian National Congress with the idea that it would prove to be a 'safety valve' for releasing the growing discontent of the Indians. To this end, he convinced Lord Dufferin not to obstruct the formation of the Congress. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**
- Even the Marxist historians like **R.P. Dutt** propounded that the '**conspiracy theory**' was an offspring of the 'safety valve' notion. R.P. Dutt opined that the Indian National Congress was born out of a conspiracy to abort a popular uprising in India, and the bourgeois leaders were a party to it. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**
- Modern Indian historians, however, dispute the idea of 'safety valve'. In their opinion, the Indian National Congress represented the urge of the politically conscious Indians to set up a national body to express the political and economic demands of the Indians. If the Indians had convened such a body on their own, there would have been insurmountable opposition from the officials; such an organisation would not have been allowed to form.
- In the circumstances, as **G.K. Gokhale (Not Dadabhai Naoroji)** observes, the early Congress leaders used Hume as a '**lightning conductor**', i.e., as a catalyst to bring together the nationalistic forces even if under the guise of a 'safety valve'. **So, Pair 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ECONOMIC CRITIQUE OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM	
About	➤ The early nationalists, led by Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt, Dinshaw Wacha and others, carefully analysed the political economy of British rule in India and put forward the "drain theory" to explain British exploitation of India. ➤ They opposed the transformation of a basically self-sufficient Indian economy into a colonial economy (i.e., a supplier of raw materials and foodstuffs, an importer of finished goods and a field of investment for British capital). ➤ Thus, the Moderates were able to create an all-India public opinion that British rule in India was the major cause of India's poverty and economic backwardness. ➤ To mitigate the deprivation characterising Indian life, the early nationalists demanded severance of India's economic subservience to Britain and development of an independent economy through involvement of Indian capital and enterprise. ➤ The early nationalists demanded a reduction in land revenue, abolition of the salt tax, improvement in the working conditions of plantation labour, reduction in military expenditure, and encouragement to modern industry through tariff protection and direct government aid.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the BRICS 2025 Summit:
1. The 2025 BRICS Summit took place in Belém city under the chairmanship of Brazil.
 2. This was the first such meeting that included all the newly inducted members.
 3. The BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative was launched at this summit to promote a multipolar financial system.
- How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?
- (a) Only one
(b) **Only two**
(c) All three
(d) None

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the 17th BRICS Summit, held in July 2025 in Rio de Janeiro (not Belém), Brazil, under Brazil's chairmanship, concluded with the adoption of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

- This was the first BRICS summit that included all the newly inducted members: **Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE, Iran, and Indonesia** (Saudi Arabia has not joined so far). **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This summit was also the first since the four-day India-Pakistan conflict in May 2025, and it occurred shortly after the G7 summit in Canada.

The BRICS Cross-Border Payments Initiative (BCBPI), launched at the **16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, in October 2024** (not in the BRICS 2025 Summit), aims to enable member countries to settle international transactions in their local currencies, thereby reducing reliance on the US dollar. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

- This reduces dependence on the SWIFT network, which is used globally for money transfers and is controlled by G-10 central banks.
- Originally proposed in 2015, the initiative—also referred to as **BRICS Pay**—seeks to make trade among BRICS nations easier while lowering reliance on the US dollar and strengthening financial cooperation within the group.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BRICS	
About	The BRICS is a group formed by eleven countries that serves as a political and diplomatic coordination forum for countries from the Global South and for coordination in the most diverse areas.
Members	The BRICS is currently composed of eleven countries: ➤ Five original members: Brazil, China, India, Russia, and South Africa. ➤ Six new members admitted in 2024-25: Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
Objectives	➤ BRICS aims to strengthen economic, political, and social cooperation among its members and increase the influence of Global South countries in global decision-making. ➤ It seeks to make global institutions like the UN, IMF, World Bank, and WTO fairer, effective, and representative. ➤ It also works to promote sustainable development and social inclusion.
Johannesburg Declaration	➤ Under the mandate of the Johannesburg Declaration, BRICS leaders approved the creation of the partner country category at the Kazan Summit in 2024. ➤ The current BRICS partner countries are Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan. ➤ As the pro tempore BRICS Chair, Brazil formally admitted Vietnam as the tenth partner country. ➤ With a population of nearly 100 million and a dynamic, globally integrated economy, Vietnam is a significant player in Asia. ➤ It shares BRICS members' and partners' commitment to a more inclusive and representative international order, and its focus on South-South cooperation and sustainable development aligns with the group's interests.
New Development Bank	➤ The New Development Bank (NDB) is a multilateral development bank established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) in 2015 with the purpose of mobilising resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs). ➤ Recently, Colombia and Uzbekistan have officially joined the New Development Bank (NDB), expanding the multilateral lender's membership to 11 countries.

	➤ Other than the above member countries, India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Algeria are members of NDB. ➤ Headquartered in Shanghai, China, the bank has approved over 120 projects covering sectors such as clean energy, transport, environmental protection, water and sanitation, and digital infrastructure.
BRICS "Outreach" and BRICS "Plus"	BRICS offers additional ways for countries to participate in its meetings: ➤ BRICS Outreach – Launched by South Africa in 2013, this is a meeting between BRICS members and countries from the geographic region of the nation holding the rotating presidency. ➤ BRICS Plus – Launched by China in 2017, this brings together BRICS members and invited countries outside the geographic region of the current presidency.

5. With reference to the Ghadr Party, consider the following statements:

1. It was headquartered in Vancouver.
2. It was a largely secular organisation.
3. The Defence of India Act of 1915 aimed to curb the party's activities.
4. Lala Hardayal was a leader of the party.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three**
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organised around a weekly newspaper, The Ghadr, with its headquarters at San Francisco (not Vancouver) and branches along the US coast and in the Far East. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities.

To carry out revolutionary activities, the earlier activists had set up a 'Swadesh Sevak Home' at Vancouver and 'United India House' at Seattle. Finally, in 1913, the Ghadr was established.

The Ghadr Party was a largely secular organisation. The Ghadar Party was a coalition of Punjabi migrant workers and Bengali and Punjabi intellectuals and students that emphasised secularism and unity despite linguistic, religious, and regional differences.

- Though its core leadership was Hindu, Sikh, and Muslim, nearly 90 percent of its membership was Punjabi Sikh men, almost half of whom were veterans of the British Indian Army and whose loyalty and service to the empire was presumed by British officials.
- What united these seemingly disparate groups was their common belief that they had been pushed out of India because of colonialism and now experienced a shared sense of humiliation as degraded colonial subjects across the world.
- Racial discrimination and violence in North America produced an anti-colonial consciousness among them, and the party's goal of an independent India was inseparable from attaining racial equality abroad. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Defence of India Act, (1915), legislation designed to give the government of British India special powers to deal with revolutionary and German-inspired threats during World War I (1914–18), especially in the Punjab.

A special legal tribunal was set up to deal with such cases without prior commitment and with no appeal. Power was also taken for the internment of suspects.

- The British met the wartime threat with a formidable battery of repressive measures—the most intensive since 1857—and above all by the Defence of India Act passed in March 1915 primarily to smash the Ghadr movement. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- There were large-scale detentions without trial, special courts giving extremely severe sentences, and numerous courts martials of army men.
- Apart from the Bengal revolutionaries and the Punjab Ghadrists, radical pan-Islamists—Ali brothers, Maulana Azad, Hasrat Mohani—were interned for years.

Lala Har Dayal was an Indian revolutionary and scholar who was dedicated to the removal of British influence in India.

- Pre-Ghadr revolutionary activity had been carried out by Ramdas Puri, G.D. Kumar, Taraknath Das, Sohan Singh Bhakna and Lala Hardayal, who arrived there in 1911.
- In 1913, he formed the Ghadr (Gadar) Party to organise a rebellion against the British government of India.
- In March 1914, he was arrested by U.S. immigration authorities. Released on bail, he fled to Switzerland and then to Berlin, where he tried to foment an anti-British rising in northwestern India. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

6. Arrange the following events in chronological order:

1. Introduction of the portfolio system, which laid the foundation of cabinet government in India
2. Provincial autonomy
3. First Indian participation in the Viceroy's Executive Council

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Indian Councils Act of 1861 marked an important step in the constitutional development of British India.

- It introduced the idea that non-official members (Indians and Europeans) could be included in legislative councils, making law-making a more deliberative process rather than the exclusive domain of the executive.
- Any law passed had to go through a structured legislative procedure and could only be amended through the same process.
- **Portfolio System:**
 - One of the most important developments at this time was the portfolio system introduced by Lord Canning.
 - Under this system, each department of the Government was assigned to a specific member of the Governor-General's Council.
 - That member became the official head and spokesperson for that department.
 - This created a system where departments were run with individual responsibility, laying the foundation of cabinet-style Government in India. **(1)**

The Indian Councils Act, 1909, popularly known as the **Morley-Minto Reforms** was the first major step toward introducing a representative and popular element into the governance of British India.

- The strength of the Imperial Legislative Council was increased to allow more members.
- For the first time, an Indian was appointed to the Viceroy's (Governor-General's) Executive Council.
- Satyendra Prasad Sinha became the first Indian to join the Council as the Law Member. **(2)**
- The number of members in the Provincial Executive Councils was also expanded.

- The powers of both central and provincial legislative councils were raised—allowing more discussions and questions.

The Government of India Act, 1935 ended dyarchy in provinces and **introduced provincial autonomy**. Provinces became independent units with their own powers, separate legal identity, and authority coming directly from the British Crown. They received independent financial powers and could even borrow money on their own.

Executive (Provincial Level)

- The Governor represented the British Crown and had wide powers.
- He had special authority over, minorities, rights of civil servants, law and order, British business interests, partially excluded areas, princely states, etc.
- The Governor could take over the provincial administration whenever he wanted and run it indefinitely.

Legislature (Provincial Level)

- Separate communal electorates (based on the Communal Award) were implemented.
- All members of the provincial legislature were directly elected; women received voting rights on the same basis as men.
- A Council of Ministers, headed by a Premier, ran provincial subjects.
- Ministers were responsible to the legislature. They were removable through a vote of no-confidence. The legislature could make laws on provincial and concurrent list subjects.
- 40% of the provincial budget remained non-votable, meaning the legislature had no control over it.
- The Governor retained certain overriding powers such as, refusing to give assent to bills, issuing ordinances, and passing Governor's Acts. **(3)**

Therefore, the chronological order of the events is:

1. **Introduction of portfolio system** which laid the foundation of cabinet government in India: Indian Councils Act of – 1861.
 2. **Provincial autonomy:** Government of India Act, 1935.
 3. **First Indian participation in the Viceroy's Executive Council:** Indian Councils Act, 1909.
- (1-3-2). So, Option (a) is correct.**

7. With reference to the Haripura Session of the Indian National Congress (1938), consider the following statements:

1. It was presided over by Subhas Chandra Bose.
2. It passed resolutions concerning both international affairs and India's internal situation.
3. It was held shortly after the resignation of the Congress Ministries.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Indian National Congress held its fifty-first session in Haripura in the Surat district in Gujarat. It was held on February 19 1938 and presided over by Subhash Chandra Bose. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

This session passed a number of resolutions related to international affairs as well as on the internal situation in India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- The Congress reinforced their commitment towards the attainment of Poorna Swaraj (Complete Independence) for the Indian nation and the need for a responsible government.

- They rejected the federal structure given by the British in the Government of India Act 1935, instead proposed a federation in which the States participated as independent units, enjoying the same democratic freedom as the rest of India.
- They condemned the lack of freedom and suppression of civil liberties in some of the states under the British regime.

The 52nd session (Tripuri) 1939, when the Congress faced a major crisis. This time an election was held for the President and Bose defeated Pattabhi Sitaramayya by 1580 to 1377 votes. This was regarded as a victory of the Left Wing, as the Right Wing had solidly supported Sitaramayya. Even Gandhi regarded this defeat as his own defeat. There was a problem in the formation of the working committee and ultimately Bose resigned from the Presidentship.

- The Congress Ministries resigned office in November 1939 on the ground that the Viceroy on his own had made India a participant in the imperialist war without consulting the Congress.

The Haripura Session took place in February 1938, well before those resignations. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

8. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the recently signed Geelong Treaty?
- (a) To establish a roadmap for the de-escalation and restoration of diplomatic channels between rival nations in West Asia.
 - (b) To promote global cooperation on biodiversity conservation under the Global Biodiversity Framework.
 - (c) To foster a legally binding agreement for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the high seas.
 - (d) **Design and construction of a new class of nuclear-powered submarines.**

EXPLANATION:

Abraham Accords, a series of agreements to normalise relations between **Israel** and several states with Muslim-majority populations in **West Asia**. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

- The Objective of the accord was to establish a roadmap for de-escalation and restoration of diplomatic channels between rival nations in West Asia.
- The name of the accords was given in reference to the biblical Abraham, whom Jews and Arabs consider their common ancestor, and as an expression of brotherhood.
- The accords, all of which were signed in the latter half of 2020, consist of a general declaration alongside individual bilateral agreements between Israel and each of the following countries: the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Bahrain, and Sudan. The accord was in talks between Israel and the West Asian countries of Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity focuses on global efforts to halt biodiversity loss by 2030.

- The Objective of the GBF is to promote global cooperation on biodiversity conservation under the Global Biodiversity Framework. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**
- In 2022, 196 countries agreed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 under the Framework. The GBF was adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15).
- The implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework will be guided and supported through a comprehensive package of decisions adopted at COP 15. This package includes a monitoring framework for the GBF, an enhanced mechanism for planning, monitoring, reporting and reviewing implementation, the necessary financial resources for implementation, strategic frameworks for capacity development and technical and scientific cooperation, as well as an agreement on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) was adopted on 19 June

2023 by the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction convened under the auspices of the United Nations.

- The Agreement's overall objective is conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, for the present and in the long term, through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention and further international cooperation and coordination. The Agreement addresses four main issues:
 - Marine genetic resources, including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;
 - Measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas;
 - Environmental impact assessments; and
 - Capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

The Geelong Treaty is a 50-year defence cooperation agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom, signed in July 2025.

- It is part of the broader **AUKUS alliance**, a trilateral security pact between Australia, the UK, and the United States.
- The treaty enables full collaboration on the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and disposal of nuclear-powered, conventionally armed submarines (SSN-AUKUS) for Australia.
- It marks a major long-term commitment to defence and technology sharing and aims to formalise and strengthen UK-Australia cooperation on the SSN-AUKUS submarine program. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GEEELONG TREATY	
About	➤ The Geelong Treaty enables full cooperation between Australia and the UK on the design, construction, operation, sustainment, and disposal of SSN-AUKUS submarines. ➤ It supports the development of the workforce, infrastructure, personnel, and regulatory systems needed for Australia's submarine program. ➤ It facilitates port visits and the rotational deployment of a UK Astute-class submarine at HMAS Stirling under Submarine Rotational Force – West (SRF-West).
Strategic and Economic Impact	The Geelong Treaty is fully consistent with nuclear non-proliferation commitments, including • Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), • South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, • IAEA safeguards agreements, and • AUKUS Naval Nuclear Propulsion Agreement (ANNPA). ➤ It will help deliver a cutting-edge undersea capability for both Australia and the United Kingdom. ➤ The treaty will also enhance stability and security across the Indo-Pacific and Euro-Atlantic regions. ➤ In addition, it is expected to drive economic growth, create thousands of jobs, and strengthen the submarine industrial bases and supply chains in both nations, while opening new opportunities for industry partners.

9. Consider the following personalities:

1. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
2. G. Subramania Iyer
3. Prithwishchandra Ray
4. Mahadev Govinda Ranade

How many of the above is/are economic analysts of nineteenth-century India?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four**

EXPLANATION:

In the early nineteenth century, many Indian intellectuals believed that British rule would modernise India with new technology and capitalist economic systems. However, after the 1860s, people who were politically aware began to realise the real nature of British rule and started examining its economic impact on India.

- Among these thinkers, **Dadabhai Naoroji** was the foremost economic analyst.
- Through his detailed study of the colonial economy, he developed the drain of wealth theory in his work *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India*.
- Apart from Naoroji, other important economic analysts of the nineteenth century were:
 - Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade
 - Romesh Chandra Dutt (*The Economic History of India*)
 - Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - G. Subramaniya Iyer
 - Prithwishchandra Ray

These nationalist thinkers argued that British colonialism turned India into:

- a supplier of raw materials and foodstuffs to Britain,
- a market for British-manufactured goods, and
- a place for investing British capital.

They organised intellectual movements and demanded that India must end its economic dependence on Britain and develop an independent economy based on modern industries. Therefore, all four are considered economic analysts of the second half of the nineteenth century. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE INDIAN ECONOMISTS & THEIR LITERARY MAJOR WORKS	
Dadabhai Naoroji (1825-1917)	➤ 1887 - Essays, Speeches, Addresses and Writings (on Indian Politics). ➤ 1887 - Indian Exchanges and Bimetallism. ➤ 1889 - The Parsi Religion. ➤ 1901 - Poverty and un-British rule in India.
Mahadev Govind Ranade (1842-1901)	➤ 1877- Revenue manual of the British Empire in India ➤ 1881 - Land Law Reform and Agricultural Banks ➤ 1894 - A note on the decentralisation of provincial finance ➤ 1900 - Rise of the Maratha Power ➤ 1900 - Introduction to the Peshwa's Diaries. ➤ 1902 - Religion and Social Reform: A Collection of Essays and Speeches. ➤ 1906 - Essays on Indian Economics: A Collection of Essays and Speeches
Romesh Chunder Dutt (1848-1909)	➤ 1874 - The Peasantry of Bengal ➤ 1891 - A History of Civilisation in Ancient India ➤ 1896 - Three Years in Europe, (1868 to 1871) ➤ 1895 - The Literature of Bengal ➤ 1897 - England and India: a record of progress during a hundred years, 1785-1885 ➤ 1900 - Open Letters to Lord Curzon on Famines and Land Assessments in India ➤ 1901 - Indian Famines, Their Causes and Prevention ➤ 1902 - The Economic History of British India: From the Rise of the British Power in 1757 to the Accession of Queen Victoria in 1837 ➤ 1902 - Speeches and Papers on Indian Questions ➤ 1902 - Papers regarding the Land Revenue System of British India

	➤ 1903 - The Economic History of India in the Victorian Age: From the Accession of Queen Victoria in 1837 to the Commencement of the Twentieth Century, Vol. I ➤ 1904 - Epochs of Indian History: Ancient India 2000 B.C. – 800 A.D.
Ganesh Venkatesh Joshi (1851-1911)	➤ 1912 - Writings and Speeches
Ganapathy Subramaniya Iyer (1855-1916)	➤ 1898: "Railways in India" in Indian Politics ➤ 1903: Some Economic Aspects of British Rule in India ➤ 1918: Speeches and Writings
Kashinath Trimbak Telang (1850-1893)	➤ 1877- Free Trade and Protection from an Indian point of view ➤ 1885 - Selected Writings and Speeches
Prithwis Chandra Ray (1870-1928)	➤ 1895 - The Poverty Problem in India 1901 Indian Famines – Their Causes and Remedies
Surendranath Banerjee (1848-1925)	➤ 1917- Speeches and Writings of Hon. Surendranath Banerjee: Selected by Himself

10. Consider the following personalities:

1. Swami Sahjanand Saraswati
2. N.G.Ranga
3. Madan Mohan Malaviya

Who among the above were associated with the All India Kisan Sabha?

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

EXPLANATION:

The All-India Kisan Congress/Sabha was founded in Lucknow in April 1936 with Swami Sahjanand Saraswati as the President and N.G. Ranga as the general secretary.

- A kisan manifesto was issued, and a periodical under Indulal Yagnik started.
- The AIKS and the Congress held their sessions in Faizpur in 1936.
- The Congress manifesto (especially the agrarian policy) for the 1937 provincial elections was strongly influenced by the AIKS agenda.

Madan Mohan Malaviya was not associated with the All-India Kisan Sabha of 1936; he founded the Hindu Mahasabha in 1915 at Haridwar. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

11. Which of the following major events happened during the viceroyship of Lord Chelmsford?

1. Formation of Home Rule Leagues
2. Moplah rebellion in Kerala
3. Transfer of capital from Calcutta to Delhi
4. Appointment of the Saddler Commission for reforms in education policy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Lord Chelmsford was the Viceroy of British India from 1916 to April 1921. During his tenure as Viceroy, the following major events took place:

Formation of the Home Rule Leagues (1916):

- Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak started the Home Rule League movement to spread the idea of self-government.
- The campaign reached wider sections of society, including politically backward areas like Gujarat and Sindh.
- It promoted political education through public meetings, reading rooms, pamphlets, newspapers, classes for students, plays, and social work.
- Annie Besant started the All-India Home Rule League in Madras in September 1916, covering most of India except Maharashtra.
- It had about 200 branches and was loosely organised.
- Key workers included George Arundale, B.W. Wadia, and C.P. Ramaswamy Aiyar. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Saddler Commission on Education (1917):

- The Government appointed the Calcutta University Commission, known as the Saddler Commission, chaired by Michael Sadler.
- Although formed to study Calcutta University, its recommendations applied to other universities as well.
- It reviewed the entire education system from schools to universities.
- It concluded that improving secondary education was essential for improving university education. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

The Mappilas were Muslim tenants in Malabar, where most landlords were Hindus. They had long been resentful of landlord oppression due to insecure tenancy, high rents, renewal fees, and other harsh demands.

- Their movement gained momentum when the local Congress supported legislation to regulate tenant-landlord relations, and it soon merged with the Khilafat agitation.
- Leaders of the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement—Gandhi, Shaukat Ali, and Maulana Azad—addressed Mappila gatherings.
- After the national leaders were arrested, local Mappila leaders took charge.
- In August 1921, the arrest of a respected priest, Ali Musaliar, triggered widespread riots. Initially, the targets were symbols of British authority and oppressive landlords.
- But after the British imposed martial law and intensified repression, the Rebellion took on communal overtones, as many Hindus were seen by the Mappilas as supporting the authorities.
- This communal shift isolated the Mappilas from the broader Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement, and by December 1921, the uprising ended.

Lord Reading was the Viceroy of British India during the Mappilas Rebellion. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The British Indian Government decided to annul the Partition of Bengal in 1911 to curb the menace of revolutionary terrorism.

- It was also decided to shift the Capital to Delhi as a sop to the Muslims, as it was associated with Muslim glory, but the Muslims were not pleased.
- On December 12, 1911, Delhi was proclaimed as the new Capital of British India.
- Lord Hardinge (1910-1916) was the Viceroy of British India during the transfer of the Capital. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- Bihar and Orissa were taken out of Bengal, and Assam was made a separate province.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

KEY EVENTS DURING LORD CHELMSFORD'S VICEROYALTY (1916–1921)	
About	Political Developments: ➤ Formation of the Home Rule Leagues by Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1916. ➤ The Lucknow Session of the Indian National Congress in 1916. ➤ The Lucknow Pact (1916), an agreement between the Congress and the Muslim League to present a united front for constitutional reforms. Gandhi's Early Satyagraha's and Social Initiatives: ➤ Foundation of Sabarmati Ashram in 1916 following Gandhi's return to India. ➤ Launch of Champaran Satyagraha (1916) and Kheda Satyagraha (1918), followed by the Satyagraha at Ahmedabad (1918). ➤ Establishment of the Women's University at Poona in 1916. ➤ Appointment of the Saddler Commission in 1917 to recommend reforms in educational policy. British Government Measures and National Reactions: ➤ Montagu's August Declaration (1917), promising gradual self-government to Indians. ➤ Government of India Act (1919) introducing reforms and expanded legislative councils. ➤ The Rowlatt Act (1919) allowing repressive measures against revolutionary activities. ➤ Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919), a turning point in Indian public opinion against British rule. Rise of Mass Movements and Leadership Changes: ➤ Launch of the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat Movements in response to oppressive policies. ➤ Death of Bal Gangadhar Tilak on August 1, 1920. ➤ Appointment of S.P. Sinha as the Governor of Bihar, the first Indian to hold a governorship.

12. Under which one of the following initiatives has the Sittwe Port been strategically developed?

- (a) Sagarmala Programme
- (b) Bharatmala Pariyojana
- (c) Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project**
- (d) International North-South Transport Corridor

EXPLANATION:

Sittwe Port has been developed as part of the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)**. Once operational, the port will provide multimodal transit connectivity between India and Southeast Asia.

- This transit project aims to connect **Kolkata Port (India) to Mizoram (India) through Sittwe Port (capital of Rakhine State) in Myanmar** via a combination of sea, river (Kaladan River), and road routes.
- The port was built under a framework agreement between India and Myanmar to create a transit transport facility on the Kaladan River, linking Sittwe Port in Myanmar with the state of Mizoram in India.
- The main objective of the KMTTP is to give Mizoram access to the sea through Sittwe Port. The project includes:
 - A 158 km waterway on the Kaladan River from **Sittwe to Paletwa in Myanmar**, and
 - A 109 km road from **Paletwa to Zorinpui** on the India–Myanmar border in Mizoram.
- Currently, the distance between Kolkata and Mizoram is about **1850 km**, taking 7–8 days of travel.

- During the monsoon, landslides often block roads, disconnecting parts of the Northeast. With the Kaladan project, the distance will reduce to about **930 km**, cutting travel time by 2–3 days.
- The route will help transport major commodities such as food grains, fertilisers, construction materials, fruits, and machinery more efficiently. **So, Option (c) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER IMPORTANT INITIATIVES

Sagarmala Programme

- The Sagarmala Programme, launched in 2015, is India's major maritime development initiative.
- Its main goal is to use India's long coastline and waterways to promote port-led economic growth.

Objectives of Sagarmala:

- Modernise ports
- Improve port connectivity (rail, road, and waterways)
- Develop port-linked industries
- Support skill development and job creation
- Strengthen the coastal economy

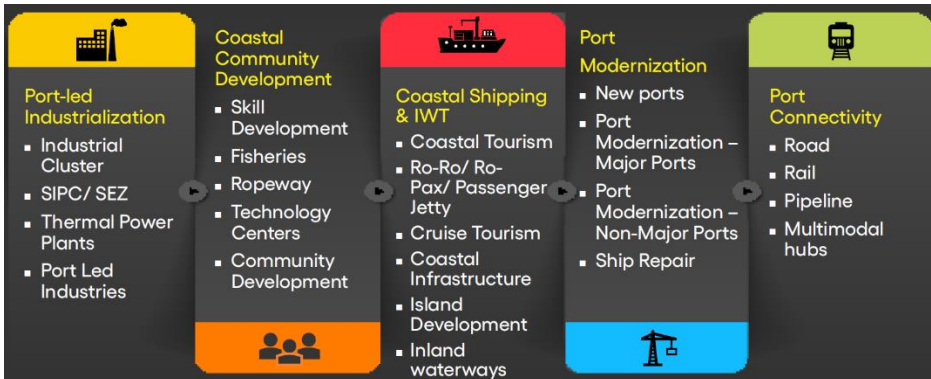
Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047:

- Sagarmala is a key part of the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 (MAKV), which aims to make India a global maritime leader by 2047.
- MAKV builds on Maritime India Vision 2030 and includes 300+ strategic initiatives to expand port capacity, develop world-class ports, grow shipbuilding, and promote a sustainable Blue Economy.
- Targets include 4 million GRT shipbuilding capacity and 10 billion tonnes of annual port handling.

Sagarmala 2.0: Aims to further strengthen the maritime ecosystem under the Viksit Bharat Mission.

Key goal:

- Increase port capacity from ~2,700 MTPA to over 10,000 MTPA, enabling higher trade volumes and lower logistics costs.

	➤ This phase focuses on economic growth, along with environmental sustainability and better government support. 
Bharatmala Pariyojana	Bharatmala Pariyojana is a major highway development programme of the Government of India under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Its main purpose is to improve the efficiency of road-based freight and passenger movement across the country by closing critical infrastructure gaps. Key Objectives • Build a modern, well-connected national highway network. • Improve connectivity between major economic centres. • Strengthen border, coastal, rural, and port connectivity. • Reduce travel time and logistics costs. • Support economic growth and improve India's Logistics Performance Index (LPI). The following are the main components of Bharatmala Pariyojana: ➤ Economic Corridors: Develop about 26,000 km of highways linking important production and consumption centres to boost trade and manufacturing. ➤ Inter-Corridors & Feeder Routes: Inter-corridors: ~8,000 km to link major corridors for smooth long-distance travel. Feeder routes: ~7,500 km to provide first- and last-mile connectivity to smaller towns and industrial areas. ➤ National Corridor Efficiency Improvement: Widen and decongest heavily used National Corridors (including the Golden Quadrilateral and NS-EW network) to increase speed and reduce bottlenecks. ➤ Border & International Connectivity Roads: Strengthen roads near international borders to improve security, accessibility, and cross-border trade. ➤ Coastal & Port Connectivity Roads: Improve Road links to ports and coastal regions to support port-led development, tourism, and coastal industries. ➤ Greenfield Expressways: Build new, access-controlled expressways that reduce travel distance and time, and ease pressure on existing highways.
International North-South Transport Corridor	➤ The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transport network developed by India, Russia, and Iran, based on an Inter-Governmental Agreement signed on 12 September 2000. ➤ Its aim is to improve trade and transport connectivity between India and Europe through the Middle East, Central Asia, and Russia. Member Countries • There are 13 member countries: India, Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, Belarus, Oman, and Syria. • Bulgaria is an Observer State

	➤ The INSTC is a multi-modal, cost and time-effective route from India to Northern and Western Europe. ➤ It has the potential to enhance India's connectivity with Central Asia and the Eurasian Region and vice versa, taking into account the geo-strategic and economic importance of all the involved countries.
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13. With reference to the Vaikom Satyagraha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was a protest against the restriction imposed on certain communities from using public roads around a temple in Kerala.
2. The movement was led by local social reformers without any support from the Indian National Congress.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Precisely a century ago, Kerala's Vaikom town, which was then in the princely state of Travancore, became the epicentre of a historic non-violent movement against untouchability and caste discrimination.

- The people of the oppressed classes, especially the Ezhavas, were prohibited from walking on the four roads surrounding the Vaikom Mahadeva temple. Spearheaded by Congress leader **T.K. Madhavan**, who himself was an Ezhava, an agitation was launched against this social injustice. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- The Vaikom Satyagraha was launched on March 30, 1924, against the ban imposed on members of marginalised communities on the four streets surrounding the Vaikom Mahadevar Temple.
- However, the Satyagraha is considered the first-ever organised struggle in Kerala demanding the right to use public roads for people of all castes and communities.
- Vaikom Satyagraha received support from the Indian National Congress.
 - The protest was started and led by local social reformers under the leadership of T K Madhavan, K P Kesava Menon and George Joseph, with the blessings of the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) and Mahatma Gandhi, after T K Madhavan raised the injustice being faced by the lower caste people, in the Kakinada meet of the Congress party in 1923. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The 603-day-long struggle witnessed several ups and downs. While frontline leaders were arrested within two weeks of the strike, Periyar E V Ramasamy was brought in from Tamil Nadu, who gave a fresh lease of life to the agitation.
- The Satyagraha was reinforced by jathas from Punjab and Madurai. Gandhi undertook a tour of Kerala in support of the movement.
- The strike was withdrawn officially on November 30, 1925, following active consultations between Gandhiji and W.H. Pitt, the then police commissioner of the Travancore State.
- The compromise formula stipulated the release of all prisoners and the opening of the roads on the northern, southern, and western sides of the temple. The eastern entry of the road, however, continued to be reserved for the upper castes.

14. Consider the following information:

Sl. no.	Association	Activity	Personality associated
1.	Jugantar	Killing of the Collector of Nasik	Jatindranath Mukherjee
2.	Abhinav Bharat	Taxicab dacoities and boat dacoities	Anant Lakshman Kanhere
3.	Anjuman-i-Mohisban-i-Watan	Urging non-payment of revenue	Ajit Singh

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Jugantar group, also called the Yugantar group, was a secret revolutionary organisation in Kolkata, West Bengal, during the nationalist movement.

- Founded by Aurobindo Ghosh, his brother Barin Ghosh, Raja Subodh Malik, and Bhupendranath Datta, the group published a weekly magazine to promote the Anushilan Samiti, later popularised as Jugantar.
- The western branch of Anushilan Samiti came under Jatindranath Mukherjee (Bagha Jatin) and gradually evolved into the Jugantar organisation, connecting revolutionary units across Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa.
- However, the killing of A.M.T. Jackson, the Collector of Nasik in 1909, was not carried out by Jugantar but by Anant Lakshman Kanhere of Abhinav Bharat. **So, Row (1) is not correct.**

Savarkar and his brother organised Mitra Mela, a secret society, in 1899, which merged with Abhinav Bharat (after Mazzini's 'Young Italy') in 1904. Soon, Nasik, Poona and Bombay emerged as centres of bomb manufacture.

- In 1909, A.M.T. Jackson, the Collector of Nasik, who was also a well-known Indologist, was killed by Anant Lakshman Kanhere, a member of Abhinav Bharat.
- Meanwhile, the Jugantar group was involved in raising funds through taxicab and boat dacoities in connection with the Indo-German conspiracy, which aimed to build a guerrilla force and spark an uprising.
- This plot collapsed after betrayal, leading to the police confrontation in Balasore, where Bagha Jatin and his associates were killed or arrested.

Therefore, the activity mentioned does not correspond to Abhinav Bharat. **So, Row (2) is not correct.**

Ajit Singh (Bhagat Singh's uncle), who organised the extremist Anjuman-i-Mohisban-i-Watan in Lahore with its journal, Bharat Mata.

Before Ajit Singh's group turned to extremism, it was active in urging non-payment of revenue and water rates among Chenab colonists and Bari Doab peasants.

Other leaders included Aga Haidar, Syed Haider Raza, Bhai Parmanand and the radical Urdu poet, Lalchand' Falak'. **So, Row (3) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES	
Bengal	➤ 1902 — First revolutionary groups formed in Midnapore and Calcutta (Anushilan Samiti). ➤ 1905-06 — Several newspapers began advocating revolutionary terrorism. ➤ 1906 — Yugantar, a revolutionary weekly, was launched.

	➤ 1907 — Attempt on the life of the former Lieutenant Governor of East Bengal and Assam. ➤ 1908 — Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose attempted to assassinate Muzaffarpur Magistrate Kingsford; Alipore Conspiracy Case involved Aurobindo Ghosh, Barindra Kumar Ghosh, and others. ➤ 1908 — Burrah dacoity by Dacca Anushilan to raise funds for revolutionary activities. ➤ 1912 — Bomb thrown at Viceroy Hardinge by Rashbehari Bose and Sachin Sanyal. ➤ Newspapers like Sandhya and Yugantar continued to promote revolutionary activities. ➤ Jatin Das and Yugantar were involved in the German Plot during World War I.
Maharashtra	➤ 1879 — Ramosi Peasant Force established by Vasudev Balwant Phadke. ➤ 1890s — Tilak promoted militancy among youth through Shivaji and Ganapati festivals, and his journals <i>Kesari</i> and <i>Mahratta</i>. ➤ 1897 — Chapekar brothers assassinated Rand, the plague commissioner of Poona, and Lt. Ayerst. ➤ 1899 — Mitra Mela, a secret society, formed by Savarkar and his brother. ➤ 1904 — Mitra Mela merged with Abhinav Bharat. ➤ 1909 — District Magistrate of Nasik, Jackson, killed by members of Abhinav Bharat.
Punjab	Revolutionary activity by Lala Lajpat Rai, Ajit Singh, Aga Haidar Syed Haidar Raza, Bhai Parmanand, Lalchand' Falak', and Sufi Ambaprasad.
Revolutionary Activity Abroad	➤ 1905—Shyamji Krishnavarma set up Indian Home Rule Society and India House and brought out journal The Sociologist in London. ➤ 1909—Madan Lal Dhingra murdered Curzon-Wyllie; Madame Bhikaji Cama operated from Paris and Geneva and brought out journal Bande Mataram. Ajit Singh also active. ➤ Berlin Committee for Indian Independence established by Virendranath Chattopadhyay and others. ➤ Missions sent to Baghdad, Persia, Turkey, Kabul. ➤ In North America, the Ghadr was organised by Lala Hardayal, Ramchandra, Bhawan Singh, Kartar Singh Saraba, Barkatullah, Bhai Parmanand.

15. Consider the following:

1. Abolition of the salt tax
2. Better working conditions for plantation labour
3. Increase in military expenditure
4. Encouragement to modern industry

How many of the above was/were demands of the early nationalists?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

EXPLANATION:

The early nationalists led by **Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt, Dinshaw Wacha** and others closely examined the political economy of British rule and developed the Drain Theory to explain how Britain systematically exploited India.

- They criticised the conversion of India's once self-sufficient economy into a colonial economy that supplied raw materials and food to Britain, imported finished goods, and served as an investment field for British capital.
- Through these arguments, the Moderates helped build a strong all-India public opinion that British rule was the main cause of India's poverty and economic backwardness.
- To address this exploitation, the early nationalists demanded an end to India's economic dependence on Britain and the creation of an independent economy driven by Indian capital and enterprise. Their key economic demands included:
 - Reduction of land revenue
 - Abolition of the salt tax. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - Better working conditions for plantation labour. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - Reduction (**not increase**) of military expenditure. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**
 - Encouragement of modern industries through tariff protection and direct government support. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

16. Which one of the following missiles equipped with an indigenously developed Radio Frequency (RF) seeker has been recently tested by the Defence Research and Development Organization ?

- (a) Agni Prime Missile
- (b) Pralay Missile
- (c) Astra Missile**
- (d) Brahmos Missile

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted the flight-test **of the indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile (BVRAAM) 'Astra' (Officially renamed Gandiva)** equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker from the Su-30 Mk-I platform off the coast of Odisha. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

- Two test launches were conducted against high-speed unmanned aerial targets under different ranges and conditions. In both cases, the missiles hit the targets with pinpoint accuracy.
- All subsystems, including the indigenously developed RF seeker, performed as expected.
- Features of Astra Missile:
 - **Range:** 80 -110 km
 - **Operating Altitude:** up to 20 km
 - **Length:** 3840 mm
 - **Diameter:** 178 mm
 - **Flight Duration:** 100 – 120 Sec
 - **Max Speed:** Mach 4.5
 - **Propulsion:** Solid Rocket Motor
 - **Guidance:** Inertial, mid-course update and terminal active radar homing (13 km)
 - **Launch platform:** Su-30 MKI

Currently, the Indian Air Force (IAF) Rafale jets are equipped with the French MBDA Meteor, a BVR air-to-air missile with a range of 200 kilometres.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OTHER IMPORTANT MISSILES OF INDIA	
Agni-Prime	➤ DRDO, in collaboration with the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), successfully conducted the launch of the Agni-Prime intermediate-range missile from a rail-based mobile launcher on 24 September 2025. ➤ The next-generation missile has a range of up to 2,000 km and incorporates several advanced features. ➤ This first-of-its-kind test was carried out using a specially designed rail-based mobile launcher that can move freely across the rail network without any special requirements. ➤ It offers cross-country mobility, short reaction time, reduced visibility, and full independent launch capability, along with state-of-the-art communication and protection systems.
Pralay	➤ Pralay is an indigenously developed solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems for high precision. ➤ It possesses a two-stage solid-propellant rocket motor with Manoeuvrable Re-entry Vehicle (MaRV) technology in the terminal stage. ➤ It can carry multiple types of warheads to engage various targets. ➤ It is capable of reaching speeds between Mach 1 and Mach 1.6. ➤ The missile can manoeuvre during flight, making it harder to intercept, and is launched from road-mobile launchers. ➤ It features high-precision guidance and is designed to provide a quick tactical response to battlefield threats. ➤ The missile system has been developed by the Research Centre IMARAT in collaboration with several DRDO laboratories, along with industry partners such as Bharat Dynamics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, and numerous other industries and MSMEs.
BrahMos	➤ The BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by India and Russia. ➤ It can fly at speeds up to Mach 3 and follows a "fire-and-forget" principle, requiring no guidance after launch. ➤ The missile can be launched from land, sea, air, and submarine platforms. ➤ Its low-altitude flight profile and low radar signature make it difficult to detect and intercept. ➤ It carries a conventional warhead of up to 300 kg. Key Features: ➤ Speed: Mach 2.8 to Mach 3. ➤ Range: Initially 290 km; extended versions can reach 450 km and over 800 km. ➤ Launch Platforms: Land launchers, ships, submarines, and aircraft. ➤ Guidance: Advanced system using INS, GPS, and GLONASS; operates in a fire-and-forget mode. ➤ Stealth: Low radar signature; can fly as low as 10 meters. ➤ Destructive Power: High speed and a 300-kg warhead provide strong strike capability.

17. The early nationalists critically examined the political economy of British rule in India and explained the systematic economic exploitation of the country by the British as "Drain Theory". In this context, consider the following statements:

1. Salaries of military officials.
2. Profits from foreign investment in India.
3. Surplus from the British economy re-entered India as finance capital.
4. Payments to be made for insurance services.

How many of the above statements is/are components of this drain?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) **All four**

EXPLANATION:

The early nationalists critically examined the political economy of British rule in India and described the systematic economic exploitation of the country as the **"Drain Theory."**

The term economic drain refers to the portion of India's national product that was taken to Britain for political reasons, instead of being available for the Indian people, without India receiving adequate economic or material returns.

The Drain Theory, formulated by Dadabhai Naoroji in his book Poverty and Un-British Rule in India, identified the main components of this drain:

- Salaries and pensions of British civil and military officials. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Interest on loans taken by the Indian government from abroad.
- Profits on foreign investments in India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Stores purchased in Britain for the civil and military departments.
- Payments for shipping, banking, and insurance services. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

These outflows stunted the growth of Indian enterprise in these sectors. While India's wealth was being drained, the same resources accelerated the growth of the British economy. A portion of the surplus from Britain also re-entered India as finance capital, creating further economic dependency. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The overall effect of this drain was a reduction in income and employment opportunities within India, hindering capital formation and economic development.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONALIST CRITIQUE OF COLONIAL ECONOMY	
About	Early Indian intellectuals argued that India's poverty was caused by British imperialism. Since these causes were man-made, they were understandable and removable. ➤ Poverty was seen as a national issue, linked to raising productive capacity and promoting national development. ➤ Development was equated with industrialisation, which, according to early nationalists, should be based on Indian capital, not foreign investment. ➤ Foreign capital, they argued, suppressed Indian capital, caused economic drain, and strengthened British rule. ➤ Politically, it created vested interests that supported colonial control.
Critique of Trade and Railways	➤ Nationalists challenged the British claim that foreign trade and railways promoted India's development: ➤ Foreign trade made India a supplier of raw materials and an importer of finished goods, which hurt Indian industries. ➤ Railways were built for commercial purposes, not industrial growth, allowing British goods to outsell Indian products.

	➤ Benefits from railways, including investment in steel and machinery, accrued to Britain. G.V. Joshi called railway expenditure an “Indian subsidy to British industries.”
Trade and Tax Policies	➤ One-way free trade ruined Indian handicrafts by exposing them to unfair competition. ➤ Tariff policies favoured British capitalist interests. ➤ Taxes overburdened the poor while sparing British capitalists and bureaucrats. ➤ Nationalists demanded: • Reduction of land revenue • Abolition of the salt tax • Imposition of income tax and excise duties on the rich ➤ Government spending mainly served colonial needs, neglecting Indian welfare and development.
Economic Drain	➤ The drain theory summarised the nationalist critique that India’s wealth was being transferred to Britain, depleting its productive capital. ➤ Estimates of the drain at the time suggested it was: • More than total land revenue, or • Half the government revenue, or • One-third of total savings (~8% of the national product today) ➤ The concept of drain—one country taking away wealth from another country—was easily grasped by a nation of peasants for whom exploitation was a matter of daily experience.

18. With reference to Saktharam Ganesh Deuskar, consider the following statements:

1. He initiated the celebration of the Shivaji festival in Bengal.
2. He criticised the economic consequences of colonial rule in India.
3. Desher Katha was banned by the British Government in 1910.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Pandit Saktharam Ganesh Deuskar was born on December 17, 1869, in the Deoghar district.

- He was a staunch nationalist and vehemently opposed the colonial rule in India.
- A true follower of Shivaji, Deuskar started the Shivaji festival in Bengal after Tilak initiated it in Maharashtra. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- In his well-known work, Desher Katha, which was published in 1904, he comprehensively showed the impact of colonialism on the Indian economy. Therefore, Pandit Deuskar criticised the economic consequences of colonial rule in India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- This Book gained wide publicity during the anti-partition agitation in Bengal because it was written in Bengali for the vernacular readers who could not comprehend either R C Dutta's work "The Economic History of India" or Dadabhai Naoroji's work "Poverty and Un-British Rule in India."
- This Book drew the attention of officials, who referred it to the Bengal library's librarian for him to review the "objectionable passages" in it.
- On the basis of the review, Deuskar was declared an agitator who was concerned with revolutionary ideas, and his Book was then subjected to prosecution.

- Deuskar influenced the Swadeshi movement and other national movements through his writings. His writings were banned by the British, including Desher Katha in 1910, but his intellectual influence on the common people could not be controlled. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

19. With reference to the Awadh Kisan Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. It asked the kisans to refuse to till bedakhali land.
2. It instructed kisans not to offer hari and begar.
3. It aimed for kisans to resolve their disputes through panchayats.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The formation of Awadh Kisan Sabha took place in the village of Roor in the Pratapgarh district of Uttar Pradesh. On October 17, 1920, the Kisan Sabha was formally created by Baba Ramchandra, with help from other peasant leaders like Jhinguri Singh, for the welfare of farmers.

- The reason for such a peasant-based organisation in Pratapgarh was both social and political.
- The region of Oudh, comprising the district of Pratapgarh, was based on an agrarian system of taluqdari with a taluqdar (landlord) at the helm, where the oppression of peasants was prevalent.
- The nationalist leaders saw this as a potent ground for popularising nationalist sentiments among suffering peasants.
- The Awadh Kisan Sabha told the peasants to:
 - Stop farming on bedakhali land (land from which tenants were unfairly removed). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - Refuse to give hari and begar, which were forms of unpaid labour. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
 - Boycott people who did not follow these conditions.
 - Settle their disputes through village panchayats instead of going to landlords or officials. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The significance of Awadh Kisan Sabha could be understood by the level of participation it saw and the regional spread it achieved.
- Many prominent leaders of the time, like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, visited and addressed the peasants under the banner of the Kisan Sabha. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PEASANT MOVEMENT	
Nature of Peasant Movements after 1857	➤ After 1857, peasant movements took on a new character. Peasants themselves became the main actors, fighting for their own demands rather than supporting kings, zamindars, or political elites. ➤ Their struggles were focused mainly on economic issues, such as rent, illegal taxes, and exploitative practices. ➤ These movements were directed against the immediate oppressors—foreign planters, local zamindars, and moneylenders. ➤ Their goals were specific and limited, such as reducing rent, stopping illegal levies, or resisting forced labour. ➤ They did not aim to overthrow British colonial rule or end the larger structure of exploitation. ➤ The movements were also localised and had a limited geographical spread. ➤ They lacked long-term organisation or continuity.

	➤ However, peasants increasingly asserted their legal rights, often taking disputes to courts or resisting unlawful actions outside the courts.
Limitations	➤ Peasants lacked a clear understanding of colonialism, so they did not recognise that many of their problems stemmed from the broader British economic system. ➤ They also did not have a new ideology or a modern political or economic programme to guide them. ➤ Their struggles, though often militant, happened within the old social order and did not create a vision for a new or alternative system. ➤ As a result, these movements, while important, could not evolve into long-term or transformative struggles.

20. The 3 by 35 initiative, which urges countries to raise real prices on tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by at least 50% by the year 2035, has been launched by which one of the following organisations?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (c) World Health Organization (WHO)**
- (d) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

EXPLANATION:

The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has launched the "3 by 35" initiative, which urges countries to raise the real prices of tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks by at least 50% by 2035 through health taxes. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

The aim is to reduce chronic diseases and generate essential public revenue.

- Led by the WHO, the initiative brings together global partners that provide technical expertise, policy guidance, and practical experience.
- Their goal is to promote the benefits of health taxes and support countries in implementing them.
- According to WHO officials, the consumption of tobacco, alcohol, and sugary drinks is driving the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, which account for more than 75% of global deaths.
- Studies show that a one-time 50% price increase on these products could prevent 50 million premature deaths over the next 50 years.
- India has implemented tobacco taxation under the GST framework, with 28 per cent GST and an additional compensation cess on cigarettes and select products. However, bidis (smoked by low-income groups) and smokeless tobacco (SLT) (used by over two-thirds of tobacco users) remain under-taxed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS	
World Bank	The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans, grants, and technical assistance to developing countries. Core functions: ➤ Its mission is to reduce poverty and promote shared prosperity on a livable and sustainable planet. ➤ It provides policy advice, technical expertise, and financial support to low- and middle-income countries. ➤ It is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing nations. ➤ Its work focuses on sustainable development, stronger economies, and better living standards. ➤ It helps ensure people have access to essential services and opportunities, especially quality jobs.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP is the United Nations' global development agency working in more than 170 countries. Core functions: ➤ Focuses on poverty reduction, democratic governance, climate action, and sustainable development. ➤ Supports countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ➤ Provides policy advice, capacity building, and funding for national development programs. ➤ Works on resilience, crisis recovery, and human development.
Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is a specialised agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Core functions: ➤ Helps countries improve agriculture, fisheries, and forestry sectors. ➤ Collects global food, agriculture, and nutrition data. ➤ Provides policy advice on food security, sustainable farming, and rural development. ➤ Leads efforts to fight hunger, malnutrition, and promote sustainable food systems.

21. Consider the following :

1. Disparity in educational opportunities
2. Lack of industrial development
3. Low competition for government jobs
4. Concessions and reservations by the colonial Government

How many of the above contributed to the rise of communal and separatist tendencies among Indians during British rule?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three**
- (d) All four

EXPLANATION:

Disparity in educational opportunities:

- Modern Western education spread unevenly in India. The Muslims remained "traditional and backward" and the proportion of educated Muslims was "far lower" than among Hindus, Parsis, or Christians.
- Because fewer Muslims had access to modern education, they faced limited opportunities in professions and business.
- This educational gap made them vulnerable to reactionary leaders and colonial officials, who used the situation to create fear that Hindus were dominating modern sectors.
- This educational disparity fed communal suspicion and separatist ideas. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Lack of industrial development:

- The colonial underdevelopment led to a lack of industrial growth, which caused acute unemployment, especially for educated people.
- With very few jobs created by industries, people had to depend mainly on government jobs.
- This scarcity made individuals from different communities compete fiercely for whatever limited opportunities existed.
- In this environment, leaders began supporting communal or caste-based reservations to secure jobs for their own communities.

- Thus, the lack of industrial development created economic stress that translated into communal tensions. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

High competition for government jobs:

- There was an intense competition for existing jobs.
- Since industrial growth was poor and unemployment was high, everyone—especially educated Muslims who lacked business opportunities—crowded into government employment.
- This high competition, not low competition, pushed communities into seeking communal protection or privileges.
- Thus, the high (not low) competition contributed to communalism, not low competition. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

Concessions and reservations by the colonial Government:

- Because unemployment was widespread, the colonial Government had "ample scope to use concessions, favours and reservations" to divide communities.
- British officials encouraged Muslims to stay loyal by promising preferential government jobs and special treatment.
- Leaders like Syed Ahmad Khan also argued that Muslims should get separate or special opportunities.
- These selective rewards deepened communal thinking and encouraged the belief that Hindus and Muslims had separate political and economic interests. This directly encouraged communal and separatist tendencies. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

22. Despite some key developments being made in the field of the Judiciary in India by different Governors-General, which of the following was **not** one of the later developments made when the British took over the administration?
- The European subjects were brought under the Indian jurisdiction.
 - The judges of Indian origin had the power to try the Europeans only for criminal cases.**
 - The High Courts were established by merging the Supreme Court and the Sadar Adalats.
 - The codified laws were made, which replaced the religious and personal laws of the rulers.

EXPLANATION:

The following are the later developments made when the British took over the administration:

- In 1860, a significant change was introduced, where Europeans were no longer allowed to claim any special legal privileges except in criminal cases. At the same time, it was clearly laid down that no judge of Indian origin was permitted to try Europeans in criminal matters. This marked a crucial moment in the evolution of judicial authority and racial distinctions within the system. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**
- In 1865, another major step was taken when the Supreme Court and the Sadar Adalats were merged, leading to the establishment of three High Courts at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras. These courts became the highest judicial bodies in the respective presidencies and helped streamline the judicial structure. **So, Option (c) is correct.**
- Later, the Government of India Act of 1935 provided for the creation of a Federal Court, which was set up in 1937. This court was empowered to settle disputes between governments and to hear limited appeals from the High Courts, adding a new judicial layer and shaping the foundation of federal judicial review.

Positive Aspects of the Judiciary under the British:

- The British introduced the rule of law, ensuring that legal processes were recognised as central to governance.
- Codified laws gradually replaced the earlier religious and personal laws of the rulers, creating a uniform legal framework. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

- European subjects were brought under the jurisdiction of Indian courts, though in criminal matters they could only be tried by European judges. **So, Option (a) is correct.**
- Another important reform was the requirement that government servants become answerable to civil courts, promoting greater accountability.

23. In the context of Colonial India, Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, and Philip Spratt are remembered for,
- (a) **Meerut Conspiracy case**
 - (b) Alipore Conspiracy case
 - (c) Establishment of the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)
 - (d) Kisan Sabha Movement

EXPLANATION:

Meerut Conspiracy case: In March 1929, the Government arrested 31 labour leaders, and the three-and-a-half-year trial resulted in the conviction of Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, Joglekar, Philip Spratt, Ben Bradley, Shaukat Usmani and others.

- The trial received worldwide publicity but weakened the working-class movement.
- Workers participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930, but after 1931 the working-class movement declined due to a split that year.
- The corporatist group led by N.M. Joshi broke away from the AITUC to form the All India Trade Union Federation.
- In 1935, the communists rejoined the AITUC. By then, the left front consisted of communists, Congress socialists, and left-leaning nationalists such as Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose.

Therefore, In the context of Colonial India, Muzaffar Ahmed, S.A. Dange, and Philip Spratt are remembered for the Meerut conspiracy case. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Alipore Conspiracy case:

- The first revolutionary groups were formed in 1902 in Calcutta, known as the Anushilan Samiti, founded by Promotha Mitter with members like Jatindranath Banerjee and Barindra Kumar Ghosh.
- The entire Anushilan group, including Aurobindo Ghosh and Barindra Ghosh, was later arrested and tried in the Alipore Conspiracy Case, also called the Manicktolla or Muraripukur Bomb Conspiracy. Barindra's house at Muraripukur Road was the centre of their activities.
- The Ghosh brothers were charged with conspiracy and waging war against the King, equivalent to high treason, punishable by death.
- Chittaranjan Das defended Aurobindo in court. Aurobindo was acquitted because the evidence against him was weak.
- Barindra Ghosh, as the leader of the revolutionary group, and Ullaskar Dutt, who made the bombs, were given the death sentence, later changed to life imprisonment.
- During the trial, Narendra Gosain, an approver and Crown witness, was shot dead in jail by two co-accused, Satyendranath Bose and Kanailal Dutta. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

The All-India Trade Union Congress was founded on October 31, 1920.

- The Indian National Congress president for the year, Lala Lajpat Rai, was elected as the first president of AITUC and Dewan Chaman Lal as the first general secretary.
- The prominent Congress and Swarajist leader C.R. Das presided over the third and fourth sessions of the AITUC.
- The Gaya session of the Congress (1922) welcomed the formation of the AITUC, and a committee was formed to assist it.
- Other leaders who kept close contact with the AITUC included Nehru, Subhas Bose, C.F. Andrews, J.M. Sengupta, Satyamurthy, V.V. Giri, and Sarojini Naidu.
- In the beginning, the AITUC was influenced by social democratic ideas of the British Labour Party.

- The Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, trusteeship, and class-collaboration had a great influence on the movement. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

Kisan Sabha movement:

- After the 1857 Revolt, Awadh taluqdars got back their lands, increasing their power over peasants.
- Cultivators faced high rents, evictions (bedakhali), illegal levies, and nazrana. World War I raised prices, worsening peasant suffering.
- Home Rule activists helped form kisan sabhas. The UP Kisan Sabha was created in February 1918 by Gauri Shankar Mishra and Indra Narayan Dwivedi, supported by M.M. Malaviya.
- By 1919, it had 450 branches. Leaders like Jhinguri Singh, Durgapal Singh, and Baba Ramchandra played key roles. In June 1920, Baba Ramchandra brought Jawaharlal Nehru to visit the villages.
- Due to nationalist differences, the Awadh Kisan Sabha was formed in October 1920.
- It urged peasants to refuse to till bedakhali land, avoid unpaid labour (hari, begar), boycott violators, and use panchayats for disputes.
- By January 1921, the movement turned violent with looting and clashes with police, mainly in Rai Bareilly, Faizabad, and Sultanpur.
- The movement declined soon due to government repression and the Awadh Rent (Amendment) Act. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

24. Consider the following statements regarding the NISAR Satellite Mission:

1. NISAR is an Earth-observing satellite which revolves around the Earth at Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit.
2. The NISAR Satellite is designed to study changes on Earth's surface using both longer and shorter wavelength radio waves.
3. NISAR primarily provides scientific data on the contribution of the water cycle to the tropical atmosphere.

How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

(a) **Only one**

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

EXPLANATION:

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite is a joint Earth-observing mission between NASA and ISRO, with the goal of making global measurements of the causes and consequences of land-surface changes using advanced radar imaging.

NISAR is an Earth-observing satellite in a Sun-synchronous polar orbit, which means it moves over the poles while maintaining a roughly constant local time for each pass.

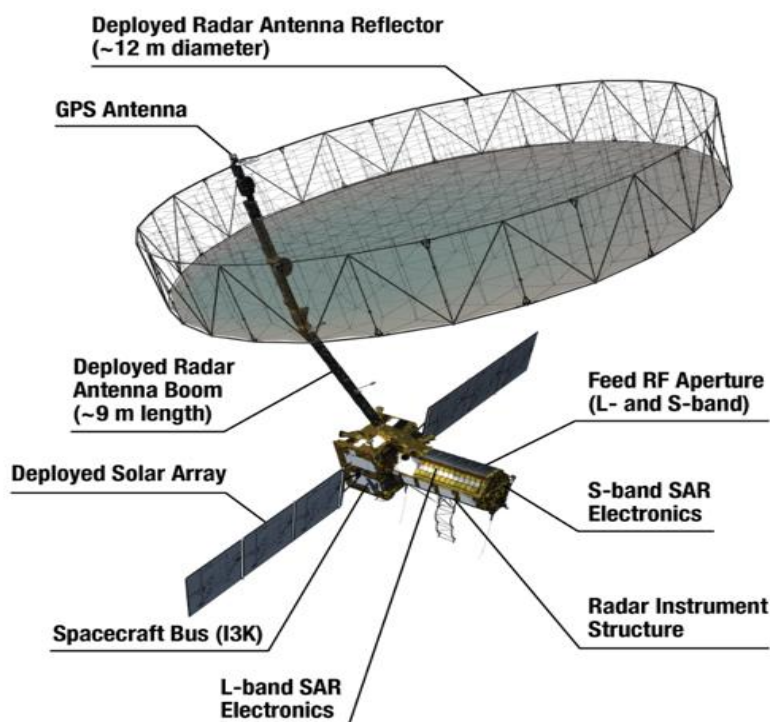
- The NISAR satellite is designed to observe and take measurements of some of the planet's most complex processes.
- The GSLV-F16 successfully injected NISAR into its intended Sun-synchronous polar orbit (SSPO).

So, Statement 1 is correct.

NISAR carries a world-first dual-frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) system, enabling it to observe Earth with unprecedented detail. Most radar satellites operate at a single frequency, but NISAR uses two complementary radar systems

- L-band SAR (1.257 GHz, 24 cm wavelength) – uses longer-wavelength radio waves to penetrate dense vegetation and soil, allowing detection of ground deformations and changes beneath forest canopies.
- S-band SAR (3.2 GHz, 12 cm wavelength) – uses shorter-wavelength radio waves to capture finer surface details, such as crops, water surfaces, and urban structures.

This dual-frequency capability allows NISAR to study both large-scale changes beneath the surface and small-scale surface features. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



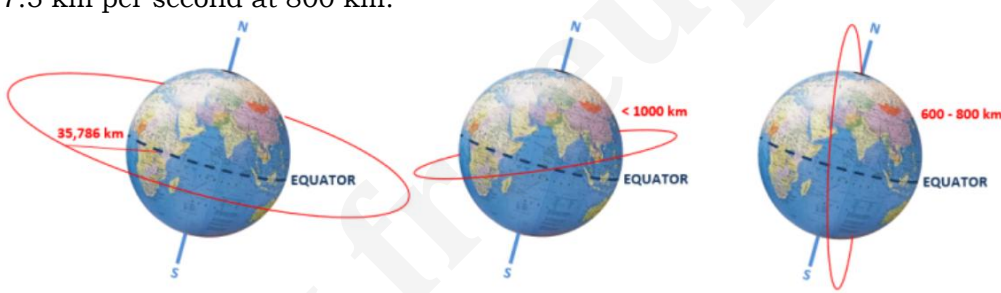
NISAR is the first dual-frequency (L- and S-band) radar imaging mission using advanced Sweep SAR technology, providing high-resolution, wide-swath, and frequent-revisit spaceborne SAR data.

- It supports full-polarimetric and interferometric modes, enabling precise measurements of land-surface changes down to a few millimeters.
- The mission will study complex Earth processes including ecosystem disturbances, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, and landslides.
- The use of lower frequency bands allows better characterization of vegetation, essential for estimating global carbon stocks and monitoring carbon fluxes.
- Differential penetration of L- and S-band signals also enables observation of sub-surface features and targets beneath tree canopies.
- NISAR focuses on three main disciplines:
 - **Ecosystems** – vegetation and the carbon cycle
 - **Deformation** – solid Earth studies
 - **Cryosphere** – climate-related ice changes affecting sea level
- The satellite will acquire data over Indian coasts, monitoring annual bathymetric changes, shoreline erosion, and accretion.
- It will also observe sea ice around India's Antarctic stations and can detect and disseminate information on marine oil spills for preventive action.

NISAR is not intended for the direct study of the tropical atmospheric water cycle. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NASA-ISRO SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR (NISAR)	
Recently in news	Recently, the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite was successfully launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
About	➤ NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) is designed to observe a wide range of Earth processes, including: • Glacier and ice sheet flow • Earthquake and volcano dynamics

	• Forests and wetlands, which regulate greenhouse gases ➤ The satellite scans nearly all of Earth's land and ice surfaces twice every 12 days. ➤ Its Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) penetrates clouds and darkness, allowing day-and-night, all-weather imaging. ➤ Tracking land-cover changes globally helps study carbon cycle impacts and climate change. Applications of NISAR: ➤ Provides critical data for governments and decision-makers to plan for natural and human-caused hazards. ➤ Supports hazard monitoring, potentially giving authorities more time to prepare for disasters. ➤ Helps understand and monitor ecosystems and their role in climate regulation.
Sun-synchronous orbit	➤ A Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO) is a special type of polar orbit where satellites remain in sync with the Sun. ➤ They always appear in the same position relative to the Sun, passing over the same point on Earth at the same local time each day. ➤ This consistent timing allows satellites to take images that are comparable in light and shadows, making it easier to monitor changes over days, weeks, months, or years. Scientists use SSO satellites to • Track weather patterns and predict extreme events • Monitor emergencies like forest fires or floods • Collect long-term data on issues such as deforestation or rising sea levels ➤ Some SSO satellites are synchronized to remain in constant dawn or dusk, riding a sunrise or sunset to ensure consistent illumination and shadows. ➤ Satellites in SSO usually orbit at an altitude of 600–800 km, traveling at about 7.5 km per second at 800 km.  GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT (LEO) LOW EARTH ORBIT (LEO) SUN-SYNCHRONOUS ORBIT (SSO)

25. Which one of the following cannot be regarded as an event that inspired the twentieth-century Indian nationalists in their struggle against British colonial rule?

- (a) Boer Wars
- (b) Austrian War of Succession**
- (c) Japan's victory in the Russo-Japanese War
- (d) Battle of Adwa

EXPLANATION:

The Twentieth-century Indian nationalists drew inspiration from several global events where weaker or colonised nations successfully resisted European imperial powers. The following events proved that Western powers were not invincible.

- The remarkable progress achieved by Japan after 1868 and its rise as an industrial power made Indians realise that rapid economic development was possible for an Asian nation without foreign assistance.

- Several global events further strengthened this understanding:
- The Battle of Adwa, where Ethiopia defeated the Italian army in 1896,
- The Boer Wars (1899–1902), in which the British suffered major setbacks, and Japan’s historic victory over Russia in 1905, shattered the long-held myth of European invincibility.
- Indian nationalists also drew inspiration from contemporary nationalist struggles in Ireland, Russia, Egypt, Turkey, Persia, and China.
- These movements demonstrated that when people stood united and were prepared to make sacrifices, even the most powerful empires could be challenged successfully.
- However, the Austrian War of Succession cannot be regarded as an event that inspired twentieth-century Indian nationalists. **So, Option (b) is correct.**
 - It was not a nationalist or anti-colonial struggle, did not inspire oppressed nations, and was not an event showing the defeat of European powers by Asian or African countries.
 - It was simply a European power struggle, extended to India through the Carnatic Wars.
 - It had no connection with nationalist movements or with weaker nations challenging stronger empires, unlike:
 - Ethiopia defeating Italy (Battle of Adwa)
 - Japan defeating Russia
 - Boer resistance against Britain.

26. She was the editor of the journal 'Bharati Patrika' and the newspaper 'Hindusthan'. She wrote the book 'Ahitagnika' and founded the semi-revolutionary group 'Bharat Stree Mahamandal'. Her biography is 'Jiboner Jhora Pata'.

Which of the following personalities is described above?

- (a) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (b) Kamla Das Gupta
- (c) Bina Das
- (d) Sarala Devi Ghoshal**

EXPLANATION:

Sarala Devi Chaudhurani - Early Life and Education

- Sarala Devi Chaudhurani was born in September 1872 to Swarnakumari Devi (Rabindranath Tagore’s elder sister) and Janakinath Ghoshal, one of the founding members of the Indian National Congress.
- She studied at Bethune School from the age of seven and later graduated with Honours in English from Bethune College, Calcutta University, in 1890, securing the highest marks and receiving the Padmaboti Swarnapodok (Gold Medal).

Early Literary and Editorial Work:

- Growing up in Jorasanko, a centre of nationalist publications, Sarala Devi began assisting in editing various journals at the age of 19. She became especially known for editing the Bengali magazine “Bharati Patrika.”

Nationalist Ideology and Revolutionary Activities:

- By 1895, Sarala Devi became actively involved in the freedom struggle. Her political views were more radical than many in the Tagore family—she believed that aggression and armed resistance against the British was essential.
- She wrote a book titled ‘Ahitagnika’ to spread nationalist awareness among school students and even organized an underground revolutionary group.

Promotion of Swadeshi

- Sarala Devi was one of the earliest revolutionaries to actively promote Swadeshi products and followed these ideals strictly in her own life.

- In 1904, she opened “Lakhir Bhandar” in Bowbazar, Calcutta—an exclusive store selling only Swadeshi goods.

Founder of Bharat Stree Mahamandal (1910)

- In 1910, Sarala Devi founded the Bharat Stree Mahamandal, one of India’s first nationwide women’s organizations.
- This semi-revolutionary group had branches in Allahabad, Lahore, Amritsar, Delhi, Karachi, Hyderabad, Kanpur, and Calcutta. Its aim was to empower women across India.

Contributions to Music and Culture

- Apart from being a scholar and patriot, Sarala Devi was also a talented musician.
- According to the Rabindra Bharati Museum, she wrote key musical notations for several of Rabindranath Tagore’s compositions.
- Her most notable contribution was composing the musical tune for Bankim Chandra Chatterjee’s “Vande Mataram”, which later became a powerful nationalist anthem.

Later Life and Legacy:

- Towards the end of her life, Sarala Devi became disappointed with the changing direction of the freedom struggle. She gradually withdrew from active politics and devoted herself to writing her autobiography, ‘Jiboner Jhora Pata’ (Scattered Leaves of My Life).
- She passed away in Calcutta on August 18, 1945, at the age of 73, leaving behind a legacy of courage, intellect, and nationalism. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

27. With reference to the Ahmedabad Mill Strike in 1918, consider the following statements:

1. It successfully secured an increase in wages for the mill workers.
2. Anusuya Sarabhai, a social worker, supported the workers' demands.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

In March 1918, Gandhi intervened in a dispute between cotton mill owners of Ahmedabad and the workers over the issue of discontinuation of the plague bonus. The mill owners wanted to withdraw the bonus. The workers were demanding a rise of 50 per cent in their wages so that they could manage in the times of wartime inflation (which doubled the prices of food-grains, cloth, and other necessities) caused by Britain's involvement in World War I. The mill owners were ready to give only a 20 per cent wage hike. The workers went on strike.

- The relations between the workers and the mill owners worsened, with the striking workers being arbitrarily dismissed and the mill owners deciding to bring in weavers from Bombay.
- The workers of the mill turned to Anusuya Sarabhai for help in fighting for justice. Anusuya Sarabhai was a social worker who was also the sister of Ambalal Sarabhai, one of the mill owners and the President of the Ahmedabad Mill Owners Association (founded in 1891 to develop the textile industry in Ahmedabad), for help in fighting for justice. Anusuya Behn went to Gandhi, who was respected by the mill owners and workers, and asked him to intervene and help resolve the impasse between the workers and the employers.
- Though Gandhi was a friend of Ambalal, he took up the workers' cause. Anusuya too supported the workers and was one of the chief lieutenants of Mahatma Gandhi. (It was Anusuya Behn who went on later to form the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association in 1920.) Gandhi asked the workers to go on a strike and demand a 35 per cent increase in wages instead of 50 per cent. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- Gandhi advised the workers to remain non-violent while on strike. When negotiations with mill owners did not progress, he himself undertook a fast unto death (his first) to strengthen the workers' resolve. But the fast also had the effect of putting pressure on the mill owners, who finally agreed to submit the issue to a tribunal. The strike was withdrawn. In the end, the tribunal awarded the workers a 35 per cent wage hike. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

28. Which among the following forts is part of the Maratha Military Landscapes proposed for UNESCO World Heritage status (2025)?

- (a) **Raigad Fort**
 (b) Golkonda Fort
 (c) Chittorgarh Fort
 (d) Kumbhalgarh Fort

EXPLANATION:

The property titled “Maratha Military Landscapes of India”, comprising 12 Maratha forts, was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Paris, 2025.

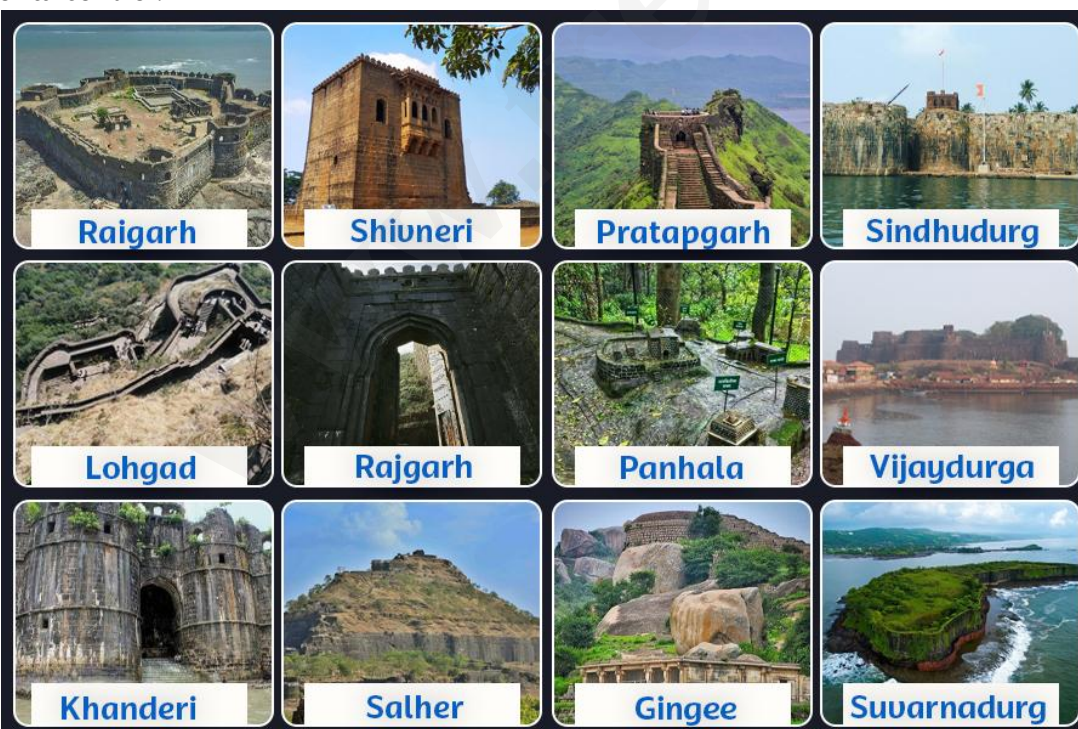
The 12 forts associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj are internationally recognized. (11 forts are in Maharashtra, and 1 fort (Gingee) is in Tamil Nadu).

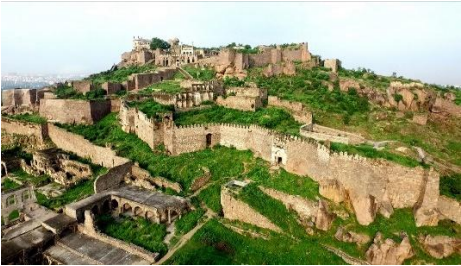
This recognition was proposed by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, under the Department of Cultural Affairs.

- **List of forts:** Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Panhala, Shivneri, Lohgad, Salher, Sindhudurg, Suvarnadurg, Vijaydurg, Khanderi (Maharashtra), and Gingee (Tamil Nadu). **So, Option (a) is correct.**

These forts are recognized for their outstanding universal value, including military significance, architectural style, and cultural importance.

- **Historical significance:** Built, adapted, or expanded by the Marathas between the late 17th and early 19th centuries, these forts were strategically located on coastal and mountainous terrain and formed a complex defense system supporting Maratha military dominance, trade protection, and territorial control.



Golconda Fort (Telangana) 	➤ Built by the Kakatiyas in the 13th century CE. ➤ Reinforced by Pratapa Rudra (1289–1323), the last prominent Kakatiya ruler. ➤ Captured by the Mughals in 1687, seven years after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's death. The Golconda Fort is not a part of Maratha Military Landscapes. So, Option (b) is not correct.
Chittorgarh Fort (Rajasthan) 	➤ This bastion of the Rajputs has faced violent attacks thrice in its entire history. ➤ The first was in 1303 when the Sultan of Delhi, Ala-ud-din Khilji, in 1533, it was Bahadur Shah, the Sultan of Gujarat, who caused immense destruction. ➤ Four decades later, in 1568, Mughal Emperor Akbar attacked and seized the fort. ➤ It was finally in 1616, under the rule of Mughal Emperor Jahangir that the fort was returned to the Rajputs. The Chittorgarh Fort is not part of the Maratha Military Landscapes. So, Option (c) is not correct.
Kumbhalgarh Fort (Rajasthan) 	➤ It is a striking example of Rajput military architecture. ➤ This fort is well known for its spectacularly long protective wall, running up to a length of 36 km. ➤ The wall is believed to be the second longest in the world, after the Great Wall of China. The Kumbhalgarh Fort is not part of the Maratha Military Landscapes. So, Option (d) is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MARATHA MILITARY LANDSCAPES	
Raigad Fort	➤ Former capital of the Maratha Empire due to its strategic location and massive size; located in north Konkan, Maharashtra. ➤ Surrounded by deep valleys with only one steep access route. ➤ Shivaji Maharaj was crowned here in 1674 CE, taking the title Chhatrapati. ➤ Control shifted to the Mughals (1689 CE) → Ahmednagar Sultanate (1707 CE) → back to the Marathas (~1727 CE) → finally taken by the British in 1818 CE.
Pratapgad	➤ Built by Shivaji Maharaj in 1656, located 24 km from Mahabaleshwar in the Western Ghats. ➤ Known for strong defensive architecture, showing Shivaji's strategic brilliance. ➤ The fort has Upper Fort (observation and defence) and Lower Fort along the hill slope for added protection.
Panhala	➤ Built by Shivaji Maharaj in 1656, located 24 km from Mahabaleshwar in the Western Ghats. ➤ Known for strong defensive architecture, showing Shivaji's strategic brilliance. ➤ The fort has Upper Fort (observation and defence) and Lower Fort along the hill slope for added protection.

Shivneri	➤ Located near Junnar in Pune; birthplace of Shivaji Maharaj. ➤ A triangular fort surrounded by cliffs, dating back to the 6th century CE as a military outpost. ➤ Contains perennial water sources like Ganga-Jamuna springs and reservoirs such as Badami Talav.
Lohagad	➤ Located Near Lonavala, over 3,000 feet high. ➤ Built by the Lohtamia dynasty (10th century CE); later ruled by the Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Yadavas, Bahmanis, Nizam Shahis, Mughals, and finally the Marathas. ➤ Known as the "Iron Fort" due to its sturdy construction.
Salher	➤ It is a significant landmark of the Sahayadri mountain range, the highest fort in Maharashtra and one of the highest in the Western Ghats. ➤ This was the first such battlefield victory of the Marathas under Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj over the Mughals.
Sindhudurg	➤ The fort stands on the island of Khurte in the Arabian Sea, off the Konkan coast. ➤ It was constructed in 1664-67 by Hiroji Indulkar, the chief military engineer of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, to provide a secure base for maritime operations against the Portuguese, the British, and the local Siddis.
Suvarnadurg	➤ The "Golden Fortress" is another island fortress built by Shivaji Maharaj off Harnai port in Ratnagiri district. ➤ Suvarnadurg has a sister fortress on the mainland known as Kanakadurga; the two structures used to be connected by a tunnel, which is now unusable. ➤ As an important base of the Maratha navy, it was not only a fortress but also housed a shipbuilding yard.
Vijaydurg	➤ One of the oldest of the Maratha forts, the "Fort of Victory" on the Arabian Sea coast in present-day Sindhudurg district was originally built by the Shilahar dynasty in the late 12th century. ➤ It was then known as Gheria.
Khanderi	➤ Khanderi, a small island off the coast of Alibaug, was fortified by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1679 to secure Maratha control over the coastal waters. ➤ In time, Khanderi would become a key maritime outpost, reflecting Shivaji's strategy to challenge foreign naval dominance and protect Maratha interests along the Konkan coast.
Rajgad	➤ The "King of Forts" was captured by the young Shivaji Maharaj in 1647, and served as his capital for 26 years before Raigad. ➤ It was the fort where Shivaji Maharaj planned many of his military campaigns and safeguarded the wealth from the Surat campaign of 1664.
Gingee/ Jinji (Tamil Nadu)	➤ Located in Villupuram district; one of peninsular India's most formidable forts. ➤ Ruled by several dynasties: Vijayanagar Nayaks, Bijapur Sultans, Mughals, Marathas, French, and English. Notable structures: • Kalyana Mahal, granaries, prison cells, temple of Chenjamman. • Reservoirs and natural springs crucial during sieges.

29. Consider the following measures:

1. Boycott of courts
2. Boycott of councils
3. Promotion of Swadeshi goods
4. Non-payment of taxes

Which of the above measures were a part of the Non-Cooperation Programme?

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

EXPLANATION:

The exoneration of Dwyer by the Hunter Committee, the Khilafat issue, and the Punjab killings prompted Gandhi to formally inaugurate the Non-Cooperation Movement on August 1, 1920.

- He wrote to the Viceroy, surrendered his government medals and titles, toured southern India to promote Non-Cooperation, and introduced the Non-Cooperation resolution at the special Congress session in Calcutta (September 4–8, 1920) under the presidentship of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- Despite opposition from leaders like C.R. Das, Annie Besant, B.C. Pal, Madan Mohan Malaviya, and Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the resolution was passed with 1,855 votes in favor and 873 against.

The resolution advised people to:

- Surrender government titles and honorary offices, and resign from nominated seats in local bodies.
- Refuse to attend government functions
- Withdraw children from government and aided schools, and fund their own institutions.
- Boycott courts and legislative councils.
- Refuse service in Mesopotamia.
- Boycott foreign goods and promote Swadeshi, including collecting funds for the cause.
- At the Nagpur session, non-payment of taxes was also included in the programme.
- Gandhi promised that following this programme could achieve Swaraj within a year.
- The All India Congress Committee meeting at Vijayawada (March 31–April 1, 1921) decided to collect one crore rupees for the Tilak Swaraj Fund.
- During this session, Pingali Venkaiah designed the tri-colour Congress flag, which later evolved into the National Flag of India.

Therefore, all the above measures were a part of the Non-Cooperation Programme. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE NON-COOPERATION KHILAFAT MOVEMENT

Spread of the Movement

- Gandhi, accompanied by the Ali brothers, undertook a nationwide tour.
- Thousands of students left government schools and colleges and joined around 800 national schools and colleges which cropped up during this time.
- These educational institutions were organised under the leadership of Acharya Narendra Dev, C.R. Das, Lala Lajpat Rai, Zakir Hussain, Subhash Bose (who became the principal of National College at Calcutta) and included Jamia Millia at Aligarh, Kashi Vidyapeeth, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, and Bihar Vidyapeeth.
- Many lawyers gave up their practice, some of whom were Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, C.R. Das, C. Raja Gopalachari, Saifuddin Kitchlew, Vallabhbhai Patel, Asaf Ali, T. Prakasam, and Rajendra Prasad.
- Heaps of foreign cloth were burnt publicly, and their imports fell by half.
- Picketing of shops selling foreign liquor and of toddy shops was undertaken at many places.
- The **Tilak Swaraj Fund** was oversubscribed, and one crore rupees were collected.
- The Congress volunteer corps emerged as a parallel police force.
- Congress gave a call to local Congress bodies to start civil disobedience if it was thought that the people were ready for it.
- Already, a **no-tax movement against union board taxes in Midnapore (Bengal) and in Guntur (Andhra) was going on.**

	➤ In Assam, strikes in tea plantations, steamer services, and Assam-Bengal Railways had been organised. J.M. Sengupta was a prominent leader in these strikes. ➤ In November 1921, the visit of the Prince of Wales to India led to strikes and demonstrations. ➤ The spirit of defiance and unrest gave rise to many local struggles, such as the Awadh Kisan Movement (UP), the Eka Movement (UP), the Mappila Revolt (Malabar), and the Sikh agitation for the removal of mahants in Punjab.
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30. After the crown took over in 1858, which of the following factors were witnessed in the evolution of the Civil Services in India?

1. Implementation of simultaneous examinations both in England and India.
2. Statutory Civil Service introduced by Lytton consists of covenanted posts to be filled only by Europeans.
3. The Federal Public Service Commission was established to recruit more Indians for the service commission.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Civil Service Commission was set up in London in 1854, and competitive exams began in 1855. These exams were conducted only in London.

- The age limits were 18 to 23 years, and the syllabus heavily favoured European classics, making it difficult for Indian candidates.
- Despite this, in 1864, Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to qualify, followed by four more Indians in the next three years.
- For the next fifty years, Indians repeatedly demanded simultaneous examinations in India, but the British Government resisted because it wanted to limit Indian entry into the ICS. It was only after World War I and the Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms that the demand was accepted.
- From 1922 onwards, the Indian Civil Service examination began to be held in India, first in Allahabad and later in Delhi, alongside the exam in London, which continued to be conducted by the Civil Service Commission. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

In 1878–79, Lytton introduced the Statutory Civil Service, consisting of one-sixth of covenanted posts to be filled by Indians of high families through nominations by local governments, subject to approval by the Secretary of State and the Viceroy. But the system failed and was abolished. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The Government of India Act, 1935, recommended the creation of a Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) and Provincial Public Service Commissions, each working within its own sphere. However, real control and authority remained with the British.

The FPSC was established to increase Indian representation in the civil services, following the recommendations of the Government of India Act, 1919, and the Lee Commission.

In 1937, under the 1935 Act, it became the Federal Public Service Commission and was later renamed the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after the Constitution of India came into effect.

Despite this, the Indianization of the civil services did not give Indians effective political power, as Indian bureaucrats largely continued to function as agents of colonial rule. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

31. With reference to the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), consider the following statements:
1. It was founded in 1920, and Lala Lajpat Rai served as its first President.
 2. AITUC initially included both moderates, like N.M. Joshi and revolutionaries like S.A. Dange.
 3. The movement was against social democratic ideas and Gandhian philosophy.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The All India Trade Union Congress was founded on October 31, 1920. The Indian National Congress president for the year, Lala Lajpat Rai, was elected as the first president of AITUC and Dewan Chaman Lal as the first general secretary. Lajpat Rai was the first to link capitalism with imperialism: "Imperialism and militarism are the twin children of capitalism". **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The AITUC was a broad-based organisation involving diverse ideologies. The main ideological groups were the communists/ Revolutionaries led by S.A. Dange and M.N. Roy, the moderates led by M. Joshi and V.V. Giri and the nationalist movements, which involved people like Lala Lajpat Rai and Jawaharlal Nehru. During the last few years of British rule, the communists gained considerable control over the AITUC. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

In the beginning, the AITUC was influenced by social democratic ideas of the British Labour Party. The Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, trusteeship and class-collaboration had a great influence on the movement. Gandhi helped organise the Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (1918) and, through a protest, secured a 27.5 per cent wage hike. (Later, the arbitrator's award ensured a 35 per cent raise). Thus, the movement was not against the social democratic ideas and Gandhian philosophy. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

32. Consider the following statements regarding the recent developments in Indian Chess:
1. Divya Deshmukh became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's World Cup and the fourth Indian woman to achieve the title of Grandmaster.
 2. The World Chess Championship match is played between the reigning World Champion and the winner of the Candidates Tournament, for which Divya Deshmukh has automatically qualified for the 2026 cycle.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the 2025 FIDE Women's World Cup took place at the Grand Bellagio Hotel & Casino in Batumi, Georgia. The top three players earned a spot at the 2026 FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament.

- Divya Deshmukh became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE Women's World Cup title after defeating fellow Indian Koneru Humpy in the final, in Batumi, Georgia.
- Divya Deshmukh is the World Cup winner.
- She is also India's latest Grandmaster, only the fourth Indian woman to get that most coveted of titles in chess. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

- Divya also qualifies for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, alongside the second and third-place finishers, GM Humpy Koneru and former Women's World Champion Tan Zhongyi. The Candidates tournament

The Candidates Tournament: The Candidates tournament is the second most important tournament in the World Championship cycle, as the winner of the Candidates Tournament plays the reigning world champion in the championship match.

By winning the Women's World Cup, Divya has automatically qualified for the 2026 Candidates Tournament. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

33. Consider the following pairs:

Sl.no.	Famous Personalities	Associated movement or rebellion
1.	Vinoba Bhave	Bhoodan movement
2.	Madari Pasi	Eka movement
3.	Alluri Sitarama Raju	Rampa rebellion

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Bhoodan Movement, also known as the "Bloodless Revolution", was a voluntary land-reform movement launched by Vinoba Bhave in post-Independent India.

- Bhave, a follower of Gandhian non-violence, saw this as a way to bring social change peacefully.
- On April 18 1951, during a visit to Pochampally village in present-day Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana, landless villagers approached Bhave with their problems.
- Bhave asked if they could find a solution themselves. A local landlord then voluntarily announced a donation of 100 acres of land for landless villagers.
- This marked the beginning of the Bhoodan Movement.
- The movement encouraged voluntary land donations to the landless. It included sub-schemes such as:
 - Sampattidan – Wealth-gift
 - Shramdan – Labour-gift

These initiatives aimed at economic upliftment. The Bhoodan Movement received international attention, including coverage in Britain, and many of its ideas influenced Indian policies and schemes later. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**

Madari Pasi was born in 1860 in Mohanjganj village of Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh, to Mohan Pasi, a poor farmer.

- He belonged to the Pasi community, considered an "untouchable" caste and labelled a "criminal caste" by the British.
- He became the main leader of the Eka (Unity) Movement, which aimed to unite all peasants beyond caste and religion.
- After World War I, many peasant movements broke out in India. In Uttar Pradesh, the early phase of the Revolt was led by Baba Ramachandra, a Fiji-returned indentured labourer, during the time of the Non-Cooperation and Khilafat movements.
- The Revolt grew from the highly exploitative agrarian system of the Awadh region, controlled by Taluqdars and zamindars.
- They charged excessive rents, collected many extra fees, and heavily burdened tenant farmers to meet British revenue demands.

- The Eka Movement began in Lucknow and spread to Barabanki, Hardoi, Bahraich, and Sitapur.
 - It was initially supported by the Congress, but when violence increased, the Congress withdrew, and Madari Pasi assumed full leadership.
 - Peasants protested against:
 - rents higher than official rates
 - harassment by revenue collectors
 - renewal fees (nazrana)
 - forced labour
 - They pledged to pay only the official rent and resist all extra demands.
 - Some reforms were introduced through the Oudh Rent Amendment Act, 1921, but the movement gradually weakened. By March–April 1922, the British suppressed the Eka Movement, ending it.
- So, Pair 2 is correct.**

Alluri Sitarama Raju was born on July 4 1897 in Mogallu village, near Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh.

- At the age of 18, he renounced worldly life and became a sanyasi. He travelled through the hills and forests of the Agency region and lived closely with the tribal communities.
- The tribals regarded him as a holy and powerful figure who could protect them from British exploitation.
- The Rampa Rebellion, led by Alluri Sitarama Raju, was a notable tribal uprising in the Rampa hills of present-day Andhra Pradesh.
- It was triggered by oppressive forest laws and exploitative British policies that restricted the rights of tribal communities.
- The Rebellion began with attacks on police stations in Chintapalli, Krishnadevipet, and Rajavommangi on August 22, 23, and 24, 1922, carried out by around 500 tribal fighters under Raju.
- The tribal masses actively supported the movement, inspired by Raju's teachings on Swaraj and the ideals of the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- By September 1922, the rebels had defeated the British in several encounters, prompting the Government to send the Malabar Special Police. This forced the rebels to adopt guerrilla warfare, which continued for nearly two years.
- In response, the British imposed martial law, punitive taxes, and severe repression on the villagers.
- They announced a bounty of Rs. 1500 on Raju and Rs. 1000 on his lieutenants, Gamu Goutham Dora and Gamu Mallaya Dora.
- Despite fierce resistance and strong anti-British sentiment, the British finally captured and executed Alluri Sitarama Raju on May 7 1924, bringing the uprising to an end. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**

34. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1:

The Munda rebellion led to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908, which protected tribal land rights.

Statement 2:

The Munda Rebellion was a tribal uprising against British authority and local exploiters aimed at safeguarding their traditional rights.

Statement 3:

The Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908 provided land protections to tribal raiyats and restricted transfer of tribal land to non-tribals.

Which one of the following is correct with respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct and both the statements explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and only one of the Statement explains statement 1.**
- (c) Statement II is correct, but Statement III is incorrect
- (d) Statement II is incorrect, but Statement III is correct

EXPLANATION:

The Munda rebellion was the most popular movement of the Munda tribes of the Singhbhum and Ranchi districts of the Chotanagpur region of Bihar.

Birsa Munda launched the **Ulgulan movement (Munda rebellion)** in 1899, using weapons and guerrilla warfare to drive out foreigners. He encouraged the tribals to follow the Birsa Raj and not comply with colonial laws and rent payments.

- It was one of the most organised and widespread tribal revolts, with clear objectives: to overthrow the British Government, expel outsiders from the region, and establish an independent Munda state.
- This movement was directed against the exploitative "dikus" (outsiders) – landlords (zamindars), traders, merchants and British colonial rule. **So, Statement II is correct.**
- Before the introduction of the British policies in the areas inhabited by the Munda, their traditional land and social systems had existed; their land system was known as the '**Khuntkari system**'.
- The tribals enjoyed customary rights over their land. The system was marked by the absence of the class of landlords. The tribals worked on their land and paid tributes to their chiefs. By 1874, the British replaced the traditional khuntkari system with the zamindari system. The landlords, moneylenders and the government officers collaborated with each other in exploiting the tribals.
- This Rebellion compelled the British Raj to take cognisance of the plight and exploitation of tribals, and brought in the '**Chhota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908**' for the protection of Adiwasis. **So, Statement I is correct.**
- This important Act restricted the transfer of tribal land to non-tribals, giving huge relief for the tribals, and became a landmark legislation for the protection of tribal rights. **So, Statement III is correct.**

Therefore, the Munda rebellion was a tribal uprising against British colonial rule and local exploiters to enjoy their traditional rights, which led to the Chotanagpur Tenancy Act of 1908, which protected tribal land rights through restricted transfer of tribal land to non-tribals. **Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both statements explain Statement I.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

TRIBAL REBELLIONS	
Khuntkatti System	It is a system of land ownership practised by the Mundas of Chotanagpur, which provides ownership of land among all the families of the same clan, who cleared the forest and made land cultivable, without the involvement of landlords.
Other	➤ Dhal Revolt: The first tribal Revolt during British rule in Jharkhand was the Dhal Revolt in 1767, led by Jagannath Dhal, the former King of Dhalbhum, a part of West Bengal today. Triggered by the presence of the British East India Company, which marginalised the local population, this Revolt lasted 10 years. In response to the ongoing unrest, the British reinstated Jagannath Dhal as the ruler of Dhalbhum in 1777. ➤ Tana Bhagat Movement: It began in 1914 with Jatra Bhagat, a leader of the Oraon tribe. He called for a return to traditional practices, rejecting colonial rule and Western influences. Bhagat highlighted agrarian issues and initiated a no-rent campaign, urging labourers to refuse forced or low-wage work. ➤ Santhal Rebellion: On June 30, 1855, over 10,000 Santhals were mobilised by their leaders — Kanho Murmu, Chand Murmu, Bhairab Murmu, and Sidho Murmu – to revolt against the East India Company over oppression by revenue officials, zamindars, and corrupt moneylenders. The landmark event in tribal history, referred to as Santhal Hul, took place in Bhognadih village in present-day Jharkhand.

	➤ Paika Rebellion: In several recent descriptions, the 1817 Paika Rebellion in Odisha's Khurda is referred to as the "original" first war of Indian Independence. That year, the Paikas – a class of military retainers traditionally recruited by the kings of Odisha – revolted against the British colonial rulers mainly over being dispossessed of their land holdings. ➤ Kol Revolt: The Kols, tribal people from the Chhota Nagpur area, rose in Revolt against the British in 1831. The trigger here, too, was the gradual takeover of tribal land and property by non-tribal settlers who were aided by new land laws. The simmering discontent over the economic exploitation of the original inhabitants led to an uprising led by Buddhu Bhagat, Joa Bhagat, and Madara Mahato, among others. The Kols were joined by other tribes like the Hos, Mundas, and Oraons.
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35. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1:

Lord Ripon was called the Father of local self-government in India.

Statement 2:

Lord Ripon made the resolution for the development of local bodies to improve the proper administration of local affairs.

Statement 3:

The non-official members were introduced in the administration structure of the local bodies.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both statements explain Statement I
- (b) Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and only one of the statements explains Statement 1.
- (c) Statement II is correct, but Statement III is incorrect
- (d) Statement II is incorrect, but Statement III is correct

EXPLANATION:

The Ripon's Resolution of 1882 laid the foundation for modern local self-government in India. He expanded local bodies, increased elected representation, and reduced official control. Hence, he is known as the Father of Local Self-Government in India. **So, Statement I is correct.**

Lord Ripon's 1882 Resolution aimed to strengthen urban and rural local bodies so that local affairs—such as sanitation, medical relief, education, and public works—could be administered more effectively.

It specifically advocated the development of local bodies to improve local administration and to serve as an instrument of political and popular education. **So, Statement II is correct.**

The resolution also introduced a policy of administering local affairs through bodies with defined duties and their own sources of revenue.

Importantly, it provided that non-official (elected) members should form the majority in these local bodies, and they could be elected wherever possible.

This clearly shows that non-official members were brought into the administrative structure of local bodies. **So, Statement III is correct.**

Therefore, Lord Ripon was called the Father of local self-government in India, as he made the resolution for the development of local bodies to improve the proper administration of the local affairs and introduced non-official members who were elected through a limited franchise, in the administration structure of the local bodies.

Both Statement II and Statement III are correct, and both statements explain Statement I.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LORD RIPPON RESOLUTION OF 1882	
About	The Government of Ripon wanted provincial governments to apply the principle of financial decentralisation to local bodies, continuing the policy begun by Lord Mayo. Because of these reforms, Ripon is known as the Father of Local Self-Government in India.
Key Provisions of Ripon's Resolution (1882)	➤ Development of local bodies was encouraged to improve administration and promote political and popular education. ➤ Local affairs were to be administered through urban and rural bodies assigned definite duties and provided suitable sources of revenue. ➤ Non-official (mostly elected) members were to be in the majority in these bodies, and elections could be introduced wherever possible. ➤ Non-officials were to act as chairpersons of these bodies. ➤ Official interference was to be kept to a minimum—limited to checking and revising the acts of local bodies, not dictating policies. ➤ Certain actions, such as raising loans, imposing new taxes, alienating municipal property, or undertaking costly works, required official sanction.
Limitations and Aftermath	➤ Acts passed between 1883 and 1885 altered the structure and powers of municipal bodies, but effective local self-government remained limited. ➤ Elected members were still a minority in district boards, and the franchise was very restricted. ➤ District boards continued to be headed by officials, despite some municipalities being led by non-officials. ➤ The Government maintained strong control and could suspend or supersede local bodies at will. ➤ Bureaucracy resisted liberal reforms and believed Indians were unfit for self-government; later, Lord Curzon further strengthened official control.

36. Which one of the following countries has recently been added to the International Criminal Court under the Rome Statute ?

- (a) Iran
- (b) Ukraine**
- (c) Russia
- (d) India

EXPLANATION:

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the world's first permanent international court established to prosecute the gravest international crimes, including genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.

- It functions as a court of last resort, stepping in only when national judicial systems are unwilling or unable to prosecute offenders.
- By upholding international criminal justice, the ICC aims to ensure accountability and prevent future violations.
- In January 2025, the Rome Statute (the ICC's founding treaty) entered into force for Ukraine, making it the 125th State Party and the 20th State from the Eastern Europe region. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

Status of the Rome Statute Globally:

- A total of 139 states has signed the Rome Statute.
- 29 of these signatory states have not ratified the treaty.
- Countries that have signed but not ratified include:
 - Iran
 - Russian Federation
 - India has neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)	
About	➤ The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent judicial institution mandated to investigate and prosecute the most serious international crimes—genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. ➤ It acts only when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute, functioning as a permanent court of last resort. ➤ The ICC aims to end impunity, ensure justice for victims, and help prevent future atrocities. ➤ The Court was established by the Rome Statute in 1998. ➤ Today, 124 States are Parties to the Rome Statute, including 8 Pacific Islands Forum members: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Samoa, and Vanuatu.
Benefits of Becoming a Member of the Rome Statute	➤ Strengthening international peace and security: Joining the ICC supports global efforts to uphold the rule of law, protect human rights, and promote peace. It also demonstrates solidarity with victims of the gravest crimes. ➤ Protection for small States: The rule of law serves as a powerful safeguard for small nations. Notably, over 70% of small island States worldwide are ICC members. ➤ Enhanced international cooperation: Membership boosts a State's role in addressing global challenges, including impunity, and strengthens its credibility when seeking cooperation on issues like climate change and environmental protection. ➤ Participation in ICC governance: Member States can take part in the Assembly of States Parties, vote in elections, and nominate candidates for positions within the Assembly and the Court. ➤ Strengthening domestic justice systems: Joining the Rome Statute can open avenues for international support, cooperation, and legal reform, helping States align with global judicial standards.

37. With reference to the first session of the Indian National Congress, consider the following statements:

1. It was held at the Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College in Bombay in December 1885.
2. It was presided over by Surendranath Banerjee.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Indian National Congress (INC), founded in 1885, is one of India's oldest and broad-based political parties. It played a central role in the Indian national movement and formed many governments after independence.

The first session of the INC was held in December 1885 at Gokuldas Tejpal Sanskrit College, Bombay, with 72 delegates, including social reformers, journalists, and lawyers. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

As popular uprisings against British rule were repeatedly suppressed, the educated middle class realized the need for a nationwide organized political movement.

- Leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Justice M.G. Ranade, and Surendranath Banerjee worked to create political consciousness and highlight the exploitative nature of British rule.

- As awareness grew, several political associations were formed across the country, such as the Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Madras Native Association, and Bombay Presidency Association.
 - A significant national-level initiative came with the founding of the Indian Association by Surendranath Banerjee.
 - These developments eventually led to the formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885. W.C. Banerjee presided over its first session held in Bombay.
- Thus, the first session was presided over by W.C. (Umesh Chandra) Banerjee (not by Surendranath Banerjee). **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC)	
About	➤ The Indian National Congress (INC) was founded in 1885 as a secular political party aiming to reform how India was governed under British rule. ➤ The early Congress was not linked to any religion. Its members included Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Parsis, though most were Hindus and many founding members had lived or studied in Britain. ➤ By the early 20th century, Congress shifted its focus from seeking reforms within the British Empire to demanding greater self-government for Indians. ➤ Although Congress claimed to represent all Indians, the Muslim League was created in 1906 to voice the concerns of Indian Muslims in a largely Hindu-majority country. ➤ Jawaharlal Nehru joined Congress in 1919 and eventually worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi. Both became key leaders in the independence movement. ➤ After the First World War, Congress and the Muslim League jointly demanded Home Rule—a form of self-government already enjoyed by countries like Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. ➤ In 1920, inspired by Gandhi's call for non-violent civil disobedience following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Congress launched a nationwide non-cooperation movement to boycott British institutions. ➤ Although many in the Muslim League were critical of British rule, they did not support this policy of non-cooperation.

38. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1920, the Communist Party of India was formed in Tashkent.
2. In 1924, communists including S.A. Dange and Nalini Gupta were jailed in the Kanpur Bolshevik Conspiracy Case.

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

EXPLANATION:

The third decade of the twentieth century was a turning point in modern Indian history. It marked the entry of the Indian masses into the national movement and the emergence of clearly defined political currents on the national scene.

During the 1920s, the ideas of Marx and other socialist thinkers influenced many young Indian leaders and inspired the formation of socialist and communist groups.

- Within the Congress, a left wing emerged, represented by Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose.

- Influenced by the Soviet Revolution and critical of Gandhian methods, these leaders advocated radical solutions to India's economic, political, and social problems, combining nationalism with social justice.
- In the 1920s, the Communist Party of India (CPI) was founded in Tashkent (now in Uzbekistan) by M.N. Roy, Abani Mukherji, and others, following the second Congress of the Comintern. M.N. Roy became the first Indian elected to its leadership. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Kanpur Conspiracy Case was a major anti-revolutionary action by the British colonial Government in India.

- After the Non-Cooperation Movement ended, Kanpur became a hub of revolutionary activity. Young activists planned to use violence to overthrow British rule.
- The Government, alarmed by the spread of socialist ideas and potential armed uprising, arrested several prominent activists, including S.A. Dange, Muzaffar Ahmed, Shaukat Usmani, and Nalini Gupta. They were charged with conspiring against Britain through armed revolution.
- Despite the arrests, the case received wide newspaper coverage, and the public supported the young activists.
- The newspaper Pratap praised the revolutionaries, and local activists launched campaigns to secure their release.
- The trial ended with the leaders being sentenced to four years' imprisonment. Nevertheless, they left a lasting impact on India's struggle against imperialism. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

39. In which session of the Indian National Congress was the demand for a Constituent Assembly declared the "cornerstone of Congress policy"?

- (a) Lahore Session, 1929
- (b) Karachi Session, 1931
- (c) Faizpur Session, 1936**
- (d) Haripura Session, 1938

EXPLANATION:

Congress session at Faizpur 1936 under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, in his presidential address, told the gathering that the demand for a Constituent Assembly was now the '**cornerstone of Congress policy today**'. Resolution after resolution, speech after speech, the Congress kept reiterating its call for a Constituent Assembly.

- A variety of issues were raised in this session. These were related to both the international and the internal situation. Nehru attacked Fascism in his presidential speech, and the Congress passed resolutions condemning Italian aggression in Abyssinia and Japanese aggression in China. The Congress warned the people against the resources of India being used by the British in the case of a World War.
- On national issues, Nehru made it clear that 'the only logical consequence of the Congress policy is to have nothing to do with the office and the ministry.
Any deviation from this would mean a kind of partnership with British Imperialism in the exploitation of the Indian people. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

40. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Mission Sudarshan Chakra?

- (a) Expanding renewable energy production to achieve net-zero emissions.
- (b) To promote port-led development and enhance coastal connectivity.
- (c) Addressing malnutrition among women and children.
- (d) To develop indigenous aerial defence systems by 2035.**

EXPLANATION:

Recently, the Prime Minister of India announced Mission Sudarshan Chakra—an initiative to develop an indigenous aerial defence system by 2035, designed not only to neutralise enemy attacks but also to provide strong retaliatory capability. This announcement was made during the Independence Day address on August 15, 2025.

- Mission Sudarshan Chakra aims to develop an indigenous, multi-layered air and missile defence system for India by 2035.
- The mission is part of a broader plan to strengthen India's conventional (non-nuclear) missile capabilities, including the induction of systems such as the 500-km range Pralay missile, the 1,000-km range long-range land-attack cruise missile, and the planned extension of the BrahMos missile's strike range from 450 km to 800 km.
- Hence, the primary objective of Mission Sudarshan Chakra is the development of indigenous aerial defence systems. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

PROJECT KUSHA	
About	Project Kusha represents the indigenous core of Mission Sudarshan Chakra, serving as India's answer to advanced foreign air-defence systems. It is an Extended Range Air Defence System (ERADS) featuring three interceptor variants: • M1 interceptor for threats up to 150 km, • M2 interceptor for 250 km engagements, and • M3 interceptor with a range of 350–400 km. ➤ The system uses dual-seeker technology, combining radar and infrared guidance, and includes AI-enabled decision support for coordinated intercepts and real-time data processing from satellites, radars, and UAVs. ➤ Developed by DRDO in collaboration with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Project Kusha is expected to achieve operational deployment between 2028–2030, with prototype development planned within 12–18 months, followed by extensive user trials. ➤ Its modular architecture allows customization for specific operational needs while ensuring seamless integration with existing defence networks. ➤ BEL anticipates orders worth around ₹40,000 crore for Project Kusha, in addition to expected contracts for Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) systems valued at ₹30,000 crore.

41. With reference to the proposals of the Cabinet Mission Plan, consider the following statements:

1. It rejected the Muslim League's demand for the creation of Pakistan.
2. It proposed an Indian Union comprising both British provinces and princely states.
3. It recommended a unitary Constitution for India.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Cabinet Mission reached Delhi on March 24, 1946. It had prolonged discussions with Indian leaders of all parties and groups on the issues of

- interim Government, and
- principles and procedures for framing a new constitution giving freedom to India.

As the Congress and the League could not come to any agreement on the fundamental issue of the unity or partition of India, the mission put forward its own plan for the solution of the constitutional problem in May 1946.

Cabinet Mission Plan:

- The Plan rejected the Muslim League's demand for a separate state of Pakistan and instead called for an Indian Union that consisted of British provinces and the Princely States.
- While the Plan rejected Pakistan, it proposed a unique federal set-up that it hoped would be acceptable to the Congress Party and the Muslim League: it introduced the concept of grouping/sections; provinces and princely states were free to form groups under the Union, having a legislature and executive, enjoying significant autonomy. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

The Cabinet Mission held that, as the Muslims were apprehensive of a unitary, Hindu-majority state, *the constitutional structure should be federal.*

- The provinces should have maximum autonomy, and the Central Government should have minimum power, such as on foreign affairs, defense and communication.
- The Union could raise the necessary financial resources required for the administration of such subjects.
- The Union would include not only the British Indian provinces but also the princely states, so long under the paramount power of the British Government.
- All the residual powers - that is, powers not given to the Union - would belong to the provinces and states.

Hence, the Cabinet Mission did not recommend a unitary constitution. Instead, it proposed a unique federal set-up. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



LORD WAVELL [VICEROY] WITH MEMBERS OF CABINET MISSION [MARCH '46]
 [L. TO R.] A. V. Alexander, Lord Pethick-Lawrence, Lord Wavell & Sir Stafford Cripps
 [FIVE]

42. With reference to the participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement, consider the following statements:

1. Rich peasants became enthusiastic supporters of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
2. Women participated in large numbers in the movement.
3. The business classes remained aloof and did not support it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Civil Disobedience Movement was a major non-violent protest campaign in India led by Mahatma Gandhi against British rule. It began on March 12, 1930, with the Salt March, when Gandhi and his followers marched to the coast of Gujarat to make salt in defiance of the British monopoly on salt production.

- In the countryside, rich peasant communities - like the Patidars of Gujarat and the Jats of Uttar Pradesh - were active in the movement. Being producers of commercial crops, they were very hard hit by the trade depression and falling prices.
- As their cash income disappeared, they found it impossible to pay the government's revenue demand. And the refusal of the government to reduce revenue demand led to widespread resentment.
- These rich peasants became enthusiastic supporters of the Civil Disobedience Movement, organising their communities, and at times forcing reluctant members to participate in the boycott programmes. For them, the fight for swaraj was a struggle against high revenues. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- But they were deeply disappointed when the movement was called off in 1931 without the revenue rates being revised. So, when the movement restarted in 1932, many of them refused to participate.

One of the important features of the Civil Disobedience Movement was the large-scale participation of women. During Gandhiji's Salt March, thousands of women came out of their homes to listen to him. They participated in protest marches, manufactured salt, and picked foreign cloth and liquor shops. Many went to jail. In urban areas, these women were from high-caste families; in rural areas, they came from rich peasant households. Moved by Gandhiji's call, they began to see service to the nation as a sacred duty of women. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

During the First World War, Indian merchants and industrialists had made huge profits and become powerful. Keen on expanding their business, they now reacted against colonial policies that restricted business activities. They wanted protection against imports of foreign goods, and a rupee-sterling foreign exchange ratio that would discourage imports.

- To organise business interests, they formed the Indian Industrial and Commercial Congress in 1920 and the Federation of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) in 1927.
- Led by prominent industrialists like Purshottamdas Thakurdas and G. D. Birla, the industrialists attacked colonial control over the Indian economy and supported the Civil Disobedience Movement when it was first launched. They gave financial assistance and refused to buy or sell imported goods. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

43. With reference to the Rajaji Formula, consider the following statements:

1. It required the Muslim League to support India's independence and cooperate in forming a provisional government.
 2. It proposed a plebiscite in contiguous Muslim-majority districts after the war.
 3. It offered the Muslim League the entire Punjab and Bengal, irrespective of population composition.
- How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

C. Rajagopalachari (CR), the veteran Congress leader, prepared a formula for Congress-League cooperation in 1944. It was a tacit acceptance of the League's demand for Pakistan. Gandhi supported the formula. The main points in the CR Plan were:

- Muslim League to endorse Congress's demand for Independence.

- League to cooperate with Congress in forming a provisional government at the centre. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- After the end of the War, the entire population of Muslim majority areas in the North-West and North-East India was to decide by a plebiscite whether or not to form a separate sovereign state. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- In case of acceptance of partition, an agreement to be made jointly for safeguarding defence, commerce, communications, etc.
- The above terms are to be operative only if England transfers full powers to India.
- Rajagopalachari (CR) never offered the Muslim League the entire Punjab and Bengal, irrespective of population composition. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

44. The Registrar General of India (RGI) manages the centralised Civil Registration System for births and deaths. Under which Ministry of the Government of India does the RGI operate?

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs**
- (c) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

EXPLANATION:

The Civil Registration System (CRS) is India's official system for recording births, deaths, and stillbirths on a continuous and permanent basis.

CRS is listed in the Concurrent List (Entry 30) of the Constitution, meaning both the Centre and States can make laws on it. The data generated through CRS helps the government create evidence-based policies in various sectors.

The Registrar General of India (RGI) is responsible for managing the Civil Registration System, conducting the Census of India, and preparing vital statistics, which are all functions overseen by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Registrar General of India (RGI) operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CIVIL REGISTRATION SYSTEM	
About	The registration of births, deaths, and stillbirths in India is governed by a structured legal system that ensures accuracy, uniformity, and mandatory compliance across all states and union territories. This framework provides the basis for maintaining vital statistics essential for planning and governance.
Legal Framework	➤ Registration is done under the Registration of Births and Deaths (RBD) Act, 1969, amended in 2023, along with State Rules based on the Model RBD Rules. ➤ Registration is mandatory under the Act. ➤ Events must be registered at the place where they occur. ➤ The normal time for reporting a birth or death is 21 days. ➤ After this period, registration is allowed under delayed registration provisions (Section 13 of the Act).
Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India	The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India (ORG&CCI), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is responsible for managing the country's vital statistical systems and population databases. Its functions span population enumeration, civil registration, sample surveys, and linguistic documentation, forming the backbone of India's demographic and statistical governance.

Key Functions of the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India (ORG&CCI)

- **Housing & Population Census:** The Census Commissioner conducts the Housing and Population Census under the Census Act, 1948. The office handles planning, field operations, data processing, and publication of Census results.
- **Civil Registration System (CRS):** As the Registrar General of India under the RBD Act, 1969, the office oversees the compulsory registration of births and deaths and coordinates civil registration and vital statistics across all States and UTs.
- **Sample Registration System (SRS):** ORG&CCI runs the Sample Registration System, a large-scale survey conducted twice a year to estimate key vital rates such as birth rate, death rate, infant mortality, and maternal mortality at the state level.
- **National Population Register (NPR):** Under the Citizenship Rules, 2003, the office prepares the NPR by collecting details of all usual residents of the country.
- **Mother Tongue Survey:** The office conducts surveys of mother tongues consistently reported across multiple Census decades, documenting their linguistic features.

45. The year 2025 marks the 200th birth anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji. In this regard, consider the following statements:

1. Dadabhai Naoroji was a co-founder of the East India Association in London.
2. He served as the President of the Indian National Congress more than once.
3. Poverty and Un-British Rule in India by Dadabhai Naoroji is an extensive economic critique of British colonialism in India.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Dadabhai Naoroji was born on September 4 1825 in Bombay into a priestly Parsi family. The year 2025 marks his 200th birth anniversary.

In 1866, Naoroji founded the East India Association in London to discuss Indian issues and influence British public opinion for India's welfare. Later, branches of the Association were set up in major Indian cities. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Dadabhai Naoroji held several public positions in India:

- He was elected as Member of the Bombay Municipal Corporation (first in 1875 and again later),
- He was appointed as Justice of the Peace in 1883
- Also, started a newspaper called "Voice of India."
- In 1902, he was elected to the British Parliament as a member of the Liberal Party, representing Central Finsbury, becoming the first Indian MP in the British House of Commons.
- He served as the President of the Indian National Congress more than once
 - 1886 - Calcutta (2nd Session)
 - 1893 - Lahore (9th Session)
 - 1906 - Calcutta (22nd Session). **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Dadabhai Naoroji, the first Indian MP in Britain (1892), put forward the Drain of Wealth Theory, arguing that Britain was taking away India's wealth without giving anything in return. He fully explained this in his book *Poverty and Un-British Rule in India* (1901).

Naoroji showed that India was becoming poor because:

- Too many British officials worked in India, and their salaries and pensions went back to Britain.
- Raw materials were taken from India cheaply.
- India had to pay heavy "Home Charges," like interest and administrative costs, to Britain.

He demanded a reduction of British officials, lower financial burdens on India, and fair handling of foreign investments. His drain theory strengthened nationalist feelings and played an important role in building the demand for Swaraj (self-rule). **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

46. With reference to the nature of the Quit India Movement, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It differed from earlier Gandhian movements in its emphasis on "fight to the finish."
2. Gandhi conceded that the masses could take up arms in self-defence.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Quit India Movement has been described as the most massive anti-imperialist struggle on the eve of Partition and Independence. This movement was projected initially as the mass civil disobedience movement of 1942. The emphasis on the 'mass' aspect distinguished it from the controlled and limited individual satyagrahas or civil disobedience of 1941.

- The movement differed radically from other movements launched by Mahatma Gandhi. The Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920-22 and the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930-34 were conceived as campaigns of peaceful resistance to British rule in India. Their social base had expanded gradually to accommodate broader popular participation.
- However, the 1942 movement from the very beginning was a massive uprising to compel the British to withdraw entirely from India. The emphasis in the struggle was not on traditional Satyagraha but on '*fight to the finish*'. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Gandhi was prepared for riots and violence. His preparedness was based on his reading of the mood of the public. Gandhi had tested the mood in the limited yet symbolic campaign of Individual Satyagraha in 1941, when about 23,000 satyagrahis had gone to jail. He now conceded that *the masses could take up arms in self-defence*.

- Armed resistance against a stronger and well-equipped aggressor was to be considered a non-violent act, as he observed the Quit India Movement in his articles in the *Harijan* in March 1942.
- Accepting the role of individual freedom and civil liberties in the face of the state's organised violence, he affirmed that "*every individual was to consider himself free and act for himself*". **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT	
About	➤ Quit India Movement or the August Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on August 8 1942 to gain Independence from British rule. ➤ Gandhiji gave call to the British to withdraw from India. He decided to launch a mass civil disobedience movement, 'Do or Die', calling to force the British to leave India.

	➤ The Cripps Mission and its failure also played an important role in Gandhi's call for the Quit India Movement. The British Government on March 22 1942, sent Sir Stafford Cripps to negotiate terms with the Indian political parties and secure their support in Britain's war efforts. ➤ A Draft Declaration included terms like establishment of Dominion, establishment of a Constituent Assembly and right of the provinces to make separate constitutions. These would be granted after the cessation of the Second World War. According to the Congress, this Declaration only offered India a promise that was to be fulfilled in the future. ➤ Commenting on this, Gandhi said, "<i>It is a postdated cheque on a crashing bank.</i>" After the rejection of the Cripps proposals, the Indian National Congress launched the Quit India Movement.
The 'Quit India' Resolution	In July 1942, the Congress Working Committee met at Wardha and resolved that it would authorise Gandhi to take charge of the non-violent mass movement. The resolution is generally referred to as the 'Quit India' resolution. Proposed by Jawaharlal Nehru and seconded by Sardar Patel, it was to be approved by the All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay in August. The Quit India Resolution was ratified at the Congress meeting at Gowalia Tank, Bombay, on August 8 1942. The meeting also resolved to • demand an immediate end to British rule in India. • declare commitment of free India to defend itself against all types of Fascism and Imperialism. • Form a provisional Government of India after British withdrawal. • sanction a civil disobedience movement against British rule. Gandhi was named the leader of the struggle.

47. At the second session of the Indian National Congress held in 1886, it was decided that the Congress would not take up socio-religious issues in its forums. Who presided over this session?

- (a) Motilal Nehru
- (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (c) Badruddin Tyabji
- (d) Dadabhai Naoroji**

EXPLANATION:

The second session of the Indian National Congress was held in Calcutta in December 1886, presided over by Dadabhai Naoroji, who later became the first Indian elected to the British Parliament.

Key Developments:

- Before the session, the Congress faced intense criticism and negative propaganda, but participation increased significantly compared to the first session
- Delegates came from diverse social backgrounds, showing the growing acceptance of the Congress among different sections of Indian society.

Focus of the Session:

- The need for unity and harmony among religious communities was emphasised to counteract the British Divide and Rule policy.
- Rajendra Lal Mitra, Chairman of the Reception Committee, highlighted the difference between foreign and Indian rulers and expressed the desire for a national government in India.

Importance of the Session:

- The Calcutta session proved the inclusive and national character of the Congress.
- Early nationalists worked to address minority concerns.
- Dadabhai Naoroji assured that Congress would not raise divisive socio-religious issues, helping build trust among communities. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE EARLY INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	
About	➤ To create a democratic and nationalist political organisation that could lead India's struggle against colonial rule. ➤ To set up a central headquarters for this emerging national movement. ➤ To politically educate Indians about their rights and colonial exploitation. ➤ To help people understand national issues and encourage their participation in public life. ➤ To develop friendly relations among political workers from different regions ➤ To promote national unity across religions, castes, and provinces. ➤ To slowly and carefully nurture a sense of Indian nationhood. ➤ To draft and present common economic and political demands to the Government. ➤ To unify people around these common issues. ➤ To develop and propagate an anti-colonial and nationalist outlook among Indians.
List of important congress sessions	1885 – Bombay Session (1st Session) - President: W.C. Bonnerjee • Marked the founding of the Indian National Congress. • Laid the foundation for an all-India political platform. • Brought together political workers from various regions for the first time. 1886 – Calcutta Session (2nd Session)- President: Dadabhai Naoroji • Significantly increased attendance compared to the first session. • Reinforced the Congress's commitment to national unity across religions and castes. • Naoroji declared that Congress would avoid socio-religious issues to prevent division. 1907 – Surat Session President: (Rash Behari Ghosh) • Site of the Moderate–Extremist split within Congress. • Moderates wanted constitutional agitation; Extremists (Tilak, Lajpat Rai) wanted more assertive methods. • This split weakened nationalist unity temporarily. 1916 – Lucknow Session - President: Ambika Charan Mazumdar • Famous for the Lucknow Pact between Congress and the Muslim League. • Congress Moderates and Extremists were reunited. • A united nationalist front placed strong constitutional demands before the British. 1920 – Nagpur Session - President: C. Vijayaraghavachariar • Congress adopted Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Programme. • Organisational restructuring: Congress became a mass-based movement with village-level committees. • Membership fees slashed to encourage broader participation. 1929 – Lahore Session - President: Jawaharlal Nehru • Congress declared Purna Swaraj (Complete Independence) as the ultimate goal. • Decision to launch Civil Disobedience Movement. • January 26 1930 was observed as the first Independence Day. 1931 – Karachi Session - President: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel • Adopted the famous Karachi Resolution on Fundamental Rights and National Economic Policy. • One of the earliest blueprints of India's future Constitution. • Session held after Gandhi–Irwin Pact. 1936 – Lucknow Session - President: Jawaharlal Nehru

	• Nehru gave Congress a strong socialist orientation. • Emphasised anti-imperialism and socio-economic justice. • Rise of Congress Socialist elements. 1937 – Faizpur Session - President: Jawaharlal Nehru • First Congress session held in a rural area. • Focus on agrarian issues, peasants' rights, land reforms. • Reflected Congress's shift towards rural masses. 1942 – Bombay Session (AICC meeting) • Resolution: Quit India Movement • Launch of the Quit India Movement demanding immediate British withdrawal. • Almost entire Congress leadership arrested within hours. 1946 – Meerut Session - President: Acharya Kripalani • Last major session before Independence. • Discussed the Cabinet Mission Plan and future constitutional framework.
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48. Consider the following statements with respect to the State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH):

1. It is India's first national initiative to evaluate and improve state drug regulatory systems using a transparent and data-driven approach.
2. Its goal is to enhance the performance of state drug regulatory authorities and ensure that drug safety and quality standards are consistently maintained.
3. The index will regularly assess states based on digitisation of approvals and licenses, thoroughness of inspections, and responsiveness to public complaints.

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

EXPLANATION:

The State Health Regulatory Excellence Index (SHRESTH) is India's first national initiative, launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), to benchmark and strengthen the drug regulatory systems of states and union territories. It is a transparent, data-driven framework that uses a virtual gap-assessment tool to evaluate and improve drug safety, quality, and efficacy.

The index examines key areas such as human resources, infrastructure, and surveillance to identify gaps and support improvements. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The initiative, proposed by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) aims to drive improvements in the performance of state drug regulatory authorities across India, ensuring drug safety and quality standards are consistently met. CDSCO will facilitate sharing of success stories from top-performing states to drive collaboration and transfer of learnings. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

- The SHRESTH Index will enable targeted improvements in human resources, infrastructure, and digitization across states, ensuring drug safety is guaranteed for every Indian, regardless of geography.
- It will also promote cross-learning of best practices and foster collaborative spirit.
- The SHRESTH Index will regularly assess states on parameters such as lab testing capacity, digitisation of approvals and licences, thoroughness of inspections and surveillance, and responsiveness to citizen grievances. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

49. With reference to the legal consequences of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. After August 15 1947, no Act of the British Parliament extended automatically to either Dominion unless expressly adopted by its Constituent Assembly.
 2. The Governor-General in each Dominion was to be appointed by the British King.
- Select the answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) **Both 1 and 2**
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

EXPLANATION:

On February 20, 1947, the British Prime Minister, Clement Atlee, declared that British rule in India would end by June 30, 1948; after which the power would be transferred to responsible Indian hands. This announcement was followed by the agitation by the Muslim League demanding the partition of the country.

On June 3, 1947, Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India, put forth the partition plan, known as the Mountbatten Plan. The plan was accepted by the Congress and the Muslim League. Immediate effect was given to the plan by enacting the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

Some of the important features of this Act were as follows:

- It ended the British rule in India and declared India an independent and sovereign state on August 15, 1947.
- It provided for the partition of India and the creation of two independent dominions of India and Pakistan with the right to secede from the British Commonwealth.
- It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of the two dominions to frame and adopt any constitution for their respective nations and to repeal any act of the British Parliament, including the Independence Act itself.
- It empowered the Constituent Assemblies of both the dominions to legislate for their respective territories till the new constitutions were drafted and enforced. No Act of the British Parliament passed after August 15, 1947, was to extend to either of the new dominions unless it was extended thereto by a law of the legislature of the Dominion. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It abolished the office of Viceroy and provided, for each Dominion, a governor-general, who was to be appointed by the British King on the advice of the Dominion cabinet. His Majesty's Government in Britain was to have no responsibility with respect to the Government of India or Pakistan. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE ACT, 1947	
Features	➤ It abolished the office of the Secretary of State for India and transferred his functions to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs. ➤ It proclaimed the lapse of British paramountcy over the Indian princely states and treaty relations with tribal areas from August 15, 1947. ➤ It granted freedom to the Indian princely states either to join the Dominion of India or the Dominion of Pakistan or to remain independent. ➤ It provided for the governance of each of the dominions and the provinces by the Government of India Act of 1935, till the new Constitutions were framed. The dominions were, however, authorised to make modifications in the Act. ➤ It deprived the British Monarch of his right to veto bills or ask for the reservation of certain bills for his approval. But this right was reserved for the Governor-

	General. The Governor General would have full power to assent to any bill in the name of His Majesty. ➤ It designated the Governor-General of India and the provincial governors as constitutional (nominal) heads of the states. They were made to act on the advice of the respective council of ministers in all matters. ➤ It dropped the title of Emperor of India from the royal titles of the King of England. ➤ It discontinued the appointment to civil services and reservation of posts by the Secretary of State for India. The members of the civil services appointed before August 15, 1947, would continue to enjoy all benefits that they were entitled to till that time.
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50. Consider the following personalities:

1. Bhulabhai Desai
2. C.R. Das
3. B.C. Roy
4. Lala Lajpat Rai
5. N.C. Kelkar

How many of the above were responsivists of the Swarajist Party?

- (a) **Only two**
(b) Only three
(c) Only four
(d) All five

EXPLANATION:

In the 37th Congress session at Gaya (1922), the Congress leaders were split into two groups:

- **Pro-Changers** (Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, N.C. Kelkar) wanted to enter the Legislative Councils and fight the British from inside
- **No-Changers** (Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, C. Rajagopalachari) wanted to continue Gandhi's non-cooperation and boycott of councils.

The proposal of the Pro-Changers was defeated by a large margin. As a result, Motilal Nehru and C.R. Das resigned and founded the Swaraj Party in 1923.

- After an initial phase of significant success in the legislatures, the strength of the Swarajists gradually declined.
- Widespread communal riots and internal divisions—especially the split into Responsivists and Non-responsivists on communal issues further weakened the party.
- **Responsivists (Lala Lajpat Rai, Madan Mohan Malaviya, N.C. Kelkar)** wanted cooperation with the Government, holding offices, and protecting Hindu interests, leading to more communal accusations.
- By March 1926, the main Swarajist leaders decided to support mass civil disobedience and withdrew from the legislatures.
- In the 1926 elections, a divided Swarajist Party performed poorly, winning only some seats in the Central Assembly and Madras, and losing badly in United Province, Central Province, and Punjab.
- Finally, in 1930, after the Lahore Congress declared purna swaraj and the Civil Disobedience Movement began, the Swarajists left the legislatures completely.

Therefore, only Lala Lajpat Rai, Madan Mohan Malaviya, N.C. Kelkar were a responsivists of the Swarajist Party. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SWARAJISTS VS NO-CHANGERS	
Swarajists	Achievements: ➤ Outvoted the Government several times with coalition partners. ➤ Raised strong debates on self-government and civil liberties ➤ Vithalbhai Patel became Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly (1925) ➤ Defeated the Public Safety Bill (1928) ➤ Filled the political vacuum during the passive phase. ➤ Exposed the hollowness of the Montford Reforms ➤ Demonstrated that councils could be creatively used for national struggle. Drawbacks of the Swarajists: ➤ No coordination between legislative politics and mass movements. ➤ The obstructionist strategy had limited long-term results. ➤ Coalition politics often failed due to conflicting aims. ➤ Some members succumbed to the attractions of power. ➤ Failure to support Bengal peasants led to the loss of Muslim support.
No-Changers	Constructive Work by No-Changers: ➤ Ashrams worked among tribals and lower castes, promoting khadi. ➤ National schools and colleges were set up to offer non-colonial education. ➤ Work for Hindu-Muslim unity, anti-untouchability campaigns, liquor and cloth boycott, and flood relief.. ➤ These workers became the backbone of the Civil Disobedience Movement. Criticisms of Constructive Work: ➤ National education benefited mainly the urban middle classes and rich peasants. ➤ Khadi was costlier than imported cloth, making mass adoption difficult. ➤ Anti-untouchability work lacked focus on the economic issues of landless labourers. ➤ Enthusiasm waned during non-movement periods.

51. Who among the following launched the Temple Entry Movement at the Kalaram Temple?

- (a) **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar**
(b) E. V. Ramasamy (Periyar)
(c) K. Kelappan
(d) T. K. Madhavan

EXPLANATION:

In 1930, Dr B. R. Ambedkar launched a protest at the Kalaram temple to seek the entry of Dalits into the temple.

The Kalaram temple, located in the **Panchavati area of Nashik**, is dedicated to Lord Ram. The temple derives its name from the idol of Lord Ram carved out of black stone. It is believed that Lord Ram stayed in Panchavati with his wife Sita and his brother Lakshman during their exile.

- When Mahatma Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement in March 1930, Dr B. R. Ambedkar also initiated the Kalaram Temple Entry Satyagraha at Nashik in 1930. Ambedkar organised it after three months of careful planning, aiming to secure Dalits' right to enter the Kalaram Temple. It became one of the major movements for Dalit civil rights.
- It was one of the non-violent movements where around 15000 people had participated to get entry into the temple.
- The Satyagrahis squatted before the temple, singing bhajans, but a strong contingent of the Bombay police meted out punishment to the non-violent Satyagrahis.

- This Satyagraha continued for 5 years, and finally, the temple gates were opened for the oppressed people. This Satyagraha helped to remove the tag of 'untouchable' from the heads of the lower caste, giving them equal rights. **So, Option (a) is correct.**



52. Consider the following statements about the Gallantry awards:

1. It is conferred by the President of India for acts of bravery and self-sacrifice both during wartime and peacetime.
2. Gallantry awards are announced twice a year and can be conferred on both living recipients as well as posthumously.
3. Ashoka Chakra can be awarded to civilians and military personnel for acts of bravery during peacetime.

How many of the statements given above is/are **not** correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Gallantry Awards have been instituted by the Government of India to honour exceptional acts of bravery and sacrifice by personnel of the Armed Forces, other uniformed forces, and civilians. These awards recognise courage shown in both wartime and peacetime.

They are conferred by the President of India to recipients or their next of kin during the annual Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Gallantry awards are announced twice a year—on Republic Day and Independence Day.

The Param Vir Chakra and Ashoka Chakra are presented during the Republic Day Parade.

Gallantry awards are grouped into two categories:

- Wartime Gallantry Awards: Param Vir Chakra (PVC), Maha Vir Chakra (MVC), Vir Chakra
- Peacetime Gallantry Awards: Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra

These awards may be given to both living recipients and posthumously.. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Ashoka Chakra is awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield. It is the peace-time equivalent of the Param Vir Chakra, and is awarded for the "most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent valour or self-sacrifice" other than in the face of the enemy.

The following categories of persons shall be eligible for the Ashoka Chakra:

- Officers and men and women of all ranks of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted forces.
- Members of the Nursing Services of the Armed Forces.
- Civilian citizens of either sex in all walks of life and members of Police Forces, including Central Para-Military Forces and Railway Protection Force. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GALLANTRY AWARDS	
 PARAM VIR CHAKRA	➤ The Param Vir Chakra (PVC) is India's highest military decoration awarded for the highest degree of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy. ➤ It can be, and often has been, awarded posthumously. Introduced on 26th January 1950, this award may be given posthumously. ➤ Literally, Param Vir Chakra means 'Wheel (or Cross) of the Ultimate Brave'. In Sanskrit, 'Param means Ultimate, 'Vir (Pronounced veer) means Brave and 'Chakra means Wheel. ➤ Officers, men and women of all ranks of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army Militia and of any other lawfully constituted Armed Forces.
 MAHA VIR CHAKRA	➤ The Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) is the second highest military decoration in India. ➤ It is awarded for acts of conspicuous gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether on land, at sea or in the air. ➤ It may be awarded posthumously. ➤ Literally Maha Veer means extraordinarily brave. ➤ Officers, men and women of all ranks of the Army, the navy and the Air force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted Armed forces.
 KIRTI CHAKRA	➤ The Kirti Chakra is an Indian military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle. ➤ It may be awarded to civilians as well as military personnel, including posthumous awards. It is the peacetime equivalent of the Maha Vir Chakra. ➤ It is second in order of precedence of peacetime gallantry awards. ➤ Officers, men and women of all ranks of Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, the Central Para-Military Forces, the Railway Protection Force, Other Police Forces, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted forces and civilians of either genders in all walks of life can be recipient of this award.

 VIR CHAKRA	➤ The Vir chakra is awarded for acts of gallantry in the presence of the enemy, whether of land or at sea or in the air. ➤ It is third in precedence in the wartime gallantry awards and comes after the Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra. ➤ Established by the President of India on 26 January 1950 (with effect from 15 August 1947). ➤ The decoration may be awarded posthumously. ➤ Officers, men and women of all ranks of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia and of any other lawfully constituted Armed Forces.
 SHAURYA CHAKRA	➤ The Shaurya award is awarded for gallantry otherwise than in the face of the enemy. ➤ It is the peacetime equivalent of the Vir Chakra. ➤ Established as the "Ashoka Chakra, Class III" by the President of India, 4 January 1952 (with effect from 15 August 1947). ➤ The statutes were revised and the decoration renamed on 27 January 1967. ➤ The decoration may be awarded posthumously. ➤ Officers and men and women of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, of any of the Reserve Forces, of the Territorial Army, Militia, and of any other lawfully constituted Armed Forces.

53. Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, and K.T. Telang were leaders of:

- (a) Poona Sarvajanik Sabha
- (b) Indian National Association
- (c) British Indian Association
- (d) **Bombay Presidency Association**

EXPLANATION:

The Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, founded on 2 April 1870 in Pune by leaders like G.V. Joshi, S.H. Sathe, and S.H. Chiplonkar, became one of the earliest political organizations in India.

- With the entry of M.G. Ranade in 1871, it gained greater strength and acted as a mediating body between the British Government and the Indian public.
- It acted as a bridge between the British Government and Indians, raising public grievances and generating political awareness.
- Represented various sections of society such as sardars, landowners, businessmen, lawyers, teachers, and officials.

Major activities:

- Appointed a committee (1872) to study peasants' conditions.
- Organized famine relief in 1876.
- Set up arbitration courts to reduce litigation cost.
- Led the Swadeshi Movement in the region
- Sent a petition to the House of Commons (1875) for Indian representation.
- Published a Quarterly Journal on political and social issues.

Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, and K.T. Telang had no association with this Sabha, **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Indian National Association, founded in 1876 in Calcutta by Surendranath Banerjee and Anandamohan Bose, was the first openly nationalist political body of British India.

- Its objective was to promote the political, intellectual, and material advancement of Indians through lawful means.
- It became a major platform for nationalist mobilization and later merged with the Indian National Congress.
- The historic “Bharat Sabha Hall” (Indian Association Building) in Kolkata served as an important meeting place for nationalist leaders.

Thus, Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, and K.T. Telang were not related to the Indian National Association. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

The Bengal British India Society, formed in 1843, aimed to highlight the actual condition of the people under British rule.

- In 1851, it merged with the Landholders’ Society to form the British Indian Association, led by Raja Radhakanta Deb (President) and Debendranath Tagore (Secretary).
- The Association submitted reform petitions to the British Parliament, some of which influenced the Charter Act of 1853.

Tyabji, Mehta, and Telang were not associated with this body. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

The Bombay Presidency Association, founded in January 1885 in Bombay by:

- Badruddin Tyabji
- Pherozeshah Mehta
- K.T. Telang
- Aimed to secure better Indian representation in the British administration and promote political reform.
- Became an early precursor to the Indian National Congress, which formed later in 1885
- Played a key role in shaping organized political activity in western India.

Eventually merged with the emerging national movement under the Congress. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

54. With reference to the Civil Disobedience Movement, identify the place where Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and his followers, the Khudai Khidmatgars, staged a major non-violent demonstration against the British authorities:

- (a) Lahore
- (b) Peshawar**
- (c) Karachi
- (d) Lucknow

EXPLANATION:

During the Civil Disobedience Movement, **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (also known as frontier Gandhi)** and his followers, the **Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts)**, organised a massive non-violent demonstration in **Peshawar**.

On April 23, 1930, the arrest of Congress leaders in the NWFP triggered mass protests, and Peshawar remained in the hands of the crowds for over a week until order was restored on May 4.

A reign of terror and martial law followed. It was during this upsurge that a section of the Garhwal Rifles refused to fire on the unarmed crowd. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE SALT MARCH AND THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT	
How was it different from the Non-Cooperation Movement?	➤ People were now asked not only to refuse cooperation with the British, as they had done in 1921-22, but also to break colonial laws. ➤ Thousands in different parts of the country broke the salt law, manufactured salt and demonstrated in front of government salt factories. ➤ As the movement spread, foreign cloth was boycotted, and liquor shops were picketed. ➤ Peasants refused to pay revenue and chaukidari taxes, village officials resigned, and in many places, forest people violated forest laws – going into Reserved Forests to collect wood and graze cattle.
British Government Reaction	➤ Worried by the developments, the colonial government began arresting the Congress leaders one by one. This led to violent clashes in many palaces. ➤ When Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a devout disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, was arrested in April 1930, angry crowds demonstrated in the streets of Peshawar, facing armoured cars and police firing. Many were killed. ➤ A month later, when Mahatma Gandhi himself was arrested, industrial workers in Sholapur attacked police posts, municipal buildings, lawcourts and railway stations – all structures that symbolised British rule. A frightened government responded with a policy of brutal repression. Peaceful satyagrahis were attacked, women and children were beaten, and about 100,000 people were arrested.
Gandhi-Irwin Pact and Other Consequences	➤ Mahatma Gandhi once again decided to call off the movement and entered into a pact with Irwin on March 5 1931. ➤ By the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, Gandhiji consented to participate in a Round Table Conference (the Congress had boycotted the first Round Table Conference) in London, and the government agreed to release the political prisoners. ➤ In December 1931, Gandhiji went to London for the conference, but the negotiations broke down, and he returned disappointed. Back in India, he discovered that the government had begun a new cycle of repression. ➤ Ghaffar Khan and Jawaharlal Nehru were both in jail, the Congress had been declared illegal, and a series of measures had been imposed to prevent meetings, demonstrations and boycotts. With great apprehension, Mahatma Gandhi relaunched the Civil Disobedience Movement. For over a year, the movement continued, but by 1934, it lost its momentum.

55. In the context of development of education and the appointment of commissions in the late 1880's, consider the following statements:

1. The Hunter Commission was appointed to review the progress of education and mainly recommended improvements in primary and secondary education.
2. The Indian Universities act was passed to give more attention to research, based on the recommendation of Saddler commission.
3. The Raleigh commission was appointed to study the problems and review the university education in the Calcutta university.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

In 1882, the Government appointed a commission under the chairmanship of W.W. Hunter to review the progress of education in the country since the Despatch of 1854. The Hunter Commission mostly confined its recommendations to primary and secondary education. The commission

- Emphasised that the State's special care is required for extension and improvement of primary education, and that primary education should be imparted through the vernacular.
- Recommended transfer of control of primary education to newly set up district and municipal boards.
- Recommended that secondary (High School) education should have two divisions—literary
 - leading up to university.
 - vocational—for commercial careers.
- Drew attention to inadequate facilities for female education, especially outside presidency towns and made recommendations for its spread. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

As per the recommendations of the Raleigh Commission, the Indian Universities Act was passed in 1904. As per the Act,

- Universities were to give more attention to study and research; **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The number of fellows of a university and their period in office were reduced, and most fellows were to be nominated by the Government.
- The Government was to have the power to veto the universities' senate regulations and could amend these regulations or pass regulations on its own;
- Conditions were to be made stricter for affiliation of private colleges; and
- Five lakh rupees were to be sanctioned per annum for five years for the improvement of higher education and universities.

In 1902, the Raleigh Commission was set up to investigate the conditions and prospects of universities in India and to suggest measures for improvement in their constitution and working. The commission is precluded from reporting on primary or secondary education. Based on its recommendations, the Indian Universities Act was passed in 1904.

It is Saddler University Commission (1917-19) (not Raleigh Commission), that was set up to study and report on problems of Calcutta University. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

56. Which two countries recently signed a peace agreement that led to the creation of the strategic transit corridor known as the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP)?

- (a) Israel and Gaza
- (b) Ukraine and Russia
- (c) Azerbaijan and Armenia**
- (d) India and Pakistan

EXPLANATION:

Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a peace agreement at the White House in a deal brokered by the United States, ending decades of conflict over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The region, located within Azerbaijan but historically populated by Armenians, had seen repeated clashes resulting in tens of thousands of deaths.

Key Elements of the Agreement:

- Both countries, along with the United States, signed agreements that will reopen important transportation routes.
- The deal also reflects the United States' growing influence in the South Caucasus amid Russia's declining role.

TRIPP Transit Corridor:

- The agreement includes the creation of a major transit corridor connecting Azerbaijan to its Nakhchivan exclave.

- The United States will hold development rights to this corridor, named the Trump Route for International Peace and Prosperity (TRIPP). **So, Option (c) is correct.**



57. With reference to the Swadeshi movement, consider the following information:

Sl.no.	Centre of the movement	Regional Leader
1.	Punjab	Syed Haider Raza
2.	Delhi	Ajit Singh
3.	Poona	Bal Gangadhar Tilak

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

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

EXPLANATION:

On August 7, 1905, with the passage of the Boycott Resolution in a massive meeting held in the Calcutta Townhall, the formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement was made. After this, the leaders dispersed to other parts of Bengal to propagate the message of boycott of Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt.

- On October 16, 1905, the day the partition formally came into force, was observed as a day of mourning throughout Bengal. People fasted, bathed in the Ganga and walked barefoot in processions singing Bande Mataram (which almost spontaneously became the theme song of the movement).
- 'Amar Sonar Bangla', the national anthem of present-day Bangladesh, was composed by Rabindranath Tagore, and was sung by huge crowds marching in the streets.
- People tied rakhis on each other's hands as a symbol of unity of the two halves of Bengal. Later in the day, Surendranath Banerjea and Ananda Mohan Bose addressed huge gatherings (perhaps the

largest till then under the nationalist banner). Within a few hours of the meeting, Rs 50,000 was raised for the movement.

- Soon, the movement spread to other parts of the country—
 - In Poona and Bombay under Bal Gangadhar Tilak, **So, Pair (3) is correct.**
 - In Punjab under Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh, **So, Pair (1) is not correct.**
 - In Delhi under Syed Haider Raza, **So, Pair (2) is not correct.**
 - In Madras under Chidambaram Pillai.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SWADESHI MOVEMENT	
Congress's Position	➤ The Indian National Congress, meeting in 1905 under the presidentship of Gokhale, resolved to • condemn the partition of Bengal and the reactionary policies of Curzon, • support the anti-partition and Swadeshi Movement of Bengal. ➤ The militant nationalists led by Tilak, Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh wanted the movement to be taken outside Bengal to other parts of the country and go beyond a boycott of foreign goods to become a full-fledged political mass struggle with the goal of attaining swaraj. ➤ But the Moderates, dominating the Congress at that time, were not willing to go that far. ➤ However, a big step forward was taken at the Congress session held at Calcutta (1906) under the presidentship of Dadabhai Naoroji, where it was declared that the goal of the Indian National Congress was "self-government or swaraj like the United Kingdom or the colonies" of Australia or Canada. ➤ The Moderate-Extremist dispute over the pace of the movement and techniques of struggle reached a deadlock at the Surat session of the Indian National Congress (1907) where the party split with serious consequences for the Swadeshi Movement.

58. Consider the following statements:

1. Assassinated British officials
2. Established vernacular educational institutions
3. Demanded swaraj
4. Personal sacrifices as a method of resistance

Which of the above statements are true about Extremist Nationalists?

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

EXPLANATION:

The extremists' programme of action was radically different from that of the moderates and aimed specifically at arousing emotive indignation against British rule and thereby promoting active involvement of the masses in the agitations.

- **Demanded swaraj:** The extremists aimed at preparing the masses for the struggle to gain 'Swaraj' by educating them, uniting them and instilling in them a sense of self-respect, self-reliance, and pride in their ancient heritage. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**
- Aurobindo Ghose and Lokmanya Tilak had played a major role in developing the blueprint of the extremist programme, which involved the following activities:

- 'Boycott' of foreign goods and promotion of 'Swadeshi' goods to give impetus to the growth of indigenous industry and commerce.
- Non-cooperation with the bureaucracy; this included 'boycott' of governmental activities.
- **Established vernacular educational institutions:** Establishment of schools and colleges that give education in the Indian languages and instil in the students' pride for the glorious heritage of India, make the students nationalistic and public spirited in character and knowledgeable, self-reliant and independent in spirit. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- 'Passive Resistance' to British rule by non-payment of revenue and taxes and by organising separate 'indigenous administrative institutions' parallel to those of the British at the level of villages, talukas and districts.

The extremists were patriots who made sacrifices for the sake of the country. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

The Extremist leaders disfavoured the use of violence against British rule and did not approve of the methods of political murder and assassination used by the Indian revolutionaries. However, they did take a sympathetic view of the activities of the revolutionaries. For them, the young revolutionaries were no doubt misguided and reckless, but their violent actions were provoked by the equally violent repressive policies implemented by the British Government. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MODERATES AND EXTREMISTS	
Moderates	Extremists
➤ Social base—zamindars and upper middle classes in towns. ➤ Ideological inspiration— western liberal thought and European history. ➤ Believed in England's providential mission in India. ➤ Believed political connections with Britain to be in India's social, political and cultural interests. ➤ Professed loyalty to the British Crown. ➤ Believing that the movement should be limited to middle-class intelligentsia; the masses were not yet ready for participation in political work. ➤ Demanded constitutional reforms and share for Indians in services. ➤ Insisted on the use of constitutional methods only. ➤ They were patriots and did not play the role of a comprador class.	➤ Social base—educated middle and lower middle classes in towns. ➤ Ideological inspiration—Indian history, cultural heritage and Hindu traditional symbols. ➤ Rejected 'providential mission theory' as an illusion. ➤ Believed that political connections with Britain would perpetuate British exploitation of India. ➤ Believed that the British Crown was unworthy of claiming Indian loyalty. ➤ Had immense faith in the capacity of the masses to participate and to make sacrifices. ➤ Demanded swaraj as the panacea for Indian ills. ➤ Did not hesitate to use extraconstitutional methods like boycott and passive resistance to achieve their objectives. ➤ They were patriots who made sacrifices for the sake of the country.

59. With reference to the Third Round Table Conference, consider the following statements:

1. It was attended by both the Indian National Congress and the British Labour Party.
2. It was the briefest and least significant of the three sessions.
3. It influenced the drafting of the Government of India Act, 1935.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin, and the Prime Minister of Britain, Ramsay MacDonald, agreed that a Round Table Conference should be held, as the recommendations of the Simon Commission report were clearly inadequate.

- Round Table Conference (1930–32), a series of meetings in three sessions organised by the British Government and Indian political personalities to discuss constitutional reforms in India.
- The Conference resulted from a review of the Government of India Act of 1919, undertaken in 1927 by the Simon Commission, whose report was published in 1930. The Conference was held in London.
- The Third Round Table Conference (November 17–December 24, 1932), held between November 17, 1932 and December 24, 1932, was not attended by the Indian National Congress nor the British Labour Party. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**
 - It was ignored by most other Indian leaders.
 - It was attended by 46 delegates, very carefully invited by the Conservative Government in Britain.
 - This round table conference was brief (shorter) and the least significant of the three sessions. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Following the conclusion of the third-round table Conference, the recommendations were published in a White Paper in March 1933 and debated in the British Parliament afterwards.

A Joint Select Committee was formed to analyse the recommendations and formulate a new Act for India, and that committee produced a draft Bill in February 1935, which was enforced as the Government of India Act of 1935 in July 1935. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE	
About	➤ The First Round Table Conference (November 12 1930–January 19 1931) had 73 representatives, from all Indian states and all parties except the Indian National Congress, which was waging a civil disobedience campaign against the Government. Its principal achievement was an insistence on parliamentarianism—an acceptance by all, including the princes, of the federal principle—and on dominion status as the goal of constitutional development. ➤ The Second Round Table Conference (September–December 1931) was attended by Mahatma Gandhi as the Congress representative; it failed to reach an agreement, either constitutionally or on communal representation. ➤ The Third Round Table Conference (November 17–December 24 1932) was shorter and less important, with neither the Congress nor the British Labour Party attending. The result of these deliberations was the Government of India Act, 1935, establishing provincial autonomy and also a federal system that was never implemented.
Timeline	➤ Lahore Congress Session (December 1929): Congress adopted complete Independence as its goal. Congress decided to launch a civil disobedience movement. January 26, 1930, was celebrated as the first Independence Day all over the country. ➤ Dandi March (March 12–April 6, 1930): Led by Gandhi, resulted in the spread of salt satyagraha to Tamil Nadu, Malabar, Andhra, Assam, and Bengal. Gandhi-Irwin Pact (March 1931) Congress agreed to attend the Second RTC and to withdraw the CDM.

	➤ Karachi Congress Session (March 1931): Endorsed the Delhi Pact between Gandhi and Irwin. Passed resolutions on the economic programme and fundamental rights. ➤ The Round Table Conference: In the Second RTC, the right-wing conservative Government in Britain was against concessions to Indians. The session got deadlocked on the question of safeguards to minorities. ➤ December 1931 - April 1934: Second phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement ➤ Communal Award (1932) and Poona Pact provided separate electorates to the depressed classes. Nationalists felt this to be a threat to national unity. Gandhi's fast unto death (September 1932) led to the Poona Pact, which abandoned separate electorates for depressed classes in favour of increased reserved seats for them.
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60. The right to safe, well-maintained and motorable roads comes under the right to:

- (a) Free Movement throughout India
- (b) Freedom of Assembly
- (c) Protection of life and personal liberty**
- (d) Freedom of Trade and Commerce

EXPLANATION:

The Supreme Court of India has clarified that access to safe, motorable, and well-maintained roads is an essential part of the fundamental right to life under the Constitution.

The judgment notes that while the right to access any part of the country—subject to reasonable restrictions—is guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution, the right to safe, well-maintained, and motorable roads is specifically recognized as part of the right to life under Article 21.

Therefore, the right to safe, well-maintained, and motorable roads is protected as a component of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty under Article 21. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

EXPLANATION:

OTHER FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS	
Right to Safe, Well-Maintained and Motorable Roads	The Supreme Court of India stated that safe road infrastructure is directly linked to citizens' safety, dignity and ability to live a meaningful life. ➤ Constitutional Obligation of the State: The SC emphasized that the State has a constitutional duty to ensure safe public infrastructure. Roads are critical for mobility, access to essential services, and economic participation; hence, citizens cannot be denied proper road conditions. ➤ Connection with Article 19: The Court also observed that the right to access any part of the country—subject to reasonable restrictions—is protected under Article 19(1)(d) (freedom of movement) and Article 19(1)(g) (freedom to practice any profession or trade). • The exercise of these freedoms depends on the availability of safe and motorable roads. • Poor road conditions can effectively restrict movement and economic activities. ➤ Government's Responsibility: It is the State's responsibility to develop, maintain and ensure the safety of motorable roads under its jurisdiction. Failure to do so may violate Articles 21 and 19. ➤ Case Reference: These principles were reaffirmed in the case <i>Umri Pooph Pratappur (UPP) Tollways Pvt. Ltd. v. M.P. Road Development Corporation &</i>

	Another, where the Supreme Court underscored the integral link between road safety and fundamental rights.
Freedom of movement and residence	➤ Article 19(1)(d) and Article 19(1)(e) are complementary to each other and confer a right upon the citizens to move freely or/and to reside and settle in any part of the country, without any hindrance, however, such rights are subject to certain reasonable restrictions. ➤ Article 19(1)(d) provides for the right to move freely throughout the territory of India. ➤ This means the right to locomotion, i.e., the right to move as per one's own choice. ➤ This right includes the right to use roads and highways.
Freedom to assemble	➤ This right guarantees every citizen the freedom to assemble peacefully without arms, including the right to hold public meetings, demonstrations, and processions. ➤ However, there are specific provisions and restrictions associated with this right that have been elucidated through various landmark case laws. ➤ The fundamental right to assemble empowers its citizens to convene peacefully, devoid of arms, and articulate their beliefs and opinions through public gatherings, processions, and demonstrations. ➤ According to Article 19(3), the right to freedom of assembly could be restricted on the following grounds: • In the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, or • In the interests of public order.
Freedom of profession, occupation, trade or business	➤ Article 19(1)(g) provides for the fundamental right of the citizens to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business. ➤ This right basically allows its citizens and individuals the freedom to participate in economic activities, however the same is subject to certain reasonable restrictions as mentioned under Article 19(6).

61. With reference to trade unions during mid 1920's, consider the following statements:

1. The Trade Union Act of 1926 recognised trade unions as legal associations and laid down the conditions for their registration.
2. The Trade Disputes Act of 1929 made the appointment of Courts of Inquiry compulsory for settling industrial disputes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Trade Union Act, 1926, is an act to provide for the registration of Trade Unions and, in certain respects, to define the law relating to registered Trade Unions. The Trade Union Act, 1926

- Recognised trade unions as legal associations;
- Laid down conditions for registration and regulation of trade union activities; **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- secured immunity, both civil and criminal, for trade unions from prosecution for legitimate activities, but put some restrictions on their political activities.

Alarmed at the increasing strength of the trade union movement under extremist influence, the Government resorted to legislative restrictions. It passed the Public Safety Ordinance (1929) and the Trade Disputes Act (TDA), 1929. The TDA, 1929

- Made compulsory the appointment of Courts of Inquiry and Consultation Boards for settling industrial disputes; **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Made illegal the strikes in public utility services like posts, railways, water and electricity, unless each individual worker planning to go on strike gave an advance notice of one month to the administration;
- Forbade trade union activity of coercive or purely political nature and even sympathetic strikes.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

WORKERS' MOVEMENTS	
About	Early Factory Production (1860s): Factory production in India began in the early 1860s. The colonial economic pattern involved procuring raw materials from India and selling British-manufactured goods in India. Location of Early Factories: ➤ Factories first came up in Calcutta (Kolkata) and Bombay (Mumbai), later expanding to Madras (Chennai). Tea Plantations: ➤ Tea plantations in Assam were set up as early as 1839. Cheap Labour in Early Colonial Rule: ➤ In the beginning, labour was extremely cheap because the colonial state did not regulate wages or working conditions. Workers did protest, but their protests were spontaneous rather than organised. Role of Nationalists: ➤ Some nationalist leaders included workers in the wider anti-colonial struggle. Impact of the First World War: WWI expanded industries but also caused misery, food shortages, and sharp price rises, leading to widespread strikes in Bombay's textile mills. ➤ Strikes of 1917: Between September–October 1917, around 30 strikes were recorded: ➤ Jute workers in Calcutta struck work. ➤ Binny's (B&C Mills) workers in Madras demanded wage hikes. ➤ Textile workers in Ahmedabad demanded a 50% wage increase. Growth of Trade Unions: ➤ 1918: First trade union established in Madras by B.P. Wadia. ➤ 1918: Mahatma Gandhi founded the Textile Labour Association (TLA) in Ahmedabad. ➤ 1920: Formation of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in Bombay. ➤ Political Influence on Trade Unions: In the final years of British rule, communists gained control over AITUC. ➤ May 1947: The INC formed a rival union, INTUC. The 1947 split in AITUC led to further political splits, with regional parties forming their own unions from the late 1960s. ➤ Economic Crisis of 1966–67: A major recession reduced production and employment, leading to widespread unrest. ➤ Railway Strike of 1974: A massive strike by railway workers intensified the confrontation between the state and trade unions, linking the workers' movement to the larger fight for civil liberties.

62. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1:

The Jaintia and Garo Rebellion was a tribal uprising in North-East India, led by U Kiang Nongbah and Pa Togan Sangma.

Statement 2:

Both rebellions were influenced by British policies against occupying the hilly regions and against the imposition of house tax and income taxes.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) **Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I**
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

Jaintia and Garo Rebellion (1860-1870s): After the First Anglo-Burmese War, the British planned the construction of a road connecting the Brahmaputra Valley (present-day Assam) with Sylhet (present-day Bangladesh).

- The Jaintias and the Garos in the North-Eastern part of India (present-day Meghalaya) opposed the construction of this road, which was of strategic importance to the British for the movement of troops.
- In 1827, the Jaintias tried to stop work, and soon the unrest spread to the neighbouring Garo hills. Alarmed, the British burnt several Jaintias and Garo villages.
- The hostilities increased with the introduction of the *House Tax and Income Tax* by the British in the 1860s.
- The Jaintias' leader, U Kiang Nongbah, was captured and publicly hanged, and the Garo leader, Pa Togan Sangma, was defeated by the British.

Therefore, Both the Jaintia and Garo rebellions arose because the British occupied their hilly regions and imposed taxes, which directly triggered the tribal uprisings led by U Kiang Nongbah and Pa Togan Sangma. **Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NORTH-EAST FRONTIER TRIBAL MOVEMENTS	
Movements Before 1857	➤ Ahoms' Revolt (1828-33; Assam): Took place against the Company's failure to fulfil the pledges made after the Burmese War. The uprising was suppressed by the Company by dividing the kingdom. ➤ Khasis' Revolt (1830s; hilly region between Jaintia and Garo Hills): Led by the Nunklow ruler, Tirath Singh, against the British occupation of the hilly region ➤ Singphos' Rebellion (1830s; Assam): In 1839, the Singphos murdered the British political agent of Assam. The Rebellion was eventually suppressed.
Movements After 1857	➤ Kukis' Revolt (1917-19; Manipur): Launched against British policies of recruiting labour during the First World War. ➤ Revolts in Tripura: Against the hike in house tax rates and the settlement of outsiders in the region: • Led by Parikshit Jamatia (1863) • The Reangs' Revolt led by Ratnamani (1942-43) • Movement led by Bharti Singh (1920s)

	➤ Zeliangrong Movement (1920s; Manipur): Led by the Zemi, Liangmei and Rongmei tribes against the British failure to protect them during the Kuki violence of 1917–19. ➤ Naga Movement (1905–31; Manipur): Led by Jadonang against British rule and for the establishment of a Naga Raj. ➤ Heraka Cult Movement (1930s; Manipur): Led by Gaidinliu. Although the movement was suppressed, the Kabui Naga Association was formed in 1946. ➤ Other Smaller Movements: • Revolt of the Syntengs of Jaintia Hills (1860–62) • Phulaguri Peasants' Rebellion (1861) • Revolt of the Saflas (1872–73) • Uprising of the Kacha Nagas of Cachar (1882) • The Women's War in Manipur (1904)
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63. Consider the following:

1. East India Association
2. Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha
3. Bengal British India Society
4. Indian National Association

How many of the above associations is/are established in Bengal during the first half of the nineteenth century?

- (a) Only one
(b) **Only two**
(c) Only three
(d) All four

EXPLANATION:

The associations established in Bengal during the first half of the nineteenth century (1801–1850) were:

- The *Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha* is a Political association in Bengal which was formed in 1836 by associates of Raja Rammohan Roy. And other association in Bengal, such as The *Zamindari Association*, more popularly known as the '*Landholders' Society*', was founded to safeguard the interests of the landlords. Although limited in its objectives, the Landholders' Society marked the beginning of an organised political activity and the use of methods of constitutional agitation for the redressal of grievances. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- The *Bengal British India Society*, founded in Calcutta in 1843, was the second politically inclined public association to be formed in British India, the first being the zamindari association (1837) in association with the British orator and prominent abolitionist George Thompson. It was, like its predecessor, avowedly a loyalist body based on limited Indo-British collaboration. But unlike the introvert Zamindari Association, representing solely the interests of the landed aristocracy, the Bengal British India Society was an organisation dominated by a section of the Bengal intellectuals, particularly by the young Bengal group that boasted of their western education and awareness. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

The *East India Association* was organised by Dadabhai Naoroji in 1866 in London (not Bengal), in the second half of the 19th century. To discuss the Indian question and influence public men in England to promote Indian welfare. Later, branches of the association were started in prominent Indian cities. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The *Indian Association of Calcutta* (also known as the *Indian National Association*) superseded the Indian League and was founded in 1876 by younger nationalists of Bengal led by *Surendranath Banerjee* and

Ananda Mohan Bose, who were getting discontented with the conservative and pro-landlord policies of the British Indian Association.

- The Indian Association was the most important of pre-Congress associations and aimed to “promote by every legitimate means the political, intellectual and material advancement of the people.”
- It set out to create a strong public opinion on political questions and unify the Indian people in a common political programme.

Thus, it was founded in Bengal, but not in the first half of the 19th century. **So, Statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

POLITICAL ASSOCIATIONS BEFORE THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	
About	• 1836—Bangabhasha Prakasika Sabha- Raja Rammohan Roy • 1843—Bengal British India Society- by George Thomson • 1851—British Indian Association- by Raja radhakanta dev and debendranath tagore • 1866—East India Association, Zamindari Association, or Landholders’ Society- by Dadabhai Naoroji • 1870—Poona Sarvajanik Sabha- by Mahadeo Govind Ranade • 1875—Indian League by Sisir Kumar Ghosh • 1876—Indian Association of Calcutta or Indian National Association- by Surendranath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose • 1885—Bombay Presidency Association- by Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozshah Mehta and K.T. Telang • 1884—Madras Mahajan Sabha- by M. Viraraghavachari, B. Subramaniya Aiyer and P. Ananda charlu.

64. Consider the following statements with respect to the Digital Payment Index:

1. It is released by the National Payments Corporation of India.
2. It is developed to measure the extent of digitisation of payments across the country using March 2018 as the base period.
3. The latest increase in digital payment activity is primarily driven by improvements in Payment Infrastructure Supply-side factors and Payment Performance.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Digital Payments Index (DPI) is released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), not National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). NPCI manages UPI and other payment systems but does not release the DPI.

The RBI has developed the Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) to measure the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The index is published by RBI semi-annually and is based on March 2018 as the base period (Index = 100). **So, Statement 1 is not correct and Statement 2 is correct.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released a composite Reserve Bank of India – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI).

- The index comprises five broad parameters that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.
 - These parameters are
 - Payment Enablers (weightage 25 per cent)
 - Payment Infrastructure - Demand-side factors (10 per cent)
 - Payment Infrastructure - Supply-side factors (15 per cent)
 - Payment Performance (45 per cent)
 - Consumer Centricity (5 per cent)
 - The index for March 2025 stands at 493.22 as against 465.33 for September 2024, which was announced on January 29, 2025.
 - This increase in RBI-DPI index was driven by significant growth in parameters viz. Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors and Payment Performance across the country over the period.
- So, Statement 3 is correct.**

65. With reference to the adoption of Purna Swaraj as the Congress objective, consider the following statements:

1. It signified a complete break from British rule.
2. It was adopted before the Simon Commission arrived in India.
3. Independence Day was celebrated across India on January 26 1930, to popularise this goal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Indian National Congress, on December 19 1929, passed the historic 'Purna Swaraj' (total independence) resolution at its Lahore session. A public declaration was made on January 26 1930 – a day which the Congress Party urged Indians to celebrate as 'Independence Day'.

The declaration was passed due to the breakdown of negotiations between leaders of the freedom movement and the British over the question of dominion status for India.

Purna Swaraj meant total Independence, not dominion status. It signified a complete break from British rule. Independence Day was celebrated across India on January 26 1930 to popularise this goal. **So, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**

The 1919 Act had provided that a Royal Commission would be appointed ten years after the Act to report on its working. In November 1927, two years before schedule, the British Government announced the appointment of such a commission—the Indian Statutory Commission. The Simon Commission arrived in February 1928.

The Simon Commission arrived in 1928; Purna Swaraj was adopted in December 1929. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SIMON COMMISSION	
About	➤ The 1919 Act had provided that a Royal Commission would be appointed ten years after the Act to report on its working. ➤ In November 1927, two years before schedule, the British Government announced the appointment of such a commission—the Indian Statutory Commission. The commission submitted its report in 1930. It recommended that dyarchy be

	abolished, responsible Government be extended in the provinces, a federation of British India and the Princely States be established, and that communal electorates be continued. ➤ Three Round Table Conferences were called by the British Government to consider the proposals. Subsequently, a White Paper on Constitutional Reforms was published by the British Government in March 1933, containing provisions for a federal set-up and provincial autonomy. ➤ A joint committee of the Houses of the British Parliament was set up under Lord Linlithgow to consider the scheme further. Its report submitted in 1934 said that a federation would be set up if at least 50 per cent of the princely states were ready to join it. The bill prepared on the basis of this report was passed by the British Parliament to become the Government of India Act of 1935.
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66. Consider the following statements:

1. Punjab Hindu Sabha
2. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh
3. The All-India Muslim League
4. All-India Hindu Mahasabha

Arrange the above organisations in chronological order based on their year of establishment:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Punjab Hindu Sabha, founded in 1909, was led by U.N. Mukerji and Lal Chand, who laid the foundations of early Hindu communal ideology and politics.

- They strongly criticised the Congress for attempting to unite Indians into a single nation and for allegedly "sacrificing Hindu interests" to appease Muslims.
- Lal Chand famously declared that a Hindu "should be a Hindu first and an Indian after."
- Chandra further explains this through the action-reaction theory associated with competitive communalism.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist volunteer organisation with a wide network of affiliates, was founded in 1925 by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, a physician from Maharashtra.

- It aimed to promote discipline, unity, and a distinct Hindu identity during a period of increasing communal tension in colonial India.

On December 30, 1906, the All-India Muslim League was founded in Dhaka. Initially an organisation of elite Muslim leaders, it remained limited in reach for nearly three decades.

- At its founding, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was still a Congress member.
- Only in the late 1930s did the League grow into a mass organisation, and under Jinnah's leadership, it spearheaded the movement for Partition.

The Hindu Mahasabha (Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha) was founded in 1907 to protect Hindu interests and promote the idea of a Hindu Rashtra.

- It expanded to an all-India organisation in 1915, when it held its first session under the presidentship of the Maharaja of Kasim Bazar.
- Thus, the chronological order based on their year of establishment is
 - All-India Muslim League (1906),
 - Punjab Hindu Sabha (1909),
 - All-India Hindu Mahasabha (1915),
 - Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (1925). **(3-1-4-2). So, Option (a) is correct.**

67. The Swadeshi Movement was formally proclaimed at a massive meeting held at the Calcutta Town Hall following the adoption of a resolution.

In this context, consider the following statements:

1. The proclamation took place in 1905.
2. The resolution adopted at the meeting was known as the Boycott Resolution.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Swadeshi movement began during India's freedom struggle when the British divided Bengal in 1905. Ignoring a loud public opinion against the partition proposal, the Government announced partition of Bengal in July 1905. Within days, protest meetings were held in small towns all over Bengal. It was in these meetings that the pledge to boycott foreign goods was first taken. On August 7, 1905, with the passage of the Boycott Resolution in a massive meeting held in the Calcutta Townhall, the formal proclamation of the Swadeshi Movement was made. After this, the leaders dispersed to other parts of Bengal to propagate the message of boycott of Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt. Thus, the resolution adopted at the meeting in 1905 was known as the Boycott Resolution. **So, Statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

THE SWADESHI AND BOYCOTT MOVEMENT	
About	➤ The British Government's decision to partition Bengal had been made public in December 1903. ➤ The idea was to have two provinces: Bengal comprising Western Bengal as well as the provinces of Bihar and Orissa, and Eastern Bengal and Assam. Bengal retained Calcutta as its capital, while Dacca became the capital of Eastern Bengal. ➤ The official reason given for the decision was that Bengal with a population of 78 million (about a quarter of the population of British India) had become too big to be administered. ➤ It was also stated that partition would help in the development of Assam if it came under the direct jurisdiction of the Government. This was true to some extent, but the real motive behind the partition plan was seen to be the British desire to weaken Bengal, the nerve centre of Indian nationalism. ➤ Thus it sought to achieve by putting the Bengalis under two administrations by dividing them: • On the basis of language, thus reducing the Bengalis to a minority in Bengal itself (as in the new proposal Bengal proper was to have 17 million and • On the basis of religion, as the western half was to be a Hindu majority area (42 million out of a total 54 million) and the eastern half was to be a Muslim majority area (18 million out of a total of 31 million). ➤ Trying to woo the Muslims, Curzon, the Viceroy at that time, argued that Dacca could become the capital of the new Muslim majority province, which would provide them with a unity not experienced by them since the days of old Muslim viceroys and kings. Thus, it was clear that the Government was up to its old policy of propping up Muslim communalists to counter the Congress and the national movement.

68. Which among the following statements is correct regarding the newly discovered quadruple star system?

- (a) It consists of two young red dwarf stars orbiting a pair of hot blue giant stars.
- (b) It comprises two cold brown dwarfs orbiting a pair of young red dwarf stars.**
- (c) It is located in the Andromeda galaxy and is the first such system found outside the Milky Way.
- (d) It is composed entirely of white dwarfs that will undergo a simultaneous supernova explosion.

EXPLANATION:

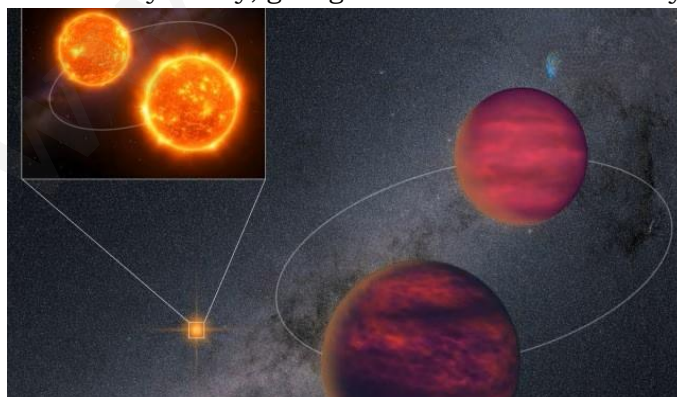
Recently, scientists discovered an extremely rare quadruple star system (a system with four stars that orbit each other) in the Milky Way galaxy. The system, called UPM J1040–3551 AabBab, is unique because it consists of two cold brown dwarfs orbiting two young red dwarf stars—a configuration never observed before. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

Brown dwarfs:

- Brown dwarfs are celestial objects that share features of both stars and planets.
- They form like stars from collapsing gas clouds but lack the mass to sustain hydrogen fusion, so they do not shine brightly. Hence, they are often called “failed stars.”
- Their atmospheres resemble those of gas giants like Jupiter and Saturn, containing clouds and molecules such as water vapor.
- Brown dwarfs can be up to 70 times more massive than Jupiter.
- They are difficult to detect because they are cold and faint. Astronomers usually find them in systems with brighter companion stars, which makes studying them easier.
- When brown dwarfs are part of a multi-star system, astronomers can estimate their age, temperature, and composition by studying the brighter stars formed alongside them.
- Brown dwarfs are important for understanding how stars and planets form.
- Their distribution also helps astronomers study how mass is spread in the universe, a key factor in understanding dark matter, most of which remains undetected.

Red Dwarf Stars:

- Red dwarfs are small, relatively cool, reddish stars.
- They are the most abundant stars in the Milky Way, making up 70% of all stars.
- Their mass typically ranges from about 8% to 50% of the Sun's mass.
- Red dwarf stars form in the same way as all other stars — from nebulae or molecular clouds made of gas and dust.
- Gravity pulls the particles together, causing the cloud to collapse and form a protostar.
- A protostar is an early stage of a star; it does not burn hydrogen yet.
- When the core temperature becomes high enough, hydrogen fusion begins.
- At this point, the protostar becomes a red dwarf star.
- Red dwarfs generate energy by fusing hydrogen into helium in their cores.
- This fusion process occurs very slowly, giving red dwarf stars extremely long lifespans.



69. Consider the following pairs:

Sl. no.	Parallel Governments during the Quit India Movement		Place
1.	Jatiya Sarkar	-	Medinipur, Bengal
2.	Prati Sarkar	-	Satara, Maharashtra
3.	National Government	-	Ballia, Uttar Pradesh

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Parallel governments were established in many places during the Quit India movement:

- Tamluk (Medinipur, West Bengal from December 1942 to September 1944, *Jatiya Sarkar* undertook cyclone relief work, sanctioned grants to schools, supplied paddy from the rich to the poor, organised Vidyut Vahinis, etc. **So, Pair 1 is correct.**
- Satara (Maharashtra) (mid-1943 to 1945), named "*Prati Sarkar*", was organised under leaders like Y.B. Chavan, Nana Patil, etc. Village libraries and Nyayadan Mandals were organised, prohibition campaigns were carried on and 'Gandhi marriages' were organised. **So, Pair 2 is correct.**
- Ballia (in August 1942 for a week) under Chittu Pandey. - In the neighbouring regions of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, mainly the Ballia district, police stations were captured and a '*national government*' was declared under the leadership of Chittu Pandey. **So, Pair 3 is correct.**



70. With reference to the Cripps Mission (1942), consider the following statements:

1. The draft declaration allowed any Province to frame its own Constitution if it refused to accept the Union Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly.
2. The Mission proposed that the issue of India's membership of the British Commonwealth would be decided solely by the Indian Union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 or 2

EXPLANATION:

In March 1942, a mission headed by Stafford Cripps was sent to India with constitutional proposals to seek Indian support for the War. Stafford Cripps was a left-wing Labourite, the leader of the House of Commons and a member of the British War Cabinet who had actively supported the Indian national movement.

- An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- After the end of the War, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes.
- The British Government would accept the new Constitution subject to two conditions:
 - any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union, **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - the new Constitution making body and the British Government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
- In the meantime, defence of India would remain in British hands and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CRIPPS MISSION	
Reasons for failure	➤ The Cripps Mission proposals failed to satisfy Indian nationalists and turned out to be merely a propaganda device for the consumption of the US and the Chinese. Various parties and groups had objections to the proposals on different points— ➤ The Congress objected to: • the offer of dominion status instead of a provision for complete Independence; • representation of the princely states by nominees and not by elected representatives; • right to provinces to secede as this went against the principle of national unity; • absence of any plan for immediate transfer of power and absence of any real share in defence; the governor-general's supremacy had been retained, and the demand that the governor-general be only the constitutional head had not been accepted. ➤ Nehru and Maulana Azad were the official negotiators for the Congress. The Muslim League • criticised the idea of a single Indian Union; • did not like the machinery for the creation of a constituent assembly and the procedure to decide on the accession of provinces to the Union; • thought that the proposals denied the Muslims the right to self-determination and the creation of Pakistan.

71. Consider the following personalities:

1. Narahari Parikh
2. Ravi Shankar Vyas
3. Mohanlal Pandya

How many of the above were leaders of the Kheda Satyagraha?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Kheda Satyagraha of 1918, in the Kheda district of Gujarat, India, during the period of the British Raj, is a Satyagraha movement organised by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. It was a major revolt in the Indian independence movement. It was the second Satyagraha movement after the Champaran Satyagraha. Gandhi organised this movement to support peasants.

Leaders of the Kheda Satyagraha:

- In Gujarat, Mahatma Gandhi was chiefly the spiritual head of the struggle.
- His chief lieutenant, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** and a close coterie of devoted Gandhians, named below, toured the countryside, organised the villagers and gave them political leadership and direction.
 - Indulal Yagnik
 - Shankarlal Banker
 - Mahadev Desai
 - Narhari Parikh
 - Mohanlal Pandya
 - Ravi Shankar Vyas

So, Statements 1, 2, and 3 are correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

KHEDA SATYAGRAHA	
About	The Kheda district in Gujarat was the site of a remarkable peasant satyagraha in 1918. This Satyagraha, along with those at Champaran and Ahmedabad, is often credited with the launch of Gandhiji's political career in India. ➤ The population of Kheda was mainly comprised of peasants belonging to the Kanbi-Patidar communities. ➤ From the late 19th century onwards, the district was subject to a series of famines and epidemics, debilitating the well-being of its people. The poorer peasants living in the villages were the hardest hit. A bad harvest in 1917-18, coinciding with the price surge of essentials, was the immediate backdrop to the agitation. ➤ The peasants had demanded remission of revenue for the year to reduce their sufferings, but the colonial government paid no heed to their concerns. ➤ In response, local leaders like Mohanlal Pandya took the initiative for the no-revenue movement in November 1917. ➤ The government retaliated by seizing the properties of the non-payers. Through the Gujarat Sabha, a political body at the front line of this movement, the satyagrahis reached out to Gandhiji to take up their leadership. ➤ The arrival of Gandhiji and Sardar Patel in the scenario led to an increase in support for the movement, putting the authorities in a quandary. The Satyagraha was concluded on a quid pro quo agreement that if the well-to-do peasants paid up, the poor would be permitted not to pay, and all the confiscated properties would be returned. ➤ Ultimately, the government sought to bring about an agreement with the farmers. It agreed to suspend the tax for the year in question, and for the next; reduce the increase in rate; and return all the confiscated property. ➤ The struggle at Kheda brought a new awakening among the peasantry. They became aware that they would not be free of injustice and exploitation unless and until their country achieved complete independence.

72. Consider the following statements with respect to the Biofortified crops:

1. Biofortified crops are not strange to the Indian market.
2. A Biofortified sweet potato variety rich in Vitamin A is already being grown extensively by Indian farmers.
3. The total iron absorption from the iron biofortified potato variety will be higher than that from a non-biofortified commercial potato variety.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Biofortification is the practice of breeding crops to increase their nutritional value, either through conventional selective breeding or through genetic engineering.

- Since 2014, 142 biofortified varieties including **124 of field crops** (Rice - 10; Wheat - 43; Maize - 20, Pearl millet - 11, Small millets - 13, Linseed - 1, Lentil - 2, Chickpea 2, Mungbean 1, Fieldpea 1, Urdbean 1, Mustard - 8, Soybean - 7, Sesame - 1, Groundnut -3) and **18 of horticultural Crops** (Sweet potato - 5, Amaranthus - 3, Greater Yam - 2, Potato - 2 and 1 each of Cauliflower, Okra, Grapes, Banana, Guava and Pomegranate) have been developed under aegis of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Therefore, Biofortified crops are no strangers to the Indian market. ICAR has developed a wide range of biofortified crops and has been cropping extensively. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- These biofortified varieties don't have any impact on ecological conditions, especially on soil and water, as these are normally bred varieties and their water and nutrient requirements are like those of traditional varieties.
- All the biofortified varieties are equal to or better than conventional varieties of respective crops. Production of these biofortified varieties is not expensive than the existing varieties in the market, as there is no yield penalty and no extra cost incurred in the cultivation of biofortified varieties.
- Biofortified sweet potato varieties rich in **β-carotene (precursor of vitamin A)** and **anthocyanin (anti-carcinogenic)**, which can combat micronutrient malnutrition, are being grown extensively by Indian farmers in Odisha and Karnataka.
- The biofortified varieties have opened the new 'health-focused food markets', which have increased the commercial value and export potential of this crop. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Sweet potato has assumed great significance in recent years as a health food due to the various bioactive principles in its tubers.
- Sweet potato roots combine the properties of cereals, fruits and vegetables owing to their contents respectively of starch, pectin, and vitamins.
- Since sweet potato is a good source of non-starch polysaccharides, which play a significant role in the prophylaxis of various diseases such as colon cancer, Diabetes mellitus, cardiovascular diseases, hypercholesterolaemia and obesity, its importance is increasingly recognised globally as a health-promoting food.

Recently, Peru's iron-rich, biofortified potato, which is being developed for India, is undergoing tests before wider use in India.

This Bio-fortified Potato variety has been developed by Peru's International Potato Centre, and its genetic material has been shared with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Potato Research Institute.

A 2023 study published in the Journal of Nutrition found that the total iron absorption from iron biofortified potato varieties was **45.8 per cent higher** than that from non-biofortified commercial potato varieties. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BIOFORTIFICATION	
Recently in the News	Bio-fortified potatoes, with added iron content, will soon be available in Indian markets.
About	➤ Food fortification: It is a process of physically adding vital nutrients to the food in order to enrich it. ➤ For example: • Iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 fortified wheat and rice flour, • Iron and iodine fortified salts, • Vitamin A and vitamin D fortified oil and milk have been permitted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Govt of India. ➤ Medical Supplementation: It is a process of providing vital nutrients through pills. ➤ For example, Government-sponsored programmes, such as: • Weekly Iron Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) programme for school adolescent boys and girls (10-19 years) and out-of-school girls (10-19 years) in urban and rural areas, and • Vitamin-A Supplementation (VAS) programme for children under five is in place in India. ➤ Dietary Diversification: It is a process of including diverse cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruits in the diet in order to enhance the nutritional status. ➤ Crop biofortification: It is a process of enhancing the nutritional quality of edible parts of the plants through a genetic approach, such as plant breeding. ➤ For example, • Iron and zinc-rich wheat grains, • Protein and zinc-rich rice grains, and • Vitamin-A-rich maize grains.
Merits	➤ It is regarded as the most sustainable approach to alleviating malnutrition. ➤ It provides nutrients in natural form; thus, nutrients enter the body as part of a natural food matrix. ➤ People can afford the 'biofortified food' as it does not involve any additional cost. ➤ 'Biofortified varieties' are as high-yielding as 'traditional varieties', thus no loss is incurred to the farmers. ➤ It does not require elaborate infrastructure facilities as required in 'food fortification'. ➤ It does not need an elaborate distribution system as required in 'medical supplementation'. ➤ It does not involve additional cost in preparing the enriched food grains.

73. With reference to the arguments within the Congress regarding office acceptance, consider the following statements:

1. Jayaprakash Narayan supported unconditional acceptance of office.
2. Leaders like N.G. Ranga and Sahajanand Saraswati described office acceptance as a retreat from the basic policy of non-cooperation.
3. Gandhi favoured conditional acceptance of office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

The decision of office acceptance had been left pending due to differences within the Congress. The AICC (All India Congress Committee) met in March 1937 to decide over the issue. Rajendra Prasad moved a resolution for 'conditional acceptance' of office, which was accepted. The condition attached was that the governors would not use their special powers to intervene with the functioning of ministries.

Here, Jayaprakash Narayan moved an amendment for total rejection of office, but this was defeated when put to a vote (78 in favour and 135 against). **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

At this time again, there were arguments in favour of and against office acceptance. A vocal argument in favour of forming ministries was that by doing so, the Congress would be able to give some relief to peasants and workers.

- But leaders like N.G. Ranga, Sahajanand Saraswati and Indulal Yajnik described office acceptance as a retreat from the basic Congress policy of non-cooperation with Imperialism.
- Sahajanand felt that the advocates of office acceptance felt exhausted and were 'trying to escape on the pretext of peasants'. And as Vallabhbhai Patel put it: 'Parliamentary mentality had come to say with the people'. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Gandhi himself was in favour of conditional acceptance of office. Gandhi advised Congressmen to hold these offices lightly and not tightly.

- The offices were to be seen as 'crowns of thorns' which had been accepted to see if they quickened the pace towards the nationalist goal.
- Gandhi advised that these offices should be used in a way not expected or intended by the British.
- Gandhi urged Congressmen to prove that the Congress could rule with the least assistance from the police and the Army. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

74. With reference to the Poona Pact of 1932, consider the following statements:

1. It provided reserved seats for the Depressed Classes in the legislature.
2. The reserved seats were to be filled by a separate electorate of Dalit voters.
3. It marked Ambedkar's acceptance of Gandhi's view on joint electorates.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

In late September 1932, B.R. Ambedkar negotiated the Poona Pact with Mahatma Gandhi. The background to the Poona Pact was the Communal Award of August 1932, which, among other things, reserved 71 seats in the central legislature for the depressed classes.

- Gandhi, who was opposed to the Communal Award, saw it as a British attempt to split Hindus, and began a fast unto death to have it repealed.
- The main provisions of the Communal Award were that Muslims, Europeans, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, depressed classes, women, and even the Marathas were to get separate electorates. Such an arrangement for the depressed classes was to be made for a period of 20 years.
- In a settlement negotiated with Gandhi, Ambedkar agreed that depressed class candidates would be elected by a joint electorate. However, on his insistence, slightly over twice as many seats (147) were reserved for the depressed classes in the legislature as had been allotted under the Communal Award. **So, Statements 1 and 3 are correct.**
- The Poona Pact replaced separate electorates with joint electorates because Gandhiji believed that separate electorates for dalits would slow down the process of their integration into society. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- In addition, the Poona Pact assured a fair representation of the depressed classes in the public services while earmarking a portion of the educational grant for their uplift.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

COMMUNAL AWARD	
About	The Communal Award was announced by the British prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, on August 16, 1932. The Communal Award, based on the findings of the Indian Franchise Committee (also called the Lothian Committee), established separate electorates and reserved seats for minorities, including the depressed classes which were granted seventy-eight reserved seats.
Provisions of the Communal Award	➤ In the provincial legislatures, the seats were to be distributed on a communal basis. ➤ The existing seats of the provincial legislatures were to be doubled. ➤ The Muslims, wherever they were in minority, were to be granted a weightage. ➤ Except in the NorthWest Frontier Province, 3 per cent seats were to be reserved for women in all provinces. ➤ The depressed classes to be declared/accorded to the status of minority. ➤ The depressed classes were to get 'double vote', one to be used through separate electorates and the other to be used in the general electorates. ➤ Allocation of seats was to be made for labourers, landlords, traders and industrialists. ➤ In the province of Bombay, 7 seats were to be allocated for the Marathas.
Impact of Poona Pact on Dalits	The Poona Pact, despite giving certain political rights to the depressed classes, could not achieve the desired goal of emancipation of the depressed class. It enabled the same old Hindu social order to continue and gave birth to many problems. ➤ The Pact made the depressed classes political tools which could be used by the majoritarian caste Hindu organisations. ➤ It made the depressed classes leaderless as the true representatives of the classes were unable to win against the stooges who were chosen and supported by the caste Hindu organisations. ➤ This led to the depressed classes to submit to the status quo in political, ideological and cultural fields and not being able to develop independent and genuine leadership to fight the Brahminical order. ➤ It subordinated the depressed classes into being part of the Hindu social order by denying them a separate and distinct existence. ➤ The Poona Pact perhaps put obstructions in the way of an ideal society based on equality, liberty, fraternity and justice. ➤ By denying to recognise the Dalits as a separate and distinct element in the national life, it pre-empted the rights and safeguards for the Dalits in the Constitution of independent India.

75. With reference to the August Offer of 1940, consider the following statements:

1. It promised that no future constitution would be adopted without the consent of minorities.
2. It proposed that any province or princely state could choose not to join the Indian Union after the war.
3. It rejected the idea of an independent sovereign Pakistan but allowed provinces to form groups with a high degree of autonomy.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Hitler's astounding success and the fall of Belgium, the Netherlands, and France put England in a conciliatory mood.

As the War in Europe had taken a new turn, the dominant Congress leadership was again in a dilemma. Both Gandhi and Nehru strongly opposed the idea of taking advantage of Britain's position.

The Congress was ready to compromise, asking the British Government to let it form an interim government during the war period, but the Government was not interested.

The Government came up with its own offer to get the cooperation of India in the war effort. Linlithgow announced the **August Offer (August 1940)**, which proposed:

- Dominion status as the objective for India;
- Expansion of the Viceroy's executive council, which would have a majority of Indians (who would be drawn from major political parties);
- Setting up of a constituent assembly after the War, where mainly Indians would decide the Constitution according to their social, economic, and political conceptions, subject to fulfilment of the obligation of the Government regarding defence, minority rights, treaties with States, all India services, and
- No future constitution to be adopted without the consent of minorities. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

In March 1942, a mission headed by Stafford Cripps was sent to India with constitutional proposals to seek Indian support for the War. Stafford Cripps was a left-wing Labourite, the leader of the House of Commons, and a member of the British War Cabinet who had actively supported the Indian national movement.

One of the important proposals of the **Cripps Mission** is:

The British Government would accept the new Constitution subject to two conditions:

- Any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union.
Therefore, any province or princely State could choose not to join the Indian Union after the War was proposed by the Cripps mission (Not by the August Offer by British Prime Minister Linlithgow). **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- The new Constitution-making body and the British Government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.

The Attlee government in Britain announced in February 1946 the decision to send a high-powered mission (**Cabinet Mission**) of three British cabinet members (**Pethick Lawrence, Secretary of State for India; Stafford Cripps, President of the Board of Trade; and A.V. Alexander, First Lord of Admiralty**) to India to find out ways and means for a negotiated, peaceful transfer of power to India. (Pethick Lawrence was the chairman of the Mission.

The cabinet mission rejected the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan, due to the following reasons: **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

- The Pakistan so formed would include a large non Muslim population—38 per cent in the North-West and 48 per cent in the North-East;
- The very principle of communal self-determination would claim separation of Hindu-majority western Bengal and Sikh- and Hindu-dominated Ambala and Jullundur divisions of Punjab (already some Sikh leaders were demanding a separate state if the country was partitioned);
- Deep-seated regional ties would be disturbed if Bengal and Punjab were partitioned.
- Partition would entail economic and administrative problems, for instance, the problem of communication between the western and eastern parts of Pakistan; and
- The division of the armed forces would be dangerous.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CRIPPS MISSION	
Reason behind the Mission	➤ Because of the reverses suffered by Britain in South East Asia, the Japanese threat to invade India seemed real now, and Indian support became crucial. ➤ There was pressure on Britain from the Allies (USA, USSR, China) to seek Indian cooperation. ➤ Indian nationalists had agreed to support the Allied cause if substantial power was transferred immediately and complete Independence given after the War.
Main Proposals	The main proposals of the Mission were as follows: ➤ An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up; it would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies. ➤ After the end of the War, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes. ➤ In the meantime, the defence of India would remain in British hands, and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.
Departures from the Past and Implications	The proposals differed from those offered in the past in many respects: ➤ The making of the Constitution was to be solely in Indian hands now (and not 'mainly' in Indian hands—as contained in the August Offer). ➤ A concrete plan was provided for the constituent assembly. ➤ Options were available to any province to have a separate constitution—a blueprint for India's partition. ➤ Free India could withdraw from the Commonwealth. ➤ Indians were allowed a large share in the administration in the interim period.

76. Consider the following statements regarding microbial degradation:

1. Many microbes already have the ability to decompose natural polymers such as cellulose, chitin and cutin.
2. Ideonella sakaiensis is a type of bacteria that can completely degrade polyethylene terephthalate.
3. Bacterial strains like Gordonia and Arthrobacter can degrade polypropylene and polystyrene to a limited extent.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

With conventional waste management systems falling short, many scientists are turning to nature for innovative solutions to the issue of plastic waste.

- One promising avenue is microbial degradation: harnessing the natural abilities of certain bacteria and fungi to break down plastics in ways that current technologies cannot.
- These microbes produce specialised enzymes (proteins that carry out chemical reactions) capable of breaking the long, carbon-rich chains of molecules that form the backbones of many plastic polymers. They effectively use plastic as a food source.

- Many microbes already have the ability to decompose natural polymers such as **cellulose** (plant fibres), **chitin** (found in fungi and insects) and **cutin** (found on the surfaces of leaves). These naturally occurring materials share structural and chemical similarities with synthetic plastics. This overlap allows microbes to repurpose existing enzymes to tackle synthetic substances. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Historically, scientists looking for plastic-degrading microbes have focused on plastic-polluted environments such as landfills and contaminated soils. These are logical starting points, as prolonged exposure to synthetic polymers may encourage the growth of organisms that are capable of using these materials as a food source.

- This approach has led to the discovery of several promising candidate microbes that can degrade plastic. Among the most famous examples is **Ideonella sakaiensis**, a bacterium identified near a plastic bottle recycling facility in Japan.
- This bacterium can completely degrade polyethylene terephthalate (PET), the plastic most commonly used in bottles and food packaging. It breaks PET into its (environmentally benign) building blocks. These can then be used as food by *I. sakaiensis* and other organisms. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

From unpolluted environments rich in natural polymers (a peat bog and domestic compost), two bacterial strains have been identified, such as **Gordonia and Arthrobacter**, that degraded **polypropylene and polystyrene** by nearly 23 per cent and 19.5 per cent, respectively, in just 28 days. Crucially, this occurred without any pretreatment, which is often required to make plastics more susceptible to microbial attack. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

While these numbers may seem modest, they are among the highest biodegradation rates ever recorded for these plastics.

77. With reference to the Assam plantation workers during the Non-Cooperation Movement, consider the following statements:

1. They interpreted Swaraj as the freedom to return to their villages.
2. They were legally free to leave the plantations under the Inland Emigration Act of 1859.
3. Their march was suppressed with violence by the police.

How many of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Assam plantation Workers had their own understanding of Mahatma Gandhi and the notion of swaraj.

- For plantation workers in Assam, freedom meant the right to move freely in and out of the confined space in which they were enclosed, and it meant retaining a link with the village from which they had come. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Under the **Inland Emigration Act of 1859**, plantation workers were not permitted to leave the tea gardens without permission, and in fact, they were rarely given such permission. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**
- When they heard of the Non-Cooperation Movement, thousands of workers defied the authorities, left the plantations and headed home. They believed that Gandhi Raj was coming, and everyone would be given land in their own villages. They, however, never reached their destination. Stranded on the way by a railway and steamer strike, they were caught by the police and brutally beaten up. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

- The Congress programme did not define the visions of these movements. They interpreted the term swaraj in their own ways, imagining it to be a time when all suffering and all troubles would be over. Yet, when the tribals chanted Gandhiji's name and raised slogans demanding 'Swatantra Bharat', they were also emotionally relating to an all-India agitation. When they acted in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, or linked their movement to that of the Congress, they were identifying with a movement which went beyond the limits of their immediate locality.

78. Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Bhupendranath Dutta, and Lala Hardayal were associated with which one of the following organisations that consisted of both Indian and foreign members and aimed to promote anti-colonial propaganda and organise resistance against British rule from abroad?

- (a) Singapore mutiny
- (b) **Berlin Committee for Indian Independence**
- (c) The India House
- (d) Swadesh Sevak Home

EXPLANATION:

The Berlin Committee for Indian Independence was established in 1915 by Virendranath Chattopadhyay, Bhupendranath Dutta, Lala Hardayal and others with the help of the German foreign office under 'Zimmerman Plan'.

- These revolutionaries aimed to mobilise the Indian settlers abroad to send volunteers and arms to India to incite rebellion among Indian troops there and to even organise an armed invasion of British India to liberate the country.
- The Indian revolutionaries in Europe sent missions to Baghdad, Persia, Turkey and Kabul to work among Indian troops and the Indian prisoners of War (POWs) and to incite anti-British feelings among the people of these countries. One Mission under Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, Barkatullah and Obaidullah Sindhi went to Kabul to organise a 'provisional Indian government' there with the help of the crown prince, Amanullah. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES ABROAD	
Mutiny in Singapore	Among the scattered mutinies during this period, the most notable was in Singapore on February 15, 1915, by Punjabi Muslim 5th Light Infantry and the 36th Sikh battalion under Jamadar Chisti Khan, Jamadar Abdul Gani and Subedar Daud Khan. It was crushed after a fierce battle in which many were killed. Later, 37 persons were executed and 41 were transported for life.
India House	Shyamji Krishnavarma had started in London in 1905 an Indian Home Rule Society—'India House'—as a centre for Indian students, a scholarship scheme to bring radical youth from India, and a journal, The Indian Sociologist. Revolutionaries such as Savarkar and Hardayal became members of India House.
The Ghadr	The Ghadr Party was a revolutionary group organised around a weekly newspaper The Ghadr with its headquarters at San Francisco and branches along the US coast and in the Far East. ➤ These revolutionaries included mainly ex-soldiers and peasants who had migrated from the Punjab to the USA and Canada in search of better employment opportunities. They were based in the US and Canadian cities along the western (Pacific) coast. ➤ Pre-Ghadr revolutionary activity had been carried on by Ramdas Puri, G.D. Kumar, Taraknath Das, Sohan Singh Bhakna and Lala Hardayal who reached there in 1911.

- | | |
|--|---|
| | ➤ To carry out revolutionary activities, the earlier activists had set up a 'Swadesh Sevak Home' at Vancouver and 'United India House' at Seattle. Finally, in 1913, the Ghadr was established. |
|--|---|

79. With reference to the Individual Satyagraha of 1940, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched to oppose India's forced involvement in the Second World War.
2. Jawaharlal Nehru was chosen as the first Satyagrahi.
3. The movement was intended to prepare the organisation for a subsequent mass movement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

On October 17, 1940, Mahatma Gandhi had chosen Acharya Vinoba Bhave as the first satyagrahi (proponent of satyagraha) to start personal (Individual satyagraha) satyagraha (movement which meant holding to the truth) and Jawaharlal Nehru as the second. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

- The British Colonial Government had committed India to the Second World War without the consent of the Indian people. To oppose this decision by the foreign Government, the Congress party decided to launch individual satyagraha. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- Underlying this decision, there was a strategy of preparing their supporters and the party organisation for the mass movement which was to follow. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA	
About	➤ The Government had taken the adamant position that no constitutional advance could be made till Congress came to an agreement with the Muslim leaders. It issued an ordinance after ordinance taking away the freedom of speech and that of the press and the right to organise associations. ➤ Towards the end of 1940, the Congress once again asked Gandhi to take command. Gandhi now began taking steps which would lead to a mass struggle within his broad strategic perspective. He decided to initiate a limited satyagraha on an individual basis by a few selected individuals in every locality. ➤ The aims of launching individual satyagraha were • to show that nationalist patience was not due to weakness; • to express people's feeling that they were not interested in the war and that they made no distinction between Nazism and the double autocracy that ruled India; and • to give another opportunity to the Government to accept Congress' demands peacefully. ➤ The demand of the satyagrahi would be the freedom of speech against the war through an anti-war declaration. If the Government did not arrest the satyagrahi, he or she would not only repeat it but move into villages and start a march towards Delhi, thus precipitating a movement which came to be known as the 'Delhi Chalo Movement'. ➤ Vinoba Bhave was the first to offer the satyagraha and Nehru, the second. By May 1941, 25,000 people had been convicted for individual civil disobedience.

80. Consider the following statements:

Statement I:

Waxworms can consume plastic bags because their gut microbes can break down polyethylene.

Statement II:

Waxworms naturally feed on honeycomb, which has a structure similar to polyethylene.

Which one of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) **Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I**
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

Waxworms are the caterpillars of the greater wax moth (*Galleria mellonella*). They normally live in beehives and feed on honeycomb, which is made of beeswax.

- Beeswax is rich in long-chain hydrocarbons—chemicals that are structurally similar to polyethylene, the plastic used in shopping bags.
- Because of this similarity, waxworms have developed natural enzymes and gut microbes that can break down beeswax. Surprisingly, these same biological tools also allow them to chew and degrade polyethylene.
- So, although waxworms do not naturally eat plastic in the wild, they are still able to:
- Chew holes in plastic bags, and
- Chemically break down polyethylene using their saliva and gut microbes.

This makes waxworms a promising model for biologically degrading plastic waste, since very few living organisms can attack polyethylene.

Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I.

81. With reference to the Gandhi–Irwin Pact (1931), consider the following statements:

1. It led to the release of political prisoners, except those imprisoned for violence.
2. It involved Gandhi consenting to attend the Second Round Table Conference in London.
3. It brought an end to the Civil Disobedience Movement in India.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

On January 25, 1931, Gandhi and all other members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) were released unconditionally. The CWC authorised Gandhi to initiate discussions with the Viceroy.

- As a result of these discussions, a pact was signed between the Viceroy, representing the British Indian Government, and Gandhi, representing the Indian people, in Delhi on February 14, 1931. This Delhi Pact, also known as the Gandhi–Irwin Pact, placed the Congress on an equal footing with the Government.
- Irwin on behalf of the Government agreed on:
 - Immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted of violence; **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
 - Remission of all fines not yet collected;
 - Return of all lands not yet sold to third parties;
 - Lenient treatment to those government servants who had resigned;
 - Right to make salt in coastal villages for personal consumption (not for sale);
 - Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing; and
 - Withdrawal of emergency ordinances.

- The Viceroy, however, turned down two of Gandhi's demands:
 - Public inquiry into police excesses, and
 - Commutation of Bhagat Singh and his comrades' death sentence to life sentence.
- Gandhi on behalf of the Congress agreed:
 - To suspend the civil disobedience movement, and
 - To participate in the next Round Table Conference on the constitutional question around the three lynch-pins of federation, Indian responsibility, and reservations and safeguards that may be necessary in India's interests (covering such areas as defence, external affairs, position of minorities, financial credit of India and discharge of other obligations).

Second Round Table Conference: Members of the Indian Liberal Party such as Tej Bahadur Sapru, C.Y. Chintamani and Srinivasa Sastri appealed to Gandhi to talk with the Viceroy. Gandhi and Irwin reached a compromise which came to be called the Gandhi-Irwin Pact (the Delhi Pact).

- The second Round Table Conference was held in London from September 7, 1931, to December 1, 1931.
- Gandhi agreed to attend the Second Round Table Conference, the Indian National Congress nominated Gandhi as its sole representative. A. Rangaswami Iyengar and Madan Mohan Malaviya were also there. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Gandhi-Irwin Pact, signed on March 5, 1931, marked the end of the first Civil Disobedience Movement. This also led to the end of conflict and agitation in the Damoh district.

- However, the second phase of Civil Disobedience began soon after the re-arrest of Mahatma Gandhi on January 4, 1932, after he returned from the Round Table Conference in London. The colonial Government's repressive policies had serious repercussions in the Damoh district.

The Gandhi-Irwin Pact suspended the Civil Disobedience Movement; it did not end it. The movement resumed later after the Second Round Table Conference. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

82. With reference to the Salt March, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was preceded by Gandhi's letter to the Viceroy listing several social and economic demands.
2. The immediate trigger for the march was the failure of the First Round Table Conference.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

On January 31 1930, Mahatma Gandhi sent a **letter** to Viceroy Irwin stating **eleven demands**.

- Some of these demands were of general interest; others were specific demands of different classes, from industrialists to peasants.
- The idea was to make the demands wide-ranging, so that all classes within Indian society could identify with them and everyone could be brought together in a united campaign.
- The most stirring of all was the demand to abolish the salt tax. Salt was something consumed by the rich and the poor alike, and it was one of the most essential items of food.
- Mahatma Gandhi's letter was, in a way, an ultimatum. If the demands were not fulfilled by March 11, the letter stated, Congress would launch a civil disobedience campaign.
- Irwin was unwilling to negotiate. With no positive response forthcoming from the government on these demands, the Congress Working Committee invested Gandhi with full powers to launch the Civil Disobedience Movement at a time and place of his choice. By February-end, Gandhi had decided to make salt the central formula for the movement.
- This eventually led to the Salt March beginning on March 12 1930.

Therefore, the Salt March was preceded by Gandhi's letter to the Viceroy listing several social and economic demands. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Salt March began on March 12 1930, much before the First Round Table Conference. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The first Round Table Conference was held in London between November 1930 and January 1931. It was opened officially by King George V on November 12, 1930 and chaired by Ramsay MacDonald. This was the first conference arranged between the British and the Indians as equals.

The Immediate trigger for the Salt March was the unwillingness to negotiate from the British Government.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT	
About	Calcutta Congress Session (December 1928) A one-year ultimatum to the government to accept dominion status or else civil disobedience will be launched for complete independence. Lahore Congress Session (December 1929) Congress adopted complete independence as its goal. Congress decided to launch a civil disobedience movement. January 26, 1930, was celebrated as the first Independence Day all over the country. Dandi March (March 12-April 6, 1930) Led by Gandhi, the movement resulted in the spread of salt satyagraha to Tamil Nadu, Malabar, Andhra, Assam, and Bengal. Gandhi-Irwin Pact (March 1931) Congress agreed to attend the Second RTC and to withdraw CDM. Karachi Congress Session (March 1931) Endorsed the Delhi Pact between Gandhi and Irwin. Passed resolutions on the economic programme and fundamental rights. The Round Table Conference The Second RTC Right Wing in Britain against concessions to Indians. The session got deadlocked on the question of safeguards to minorities. December 1931 - April 1934: Second phase of the Civil Disobedience Movement Communal Award (1932) and Poona Pact Provided separate electorates to depressed classes. Nationalists felt this to be a threat to national unity. Gandhi's fast unto death (September 1932) led to the Poona Pact, which abandoned separate electorates for depressed classes in favour of increased reserved seats for them.
Gandhi's Eleven Demands (January 31, 1930)	The demands were as follows. Issues of General Interest 1. Reduce expenditure on the Army and civil services by 50 per cent. 2. Introduce total prohibition 3. Carry out reforms in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). 4. Change Arms Act, allowing popular control of the issue of firearms licences. 5. Release political prisoners. 6. Accept Postal Reservation Bill. Specific Bourgeois Demands 7. Reduce rupee-sterling exchange ratio to 1s 4d 8. Introduce textile protection. 9. Reserve coastal shipping for Indians. Specific Peasant Demands 10. Reduce land revenue by 50 per cent. 11. Abolish the salt tax and the government's salt monopoly.

83. Which one of the following statements is **not** correct about revolutionaries?

- (a) They assassinated informers within their own groups.
- (b) They carried out dacoities to collect money for their activities.
- (c) They aimed to remove the fear of colonial authority from people's minds.
- (d) They focused on violent mass protests.**

EXPLANATION:

Phases of Revolutionary Activity: The activities of revolutionary heroism started as a byproduct of the growth of militant nationalism.

- The first phase acquired a more activist form as a fallout of the Swadeshi and Boycott Movement and continued till 1917.
- The second phase started as a fallout of the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Strategy and Methodology of Revolutionaries:

- The revolutionaries considered, but found impractical, the options of launching a violent mass revolution or subverting the loyalties of the army.
- Instead, they followed the examples of Russian nihilists and Irish nationalists. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**
- Their methods involved individual heroic actions, including assassinations of unpopular officials and traitors, swadeshi dacoities to fund revolutionary activities, and organizing military conspiracies during the First World War with hopes of foreign support. **So, Options (a) and (b) are correct.**

Objectives and Impact:

- The idea was to strike terror in the hearts of the rulers, arouse people and remove the fear of authority from their minds. **So, Option (c) is correct.**
- By appealing to patriotism, especially among idealistic youth, the revolutionaries aimed to inspire mass action to ultimately drive the British out.
- The extremist leaders failed to counter these methods ideologically, as they did not distinguish between mass-based revolutions and individual violent acts, allowing individualistic violent activities to take root.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT	
About	Revolutionary nationalism grew as an offshoot of militant nationalism and was driven by widespread exploitation under British rule. It inspired the youth to adopt radical measures, believing that self-sacrifice and violence could free India from colonial rule. Revolutionary Activities in Bengal ➤ Early Groups: The first revolutionary group formed in 1902 at Midnapore under Jnanendranath Bassu. The Anushilan Samiti, a prominent secret society, was established the same year in Calcutta by Satish Chandra and Promotha Mitter. ➤ Media and Ideology: They published the weekly journal Yugantar to spread revolutionary ideas. ➤ Key Actions: The group attempted assassinations of British officials like Sir Fuller and Sir Andrew Fraser, and other activities included bombings, killings of officials, and dacoities to raise funds. ➤ Other Efforts: Leaders like Rashebari Bose and Sachin Sanyal tried to expand revolutionary activities to UP, Delhi, and Punjab. Revolutionary Activities in Maharashtra

- **Peasant Force:** Movement started with Ramosi Peasant Force led by Vasudev Balwant Phadke.
 - **Secret Societies:** Abhinav Bharat, formed by V.D. Savarkar, later merged with Mitra Mela. Nasik, Poona, and Bombay became key centers for bomb-making.
 - **Media Influence:** Journals like Kal in Maharashtra helped spread revolutionary ideas.
- Revolutionary Activities in Punjab, UP, and Bihar**
- **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA):** Founded in October 1924 in Kanpur by Ram Prasad Bismil. Later renamed Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).
 - **Key Leaders:** Chandrasekhar Azad, Ashfaqulla Khan, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee
 - **Objective:** Overthrow British rule using violent means and establish a Federal Republic of India with adult franchise.

84. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: National Sports Day, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, is observed on August 29 every year.

Statement II: It is celebrated to pay tributes to Major Dhyan Chand.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II explains Statement I
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct but Statement II does not explain Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is not correct
- (d) Statement I is not correct, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

National Sports Day, celebrated annually on August 29th, honors Major Dhyan Chand and the values of sports. The theme of Sports Day is "Sport to Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies". It is organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in partnership with the Fit India Mission.

The events will encourage people to stay active, participate in fitness challenges, and embrace the Olympic and Paralympic values of excellence, courage, friendship, equality, and respect. **So, Statement I is correct.**

National Sports Day is observed in honour of Major Dhyan Chand (1905–1979), also known as the "Hockey Wizard." Born on 29 August, he led India to Olympic gold medals in hockey in 1928, 1932, and 1936.

His brilliance on the field earned him worldwide admiration and laid the foundation of India's sporting heritage. In recognition of his contribution, the Government of India declared his birthday as National Sports Day to inspire future generations.

Since Statement II gives the reason for observing National Sports Day on this date, it explains Statement I. **So, Statement II is correct.**

Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II explains Statement I



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NATIONAL SPORTS DAY	
Recently in news	India celebrates National Sports Day on August 29, in honour of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand. This year, the day coincides with the start of the Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 in Rajgir, Bihar.
About	National Sports Day carries deep cultural and social importance in India. It serves as a tribute to sporting legends, particularly Major Dhyan Chand, whose legacy continues to inspire generations. The day also honours athletes across disciplines who have brought pride to the nation through their achievements.
National Sports Awards list	➤ Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award: Awarded for outstanding performances in sports spanning over a period of four years. ➤ Arjuna Award: Given out for consistent good performance over a period of four years. ➤ Dronacharya Award: It is awarded to coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international events. ➤ Arjuna Award Lifetime: Presented for good performance and contributing towards the promotion of sports. ➤ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy: Given to the university for top performance in inter-university tournaments over the last one year. ➤ Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar: Awarded to organisations and individuals for playing a role in the area of sports promotion and development over the last three years. ➤ Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award: To recognise outstanding achievements in the field of adventure activities or sports on land, sea and air.

85. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Eka movement?

1. The movement aimed at restoring tribal autonomy in Eastern Bengal.
2. It was primarily driven by the oppressive practices of the thikadars.
3. It was a no-rent campaign accompanied by restrictions on the cultivation of cash crops by peasants.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

Eka Movement : Towards the end of 1921, peasant discontent resurfaced in some northern districts of the United Provinces, Hardoi, Bahraich, Sitapur, not in Eastern Bengal.

The grass-roots leadership of the Eka Movement came from Madari Pasi and other low-caste leaders, and many small zamindars.

By March 1922, severe repression by authorities brought the movement to an end. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Eka Movement became the focal point of peasant unrest and struggle. It was primarily driven by the exploitative practices of thikadars, including excessive rents, forced labor, unfair revenue collection, and the system of share-rents. Key issues included:

- Rents as much as 50% higher than the recorded rates
- Oppression by thikadars responsible for revenue collection
- The burden of share-rents. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The meetings of the Eka or Unity Movement involved a symbolic religious ritual in which the assembled peasants vowed that they would:

- Pay only the recorded rent, but pay it on time;
- Not leave even if evicted;
- Refuse to do forced labour;
- Give no help to criminals;
- Abide by panchayat decisions.

The grassroots leadership of the Eka Movement came from Madari Pasi and other low-caste leaders, as well as many small zamindars.

By March 1922, severe repression by authorities brought the movement to an end.

Therefore, the Eka movement is not a no-rent campaign, also the peasants agreed to pay only recorded rent, not zero rent. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

86. With reference to Subhas Chandra Bose, consider the following statements:

1. He was re-elected as the President of the 1939 Indian National Congress session in Tripuri.
2. He established the Forward Bloc within the Congress Party.

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

EXPLANATION:

In March 1939, the Congress session took place at Tripuri, in the Central Provinces (near Jabalpur in present Madhya Pradesh).

- After returning to India, Subhas joined the Nationalist Movement as a political disciple of C.R. Das. He also actively came forward to take part in the Non-Violence, Non-Cooperation Movement called by the Mahatma. But within a very short span of time, he was disillusioned and wished for a free India, not through a non-violent path but through a radical social movement. After the death of C. R. Das, Subhas emerged as the most popular young leader of the Indian National Congress from Bengal.
- In 1938, he was elected the President of the Congress at the Haripura Session. But Subhas Chandra Bose's radical socialist ideology was not compatible with the Gandhian idea of 'Satyagraha', so differences of opinion arose among them, and as a result, Subhas, though re-elected in 1939, stepped down from the post of the President of the Indian National Congress at Tripuri Session. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**
- He then quit Congress and formed a new party named 'Forward Bloc'. He established the Forward Bloc within the Congress Party. The Forward Bloc has appeared because the Congress must enter a new phase in its evolutionary process. The Forward Bloc is there not only for the creature of an inner urge within the Congress, but it is also the product of historical necessity. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FORWARD BLOCK	
About	➤ In 1939, Bose founded the All India Forward Bloc, a faction within the party that was committed to industrialisation and socialism. He established a plan to industrialise the country. He also argued that the benefits of industrialisation should be used to improve the lives of all segments of society and promote social equality. ➤ Bose also believed that industrialisation was essential for India's growth. He called for the development of Indian industries, including heavy industry, to create jobs and build a strong, self-sufficient economy. ➤ He felt that the country needed to move away from its traditional agricultural base and embrace modern industrial methods to keep pace with the rest of the world. ➤ Bose's views on industrialisation were controversial within the Indian independence movement, as many leaders of the party favored a more gradual approach to economic development. However, his ideas gained momentum, and industrialisation began. ➤ Bose's ideas continued to influence Indian economic policy even after independence in 1947, with the Government adopting policies aimed at promoting industrialisation and economic self-sufficiency.
Subhas Chandra Bose	➤ In 1941, he was placed under house arrest, but he escaped from there and reached Malaya; He gave a new expression to the Indian National Movement, outside the country's frontiers, reorganising the Indian National Army or the Azad Hind Fauj, with the help of the Japanese in 1943. He also got equal support from Hitler. ➤ The INA joined the Japanese army in its march to India in 1944 with the famous 'Delhi Chalo' slogan on their lips to achieve freedom for their Motherland. Unfortunately, with the final defeat and surrender of Japan to the Allies, the INA also had to surrender to the British Government. The INA soldiers were tried, and Netaji was believed to have died in a plane crash near Taiwan in 1945. ➤ To date, the nation observes the National Day of Patriotism on January 23 to commemorate his lifelong crusade.

87. With reference to the Simon Commission, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was appointed to review the working of the constitutional system under the Government of India Act, 1919.
2. The Commission included prominent Indian members representing different political parties.

Select the answer using the code given below:

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

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India Act, 1919, had a provision that a commission would be appointed ten years from the date to study the progress of the governance scheme and suggest new steps. In this regard, in 1927, the British Government appointed a commission under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon. The Commission was appointed to study the working of the constitutional system under the Government of India Act, 1919 and suggest further measures for Constitutional reforms. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Commission had no Indian member in it. The Indians boycotted this all-White commission. Therefore, when this Commission arrived in India, it faced protests all over the country. Black flags were shown, demonstrations and Hartal took place all over the country, and the cry of 'Simon go back' was heard. These demonstrators were lathi-charged at a number of places by the British Police. Lala Lajpat Rai was severely assaulted by the police. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Members of the Simon Commission

- John Simon (Liberal Party)
- Clement Attlee (Labour Party)
- Vernon Hartshorn (Labour Party)
- Harry Levy-Lawson, 1st Viscount Burnham (Conservative Party)
- Edward Cadogan (Conservative Party)
- George Lane-Fox (Conservative Party)
- Donald Howard, 3rd Baron Strathcona and Mount Royal (Conservative Party)



88. Consider the following statements with respect to the Vice President of India:

1. C.P. Radhakrishnan was the 15th Individual to get elected to the Vice President post.
2. Only two persons served as the Vice President of India for two consecutive tenures.
3. Unlike Presidential elections, the value of every vote cast in the vice presidential election is the same.

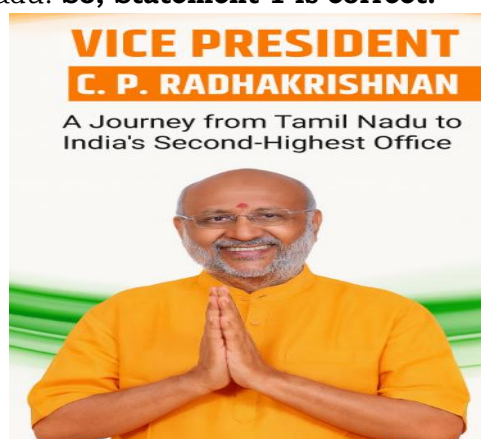
How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Recently, CP Radhakrishnan took the oath as the 15th vice-president of India at a formal ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan. The oath was administered by President Droupadi Murmu.

- Prior to his election as the Vice President of India, Shri Radhakrishnan served as the Governor of Maharashtra for a little more than one year.
- Before being appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Radhakrishnan served as the Governor of Jharkhand for nearly one and a half years. During this period, he also held additional charge as the Governor of Telangana and the Lt. Governor of Puducherry for brief periods.
- With more than four decades of experience, Shri Radhakrishnan is a respected name in the polity and public life of Tamil Nadu. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**



Two persons have served as Vice President of India for two consecutive terms: Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and Mohammad Hamid Ansari. Dr Radhakrishnan served from 1952 to 1962, and Mohammad Hamid Ansari served from 2007 to 2017. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**



Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
May 13, 1952 to May 12, 1962



Dr. Zakir Hussain
May 13, 1962 to May 12, 1967



Sh. V.V. Giri
May 13, 1967 to May 3, 1969



Sh. Gopal Swarup Pathak
August 31, 1969 to August 30, 1974



Sh. B.D. Jetti
August 31, 1974 to August 30, 1979



Sh. M. Hidayatullah
August 31, 1979 to August 30, 1984



Sh. R. Venkataraman
August 31, 1984 to July 24, 1987



Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma
September 3, 1987 to July 24, 1992



Sh. K.R. Narayanan
August 21, 1992 to July 24, 1997



Sh. Krishan Kant
August 21, 1997 to July 27, 2002



Sh. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat
August 19, 2002 to July 21, 2007



Sh. M. Hamid Ansari
August 11, 2007 to August 10, 2017



Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu
August 11, 2017 to August 10, 2022



Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar
August 11, 2022 to July 21, 2025

As per Article 66(1) of the Constitution of India, the election of the Vice President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot.

Unlike the Presidential election (where the value of votes cast by the Members of Parliament and of the various State Legislative Assemblies is different), the value of every vote cast in the Vice-Presidential election has the same value i.e. 1(one). **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA	
About	<i>Election to the Vice-President of India</i> ➤ The Vice-President is elected by an Electoral College, which consists of the members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (both elected and nominated members). <i>Term of the office</i> ➤ The Vice-President holds office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he enters upon his office. However, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, he shall continue to hold office, until his successor enters upon his office. <i>Legal framework for the election</i> ➤ Election to the office of Vice-President of India is governed by the provisions contained in Articles 64 to 68 of the Constitution of India and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the Rules made thereunder. <i>Who Conducts the Election to the Office</i> ➤ Under Article 324 of the Constitution of India, the authority to conduct elections to the Office of Vice-President is vested in the Election Commission of India. <i>Provision Of the Anti-Defection Law</i> ➤ Members of the Electoral College can vote according to their choice/wish and are not bound by any party whip. The voting is by secret ballot.

89. Which one of the following personalities defended Aurobindo Ghosh during the Alipore conspiracy case?

- (a) Barindra Ghosh
- (b) Ullaskar Dutt
- (c) Chittaranjan Das**
- (d) Narendra Gosain

EXPLANATION:

Early Revolutionary Organisations (1902–1906):

- The first organised revolutionary groups emerged in 1902
 - Midnapore: Led by Jnanendranath Basu
 - Calcutta: Formation of the Anushilan Samiti, founded by Promotha Mitter and including key figures such as Jatindranath Banerjee, Barindra Kumar Ghosh, and others.
- Initially, these groups largely focused on physical and moral training of members and remained relatively insignificant until 1907–08.
- In April 1906, an inner circle within Anushilan (Barindra Kumar Ghosh, Bhupendranath Dutta) started **the weekly Yugantar** and conducted a few abortive 'actions'.

The Alipore Conspiracy Case (1908–1909): Often referred to as the Manicktolla Bomb Conspiracy or the Muraripukur Conspiracy, this case marked a major crackdown on revolutionary nationalism.

Arrests and Charges

- The entire Anushilan group was arrested, including Aurobindo Ghosh and Barindra Kumar Ghosh.
- Barindra Ghosh's residence on Muraripukur Road in the Manicktolla area served as the centre of the alleged conspiracy.
- The Ghosh brothers were charged with "conspiracy" or "waging war against the King", offences equivalent to high treason and punishable by death by hanging.

Defence and Outcome

- Chittaranjan Das defended Aurobindo Ghosh. **So, Option (c) is correct.**
- Aurobindo was acquitted, with the judge criticising the weak and inconclusive nature of the evidence.
- Barindra Ghosh (as head of the revolutionary network) and Ullaskar Dutt (as the bomb-maker) received death sentences, later commuted to life imprisonment.
- During the trial, Narendra Gosain (or Goswami), who had turned approver and Crown witness, was shot dead by two co-accused, Satyendranath Bose and Kanailal Dutta, in jail.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES IN BENGAL IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY	
About	➤ Attempt on Sir Fuller (1907) : In 1907, the Yugantar group made an abortive attempt on the life of Sir Fuller, the first Lieutenant Governor of the new province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, although he had resigned from the post on August 20, 1906. ➤ Train Attack on Lieutenant-Governor Andrew Fraser (December 1907) : In December 1907, attempts were made to derail the train on which the lieutenant-governor, Andrew Fraser, was travelling. ➤ Muzaffarpur Bombing (1908): In 1908, Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose threw a bomb at a carriage intended for a particularly cruel British judge, Kingsford, in Muzaffarpur. Kingsford was not in the carriage; instead, two British ladies were killed. Prafulla Chaki shot himself, while Khudiram Bose was tried and hanged. ➤ Targeted Killings in Calcutta (1909-1910): In February 1909, the public prosecutor was shot dead in Calcutta. In February 1910, a deputy superintendent of police was shot while leaving the Calcutta High Court. ➤ Barrah Dacoity (1908): In 1908, the Barrah dacoity was organised by the Dacca Anushilan under Pulin Das to raise funds for revolutionary activities. ➤ Revolutionary Newspapers and Journals: Newspapers and journals advocating revolutionary activity included Sandhya and Yugantar in Bengal, and Kal in Maharashtra.

90. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1:

After the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, the direct control on education was shifted from the Federal Government to Provincial Government.

Statement 2:

The Montagu-Chelmsford reforms introduced the system of dyarchy for the executive at the level of the provincial Government.

Which one of the following is correct with respect of the above statements?

- (a) **Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I**
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India Act, 1919 (based on Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms) introduced diarchy in provinces.

Under a diarchy, subjects were divided into:

- Transferred subjects - under ministers responsible to the provincial legislature.
- Reserved subjects - under the Governor and the Executive Council.

Education was placed under Transferred Subjects, hence handled by provincial ministers, not by direct British executive control. So, direct central control ended, and provinces took over educational responsibility. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

One of the main features of the Montford Reforms was the introduction of dyarchy. The Act introduced dyarchy for the executive at the level of the provincial Government. **So, Statement II is correct.**

- Dyarchy, i.e., the rule of two executive councillors and popular ministers, was introduced. The governor was to be the executive head in the province.
- Subjects were divided into two lists: 'reserved', which included subjects such as law and order, finance, land revenue, irrigation, etc., and 'transferred' subjects such as education, health, local Government, industry, agriculture, excise, etc. The reserved subjects were to be administered by the governor through his executive council of bureaucrats, and the transferred subjects were to be administered by ministers nominated from among the elected members of the legislative council.

Education was shifted to provincial ministries because it was classified as a transferred subject under dyarchy.

Because education was placed under the 'transferred' subjects in the dyarchy system introduced by the 1919 Act, it was no longer run by the governor's officials. Instead, it came under provincial ministers chosen from elected legislators.

Thus, the shift of education to provincial control directly resulted from the introduction of dyarchy. **So, Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FEATURES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1919	
About	➤ Introduction of dyarchy - The Act divided the subjects of provincial Government into two categories: • Reserved Subjects: Administered by the Governor and his executive council (e.g., police, finance, irrigation). • Transferred Subjects: Administered by Indian ministers responsible to the legislative councils (e.g., education, public health, local self-government). ➤ Bicameral Legislature at the Centre - Established a bicameral legislature in India for the first time: • Council of State (Upper House) • Legislative Assembly (Lower House) ➤ However, the Viceroy retained overriding powers, including the power of certification, veto, and ordinance. ➤ Expansion of Legislative Councils - Increased the size of both central and provincial legislative councils. Introduced more elected members, though franchise was still limited and based on property, education, and tax qualifications. ➤ More Indian Participation in Administration • Indians were appointed to key positions, including the first Indian appointed to the Viceroy's Executive Council. • However, real power remained with British officials. ➤ Establishment of a Public Service Commission - The Central Public Service Commission (CPSC) was set up in 1926, which later evolved into the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). ➤ Introduction of Direct Elections - For the first time, direct elections were introduced for some seats in legislative councils.

	➤ Separate Electorates Continued - Continued the system of separate electorates for Muslims and introduced them for Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, and Europeans. ➤ Review after 10 Years - The Act provided for a review after 10 years, which ultimately led to the Simon Commission in 1927 (two years earlier).
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91. Consider the following statements:

1. Aga Khan proposed the idea of a separate Muslim nation in the first quarter of the twentieth century.
2. Pakistan Resolution of 1940 sought to create independent states by grouping together contiguous Muslim-majority areas.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

In 1906, Agha Khan led a Muslim delegation—called the Shimla Delegation—to meet the Viceroy, Lord Minto. They demanded separate electorates for Muslims and argued that Muslim representation should reflect not only their numbers but also their political importance. Lord Minto agreed and promised special communal representation for Muslims.

Soon after, the All India Muslim League was founded by Agha Khan, Nawab Salimullah of Dacca, Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, and Nawab Waqar-ul-Mulk.

Its main aim was to support the British Government and keep educated Muslims away from the Congress.

- When the Muslim League performed poorly in the 1937 provincial elections, it moved towards extreme communalism.
- Its leaders began promoting the idea that Muslims were not just a minority but a separate nation.
- This idea did not come from Agha Khan. It was first proposed in the early 1930s by Choudhry Rahmat Ali, and later supported and expanded by Muhammad Iqbal.

Therefore, it is correct that the idea of a separate Muslim nation in the early 20th century was proposed by Rahmat Ali (and further refined by Iqbal), not by Agha Khan. Agha Khan supported separate electorates but not the idea of creating a separate Muslim nation. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The 'Pakistan Resolution' was passed in March 24, 1940 at the Lahore session of the Muslim League calling for "grouping of all geographically contiguous Muslim majority areas (mainly north-western and eastern India) into independent states in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign, and adequate safeguards to Muslims in other areas where they are in a minority". **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

EVOLUTION OF THE TWO-NATION THEORY

In the late 19th Century the British encouraged separate political identities among Hindus and Muslims. Leaders like Syed Ahmed Khan urged Muslims to avoid the Congress, fearing Hindu domination.

➤ **1906 – Formation of Muslim League:**

- The Shimla Delegation, led by Agha Khan, demanded separate electorates for Muslims.
- The Muslim League was formed to promote loyalty to the British and keep Muslims away from the Congress.

- **1909:** The Morley–Minto Reforms officially introduced separate electorates, strengthening communal division.
 - **1916 – Lucknow Pact:** Congress accepted separate electorates, giving political legitimacy to the Muslim League as a separate representative body.
 - **1920s – Rise in Communal Tension:**
 - Communal riots increased.
 - Hindu and Muslim organisations (Hindu Mahasabha, Arya Samaj, Tabligh, Tanzeem) deepened divides.
 - Congress struggled to counter communalism effectively.
 - **1928 – Nehru Report and Jinnah's 14 Points:**
 - Differences sharpened as Muslim hardliners demanded further safeguards.
 - This legitimised communal politics and weakened secular Muslim voices.
 - **1930-34:**
 - Limited Muslim participation in Civil Disobedience.
 - Communalists actively participated in Round Table Conferences.
 - **1932 – Communal Award:** The British accepted almost all communal demands, deepening the divide.
 - **After 1937 Elections:**
 - Muslim League performed poorly and shifted to extreme communalism.
 - The idea of Muslims as a separate nation gained ground.
 - This concept had been earlier proposed by Choudhry Rahmat Ali (early 1930s) and later supported by Muhammad Iqbal.
 - **Late 1930s:** Jinnah rejected compromise and demanded recognition of the League as the sole representative of Muslims.
 - **1940 – Lahore (Pakistan) Resolution:** The League demanded independent states for Muslim-majority areas — the first clear call for Pakistan.
 - **1940–47 (WWII Period):**
 - The British relied on the League and gave it effective veto power.
 - The League persisted with its Pakistan demand through all negotiations.
 - **1947:** India was partitioned, and Pakistan was created from Muslim-majority regions.
- Over decades, British policies, communal politics, and deepening distrust led sections of Muslim leadership to argue that Hindus and Muslims were two separate nations.
- By 1940, this idea crystallised into the demand for Pakistan, resulting in the partition of India in 1947.

92. Consider the following pairs of the Tentative list of UNESCO's World Heritage site and their location:

Sl.no.	UNESCO World Heritage site	State/Union territory
1	Deccan Traps at Panchgani	Karnataka
2	Geological Heritage of St Mary's Island Cluster	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
3	Erra Matti Dibbalu	Andhra Pradesh
4	Natural heritage of Varkala	Kerala

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

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two**
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

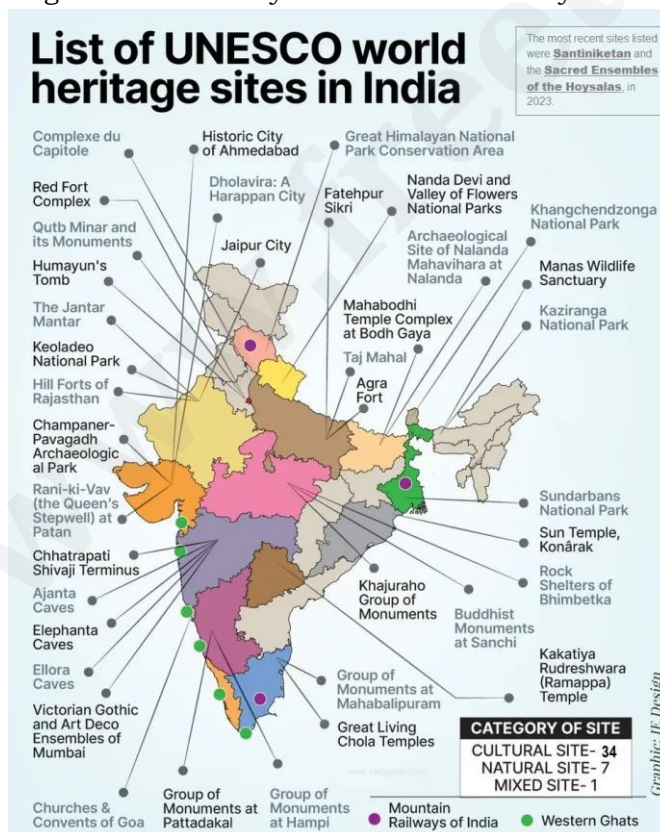
EXPLANATION:

Recently, Seven Natural Heritage Sites from India were added to UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites, increasing India's count on the Tentative List from 62 to 69 properties.

- Deccan Traps at Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra (not in Karnataka): Home to some of the best-preserved and studied lava flows in the world, these sites form part of the massive Deccan Traps and are located within the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary, which is already a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **So, Pair (1) is not correct.**
- Geological Heritage of St. Mary's Island Cluster, Karnataka (not in Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Known for its rare columnar basaltic rock formations, this island cluster dates back to the Late Cretaceous period, offering a geological snapshot from around 85 million years ago. **So, Pair (2) is not correct.**
- Erra Matti Dibbalu (Red Sand Hills), Andhra Pradesh: These visually striking red sand formations near Visakhapatnam showcase unique paleo-climatic and coastal geomorphological features that reveal Earth's climatic history and dynamic evolution. **So, Pair (3) is correct.**
- Natural heritage of Varkala (Kerala): The scenic cliffs along Kerala's coastline expose the Warkalli Formation of the Mio-Pliocene age, along with natural springs and striking erosional landforms, offering both scientific and touristic value. **So, Pair (4) is correct.**

Others:

- **Meghalayan Age Caves, Meghalaya:** The stunning cave systems of Meghalaya, particularly the Mawmluh Cave, serve as the global reference point for the Meghalayan Age in the Holocene Epoch, reflecting significant climate and geological transitions.
- **Naga Hill Ophiolite, Nagaland:** A rare exposure of ophiolite rocks, these hills represent oceanic crust uplifted onto continental plates—offering deep insights into tectonic processes and mid-ocean ridge dynamics.
- **Natural Heritage of Tirumala Hills, Andhra Pradesh (not in Kerala):** Featuring the Eparchaeon Unconformity and the iconic Silathoranam (Natural Arch), this site holds immense geological significance, representing over 1.5 billion years of Earth's history.



93. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

The Charter Act of 1853 added six members to the governor general's council for legislative functions.

Statement II:

The Indian Association of Calcutta sent a petition to the British Parliament requesting the creation of a separate legislature of a popular character.

Which of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct Explanation for Statement-I.
- (b) Both Statement I and Statement II are correct and Statement II is not the correct Explanation for Statement I
- (c) **Statement I is correct but Statement II is incorrect**
- (d) Statement I is incorrect but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

The Charter Act of 1853 was an important constitutional milestone in British India. For the first time, legislation was treated as a separate function of the government, requiring dedicated machinery and procedures. The following are the key provisions of the act.

- **Separation of functions:** The Act separated the legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's Council.
- **Establishment of the Indian (Central) Legislative Council:** It created a separate Governor-General's Legislative Council, later known as the Indian (Central) Legislative Council.
 - Six new legislative councillors were added for legislative purposes.
 - This council worked like a mini-Parliament, following procedures similar to the British Parliament. **So, Statement I is correct.**
- **Local representation introduced:** For the first time, local (provincial) governments—Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and Agra—nominated four of the six new legislative councillors.
- **Opening of Civil Services to Indians:** The Act introduced an open competition system for recruitment to the covenanted Civil Service, making it accessible to Indians. As a result, the Macaulay Committee (Committee on the Indian Civil Service) was appointed in 1854.
- **Extension of Company's rule:** It extended the East India Company's rule and allowed it to retain Indian territories in trust for the British Crown. However, unlike earlier charters, it did not specify a time frame for the continuation of Company rule—indicating that Parliament could end it at any time.

In 1851, both the Landholders' Society and the Bengal British India Society merged into the British Indian Association. It sent a petition to the British Parliament demanding inclusion of some of its suggestions in the renewed Charter of the Company, such as

- establishment of a separate legislature of a popular character;
- separation of executive from judicial functions;
- reduction in salaries of higher officers; and
- abolition of salt duty, abkari and stamp duties.

These were partially accepted when the Charter Act of 1853 provided for the addition of six members to the governor-general's council for legislative purposes.

Therefore, it was British Indian Association (not Indian Association of Calcutta) which sent a petition to the British Parliament requesting the creation of a separate legislature of a popular character. **So, Statement II is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CHARTER ACT OF 1853	
About	➤ It established a separate Governor-General's legislative council which came to be known as the Indian (Central) Legislative Council and provided for the addition of six new members called legislative councillors to the council. This legislative wing of the council functioned as a mini-Parliament, adopting the same procedures as the British Parliament. It established an open competition system for selection and recruitment of civil servants. The covenanted civil service was thus thrown open to the Indians also. Accordingly, the Macaulay Committee (the Committee on the Indian Civil Service) was appointed in 1854 ➤ It asked for the appointment of six new legislative councillors to the council. In other words, it constituted a distinct legislative body for the Governor-General, which became known as the Indian (Central) Legislative Council. The council's legislative branch operated as a mini-Parliament, using the same processes as the British Parliament. For the first time, legislation was considered a distinct government activity, needing specialised apparatus and procedures. ➤ It established an open competition system for selection and recruitment of civil servant. The covenanted civil service was therefore made available to Indians as well. The Macaulay Committee, as a result (the Committee on the Indian Civil Service), was appointed in 1854. ➤ It extended the company's rule and permitted it to keep Indian territory in the trust of the British Crown. However, it did not set a specific time frame, unlike the previous charters. This was a strong hint that Parliament may abolish the Company's rule at any time. ➤ It was the first time the Indian (Central) Legislative Council had local representation. The local (provincial) governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, and Agra nominated four of the six members of the Governor-General's Council's members.

94. With reference to the Champaran Satyagraha, consider the following statements:

1. It was directed against the Zamindars of the region.
2. It resulted in the abolition of the tinkathia system.
3. It marked Mahatma Gandhi's first hunger strike in India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Mahatma Gandhi launched the Champaran Satyagraha in April 1917.

- Gandhi was requested by Rajkumar Shukla, a local man, to look into the problems of the farmers in the context of indigo being forced on the peasants to grow on 3/20 part of the total land (called the **Tinkathia system**).
- Towards the end of the nineteenth century, German synthetic dyes replaced indigo; the European planters demanded high rents and illegal dues from the peasants in order to maximise their profits before the peasants could shift to other crops. Besides, the peasants were forced to sell the produce at prices fixed by the Europeans.

- When Gandhi, joined now by Rajendra Prasad, Mazhar ul-Haq, Mahadev Desai, Narhari Parekh, and J.B. Kripalani, reached Champaran to probe into the matter, the authorities ordered him to leave the area at once.
- Gandhi defied the order and preferred to face the punishment. This passive resistance or civil disobedience of an unjust order was a novel method at that time.
- Finally, the authorities retreated and permitted Gandhi to make an enquiry. Now, the government appointed a committee to look into the matter and nominated Gandhi as a member.
- Gandhi was able to convince the authorities that the tinkathia system should be abolished and that the peasants should be compensated for the illegal dues extracted from them.
- The government accepted almost all the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee, in which Mahatma Gandhi was a member. Based on the report, the Champaran Agrarian Act was enacted in 1918. This act officially abolished the tinkathia system. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**
- Within a decade, the European planters left the area. Gandhi had won the first battle of civil disobedience in India.

Champaran Satyagraha was primarily against the European indigo planters, not zamindars. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

The Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 was Mahatma Gandhi's first major campaign of the First Civil Disobedience in India.

- Mahatma Gandhi first used hunger strike during the **Ahmedabad Mill Strike in March 1918.**
- Gandhi intervened in a dispute between cotton mill owners of Ahmedabad and the workers over the issue of discontinuation of the plague bonus. The mill owners wanted to withdraw the bonus. The workers were demanding a rise of 50 per cent in their wages so that they could manage in the times of wartime inflation (which doubled the prices of food-grains, cloth, and other necessities) caused by Britain's involvement in World War I. The mill owners were ready to give only a 20 per cent wage hike. The workers went on strike.
- The workers sought support from Anusuya Sarabhai, who in turn approached Gandhi. However, a friend of mill-owner Ambalal Sarabhai, Gandhi, took up the workers' cause and advised them to strike peacefully while demanding a 35% wage increase.
- As negotiations failed, Gandhi undertook his first fast in India to reinforce workers' unity and pressure the owners. The issue was eventually referred to a tribunal, which awarded the workers a 35% wage increase, ending the strike. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MAHATMA GANDHI	
Activism in South Africa (1893-1914)	➤ Set up the Natal Indian Congress and started the newspaper, Indian Opinion. ➤ Satyagraha against registration certificates. ➤ Campaign against restrictions on Indian migration. ➤ Campaign against the poll tax and invalidation of Indian marriages. ➤ Gandhi's faith in the capacity of the masses to fight was established; he was able to evolve his own style of leadership and politics and techniques of struggle.
Early Activism in India	➤ Champaran Satyagraha (1917)—First Civil Disobedience. ➤ Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)—First Hunger Strike. ➤ Kheda Satyagraha (1918)—First Non-Cooperation. ➤ Rowlatt Satyagraha (1918)—First mass strike.

95. Which of the following events triggered the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920?

- (a) The passage of the Government of India Act 1919
- (b) The Khilafat issue and the Punjab killings**
- (c) The Simon Commission's visit
- (d) The Round Table Conference

EXPLANATION:

The Government of India Act 1919 was seen as 'a step in the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the empire'. The Indian National Congress rejected the Act. Annie Besant termed the Act as 'unworthy of England to offer and India to accept'.

Although many nationalists were dissatisfied with it, this Act did not trigger the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

On August 1, 1920, Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation (Asahayog) Movement against the government. Its aims were to force further concessions from the British government by organising the boycotting of the legislative councils, courts and schools, and other symbolic acts. It was the first mass movement organised nationwide during India's struggle for freedom.

During 1919-22, the British were opposed through two mass movements—the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation. Though the two movements emerged from separate issues, they adopted a common programme of action—that of non-violent noncooperation. The Khilafat issue was not directly linked to Indian politics but it provided the immediate background to the movement and gave an added advantage of cementing Hindu-Muslim unity against the British.

Causes for the emergence of Non-Cooperation movement:

- The Khilafat movement of 1919, with its strong anti-imperialist thrust, coincided with growing public anger against British rule.
- Economic hardships during and after World War I, marked by rising prices and increasing burdens on peasants, created widespread discontent. Politically, hopes raised during the War were dashed when the Government of India Act 1919 offered only limited reforms, disappointing nationalists.
- The passage of the repressive Rowlatt Act (1919), allowing detention without trial, further inflamed public sentiment. Gandhi's nationwide Satyagraha saw mass protests across the country.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in April 1919 proved to be the final shock, exposing the brutality of colonial rule. Tagore's renunciation of his knighthood symbolized national outrage.

These developments together paved the way for launching the Non-Cooperation Movement on August 1, 1920. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

An all-white, seven-member Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as the Simon Commission (after the name of its chairman, Sir John Simon), was set up by the British government under Stanley Baldwin's prime ministership on November 8, 1927. The commission was to recommend to the British government whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms and along what lines.

Simon commission came much later after the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920). **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

- The first Round Table Conference was held in London between November 1930 and January 1931. This was the first conference arranged between the British and the Indians as equals.
- The second Round Table Conference was held in London from September 7, 1931 to December 1, 1931. The Indian National Congress nominated Gandhi as its sole representative.
- The third Round Table Conference, held between November 17, 1932 and December 24, 1932, was not attended by the Indian National Congress and Gandhi. It was ignored by most other Indian leaders.

This happened a decade later, after the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920). **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

Important Events of Indian National Movement (1900-1950)

1900	
	1905 - Partition of Bengal / Swadeshi Movement
	1906 - Muslim League
	1907 - Surat Split
1910	1909 - Minto-Morely Reforms
	1911 - Ashe Murder
	1915 - The First Hindu Mahasabha conference held at Haridwar
	1916 - Home Rule League / Lucknow Pact
	1917 - Champaran Movement
1920	1919 - Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms / Rowlatt Act / Jalianwalah Bagh Massacre
	1920 - Non-Cooperation Movement
	1921 - Malabar Rebellion
	1922 - Chauri Chaura incident
1930	1930 - Dandi March
	1931 - Gandhi-Irwin Pact
	1932 - Communal Award / Poona Pact
	1937 - First Congress Ministry in Provinces
1940	1940 - August Offer / Lahore Resolution
	1942 - Cripps Mission / Quit India Movement
	1945 - Wavell Plan / Simla Conference
	1946 - Cabinet Mission / Direct Action / Interim Government / RIN Revolt
	1947 - India becomes Independence
1950	1950 - India becomes Republic

96. Consider the following statements with respect to Dugongs (Sea Cows):

1. Dugongs feed primarily on near-shore seagrasses.
2. Dugongs bear one calf at a time after an approximately 13-month gestation.
3. Female Dugongs tend to be larger than male ones.
4. Dugongs are slow-moving animals and do not prefer cold water.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) **All four**

EXPLANATION:

In the South Asian region, dugongs, also known as sea cows, are often referred to as the “farmers or gardeners of the sea” for their important role in preserving the coastal ecosystems and aiding fish production.

- Dugongs feed primarily on near-shore seagrasses. They are particular about their diets, with certain “fields” of sea-grass being regularly cropped. Dugongs are exclusively bottom feeders.
- They are found in the Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Bay, the Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India. Dugongs are primarily herbivorous, grazing on 30 kg-40 kg of seagrass a day. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

A dugong reaches its adult size between the ages of 9 and 18 years, longer than in most other mammals. Dugongs are humanely social, live in familial bonds, and surrender en masse if any of their

family members be netted by a fisherman by chance. Dugongs bear one calf at a time after an approximately 13-month gestation.

It drinks milk from its mother until about two years old. Despite the longevity of the Dugong, which may live for fifty years or up to seventy years, females give birth only a few times during their life and invest considerable parental care in their young. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The dugong is heavily dependent on seagrasses for subsistence and is thus restricted to the coastal habitats where they grow, with the largest dugong concentrations typically occurring in wide, shallow, protected areas such as bays, mangrove channels and the lee sides of large inshore islands.

- Dugongs reach an average adult length of 2.7 metres (8.9 ft) and 3 metres (9.8 ft) long and weigh as much as 400 kg (882 lb).
- Females tend to be larger than males. The largest known dugong was a female landed off the Saurashtra coast of west India, measuring 4.03 metres (13.2 ft) and weighing 1,018 kilograms (2,240 lb). **So, Statement 3 is correct.**



The dugong is a migratory animal, but very slow-moving. Instances have been recorded while many dugongs travelled less than 15 km (9 mi), some went as far as 560 km (348 mi). Scientists believe that dugongs move long distances for several reasons.

They may be looking for food, as cyclones or floods can affect the seagrass. Males may be following females or looking for their own territory. Dugongs do not prefer cold water. If the water gets cold, less than 17 degrees Centigrade, they travel to warmer areas. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DUGONGS (SEA COWS)	
Recently in news	Three years after the Tamil Nadu government notified a 448 square kilometre area in Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts as the country's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, the International Union for Conservation of Nature has recognised the move in one of the resolutions to be passed at its World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.
About	➤ Dugongs ((Scientific name: Dugong dugon) are large aquatic mammals. Sometimes called seacows, they favor areas with sea grass, which they graze on like cows, hence their nickname. ➤ Dugongs are cousins of manatees and share a similar plump appearance, but have a dolphin fluke-like tail. And unlike manatees, which use freshwater areas, the dugong is strictly a marine mammal. Commonly known as "sea cows," dugongs graze peacefully on sea grasses in shallow coastal waters of the Indian and western Pacific Oceans.
Population Decline	The species is listed as Vulnerable to Extinction on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. ➤ Once abundant in Indian waters, dugongs are protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

But their population was on the decline over the past several decades owing to a variety of factors, including hunting for meat, commercial fishing practices leading to accidental drowning, and habitat degradation.

97. The right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing was granted under which of the following?

- (a) Delhi Manifesto (1929)
- (b) Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931)**
- (c) Poona Pact (1932)
- (d) Tej Bahadur Sapru Committee Recommendations (1930)

EXPLANATION:

On January 25 1931, Mahatma Gandhi and all other members of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) were released from jail, unconditionally, who were arrested for the Civil Disobedience Movement. The CWC authorised Gandhi to initiate discussions with the Viceroy. As a result of these discussions, a pact was signed between the Viceroy, representing the British Indian Government, and Gandhi, representing the Indian people, in Delhi on February 14 1931. This Delhi Pact, also known as the **Gandhi-Irwin Pact**, placed the Congress on an equal footing with the Government.

Irwin, on behalf of the Government, agreed on:

- Immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted of violence;
- Remission of all fines not yet collected;
- Return of all lands not yet sold to third parties;
- Lenient treatment of those government servants who had resigned;
- Right to make salt in coastal villages for personal consumption (not for sale);
- Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing; **So, Option (b) is correct.**
- Withdrawal of emergency ordinances.

The Viceroy, however, turned down two of Gandhi's demands:

- Public inquiry into police excesses, and
- Commutation of Bhagat Singh and his comrades' death sentence to life sentences.

Gandhi, on behalf of the Congress, agreed:

- To suspend the civil disobedience movement, and
- To participate in the next Round Table Conference on the constitutional question around the three lynch-pins of federation, Indian responsibility, and reservations and safeguards that may be necessary in India's interests (covering such areas as defence, external affairs, position of minorities, financial credit of India and discharge of other obligations).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

DELHI MANIFESTO (1929)

About

- On November 2 1929, a conference of prominent national leaders issued a 'Delhi Manifesto' which put forward certain conditions for attending the Round Table Conference:
 - The purpose of the Round Table Conference should not be to determine whether or when dominion status was to be reached, but to formulate a constitution for the implementation of the dominion status (thus acting as a constituent assembly), and the basic principle of dominion status should be immediately accepted.
 - That the Congress should have majority representation at the Conference;
 - There should be a general amnesty for political prisoners and a policy of conciliation.
 - Gandhi, along with Motilal Nehru and other political leaders, met Lord Irwin in December 1929 (after the Viceroy had narrowly escaped after a bomb was

	detonated, meaning to hit the train he was travelling in). They asked the Viceroy for assurance that the purpose of the Round Table Conference was to draft a constitutional scheme for dominion status. That was not the purpose of the Conference, said Irwin. Viceroy Irwin rejected the demands put forward in the Delhi Manifesto. The stage for confrontation was to begin now.
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98. With reference to Bardoli Satyagraha, consider the following statements:

- The immediate cause of the Bardoli satyagraha was a sharp increase in land revenue by the government authorities.
- The Bardoli Satyagraha was considered as the precursor to civil disobedience movement.
- Women made active and significant participation in the satyagraha.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Bardoli taluqa in Surat district had witnessed intense politicisation after Gandhi's rise on the national political scene.

The movement began in January 1926 when the authorities decided to increase land revenue by 30 percent.

Congress leaders quickly protested, and a Bardoli Inquiry Committee was set up to examine the issue. The committee found the revenue hike unjustified. In February 1926, Vallabhbhai Patel was invited to lead the movement. Thus the immediate cause of the Bardoli Satyagraha was sharp increase in land revenue by the government authorities. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Bardoli Movement of 1928 revived nationalist energies at a time when India was recovering from the withdrawal of the Non-Cooperation Movement (1922) and moving towards the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930).

Bardoli Satyagraha was considered a precursor to the Civil Disobedience Movement because it demonstrated that large-scale, disciplined, non-violent refusal to obey unjust government orders—especially through tax non-payment—could compel the British to negotiate, thereby proving the feasibility of nationwide civil disobedience.. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

A large number of men and women participated in this Satyagraha movement, wherein they were threatened by the Government that their land would be forfeited.

An iron will is said to have prevailed in Bardoli with mass resignations from the village headmen and the subordinate officers.

After a four-month battle and a spate of observations, threats of arrests and continuous assessment of situation, peace was opted for and led to the reinstatement of the headmen and talatis and release of arrested Satyagrahis. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

BARDOLI SATYAGRAHA	
About	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's leadership during the Bardoli Satyagraha is a remarkable story. In 1928, the British Government increased land revenue rates in the Bardoli region of Gujarat, causing immense hardship to the local farmers. Patel took up the cause and led the Bardoli Satyagraha to protest against this unjust policy. ➤ The Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, under his leadership, stands as an iconic example of his dedication to the cause, earning him the revered <i>title of "Sardar" or "Leader."</i>

- Under Patel, the Bardoli peasants resolved to refuse payments of the revised assessment until the Government appointed an independent tribunal or accepted the current amount as full payment.
 - To organize the movement, Patel set up 13 chhavanis or workers' camps in the taluka.
 - Bardoli Satyagraha Patrika was brought out to mobilise public opinion. An intelligence wing was set up to make sure all the tenants followed the movement's resolutions.
 - Those who opposed the movement faced a social boycott.
 - Special emphasis was placed on the mobilisation of women. K.M. Munshi and Lalji Naranji resigned from the Bombay Legislative Council in support of the movement.
 - By August 1928, massive tension had built up in the area.
 - There were prospects of a railway strike in Bombay. Gandhi reached Bardoli to stand by in case of any emergency.
 - The Government was looking for a graceful withdrawal now. It set the condition that first, the enhanced rent be paid by all the occupants (not actually done).
 - Then, a committee went into the whole affair and found the revenue hike to be unjustified and recommended a rise of 6.03 per cent only.
- Ultimately, the British Government accepted the peasants' demands, and the enhanced revenue assessment was withdrawn. The Bardoli Satyagraha ended in a decisive victory for the farmers, establishing Sardar Patel's reputation as an effective mass leader and marking a significant step toward the larger Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930.

99. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I:

Mountbatten chose August 15, 1947, as the date for India's independence.

Statement-II:

The date marked the second anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

Which of the following is correct with respect to the above statements?

- (a) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I**
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect
- (d) Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct

EXPLANATION:

The last Viceroy of India under British rule, Lord Mountbatten, decided that India would observe its Independence Day on August 15, a day which in 1947 marked the second anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II. This, Lord Mountbatten later states, this date August 15, represented the conclusion of imperial conflict and not nationalist jubilation.

- Just two years before August 15, 1947, Japan's emperor surrendered to the Allied forces, ending World War II. The country's War dead crossed 3 million.
- The date of Japan's surrender also held significance for Lord Mountbatten, who had fought against the Japanese in the War as a Navy officer in erstwhile Burma.
- The **Indian Independence Bill** was given Royal Assent in July 1947, which was to "make provision for the setting up in India of two independent Dominions, to substitute other provisions for certain provisions of the Government of India Act, 1947".
- Lord Mountbatten was appointed to chalk up a plan for the transfer of power from British hands to Indian control and for the partition of the erstwhile united India into two countries.
- The date decided for transfer of power and partition was decided to be no later than June 1948.

- Amid rising communal violence and worsening law and order, a change of plans came. The British Parliament decided that the colonial rule in India would end on August 15, 1947.

Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.

100. Which protected area is set to be notified as a Tiger Reserve by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)?

- (a) **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**
- (b) Sathyamangalam Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Mukundra Hills Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary

EXPLANATION:

The Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary, one of Odisha's finest protected areas, could become India's newest tiger reserve (TR) – and the State's third. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

- Nestled close to the vast expanse of the Hirakud Dam reservoir on one side in Bargarh district, the proposed TR is in the final stages of necessary appraisals as an expert committee is reviewing its core and buffer zones.
- In 2023, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) set the process in motion by granting in-principle approval to the Odisha government's proposal for Debrigarh to be designated as a TR.
- The 2004 tiger census had estimated five tigers in the Debrigarh landscape. Evidence of tiger presence was recorded from time to time in the sanctuary during that period, but growing anthropogenic pressure and conflict led to a decline in numbers.
- However, photographic evidence of tiger movement was once again found in the sanctuary in 2018. Considering this potential, the Odisha government proposed TR status for Debrigarh in the same year. The NTCA then called for details of the core and buffer demarcations, tourism zones, and rights and settlements within the critical core.
- Granting TR status to Debrigarh could strengthen Odisha's efforts in tiger conservation and supplementation. Of the two notified TRs in the State, only **Similipal** now has a thriving population of big cats, though it remained a low-intensity habitat for years. **Satkosia**, the other Reserve, saw its tiger population collapse within 10 years of notification. A reintroduction effort in 2018 ended in disaster, after which plans were put on hold.

The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve was notified in 2013, encompassing forests of **Erode** and Sathyamangalam Divisions in **North-eastern Tamil Nadu**. The habitat has tremendous biodiversity, and is contiguous with Mudumalai, BRT and Bandipur tiger reserves. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

- Flora: Common Species of trees and shrubs found are Albizzia amara, Chloroxylon swietenia, Gyrocarpus jacquini, Neem, Tamarind, Sandalwood, Randi dumetorum, Zizyphus and associates.
- Fauna: Because of its continuity with other tiger reserves, the habitat is rich in wildlife. The major species are Elephant, Tiger, Panther, Sloth bear, Gaur, Black Buck, spotted deer, Wild boar, Black napped hare, Common langur, Nilgiri langur, striped-neck mongoose and Bonnet macaque.
- The Mudumalai – Mangalapatti – Thengumarada – Karachikorai – Bannari is an important corridor (The Great Moyar Corridor) which links the Mudumalai and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserves.

Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve is named after two continuous flat-topped, almost parallel hills with narrow central ridges, forming part of the Vindhyan range and extending from the river Chambal to Kalisindh, with a length of almost 80 km and a width ranging from 2 to 5 km.

- The tiger reserve was constituted in the year **2013**, which encompasses the area of Mukandra National Park, Dara Sanctuary, Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary and part of Chambal Sanctuary (from Garadia Mahadev to Jawahar Sagar Dam), forming its core / critical tiger habitat. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**
- The forests of Kota, Chittorgarh and Jhalawar are included in the buffer.
- The forests of the Tiger Reserve fall under the category of Dry Deciduous Forest.
- The important fauna include: Leopard, Sloth bear, Nilgai, Chinkara, Spotted Deer, Small Indian Civet, Toddy Cat, Jackal, Hyena, Jungle Cat, Common Langur, common Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Pale Hedgehog hare, Indian Pangolin, Porcupine, Grey hornbill, etc.
- The tiger reserve has linkages with protected areas within the State, viz. Ranthambhore, Ramgarh Vishdhari and Bhainsarogarh. Further, it is also linked to the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.

Satkosia Tiger Reserve, established in 2007, is located in the heartland of Odisha and spread over four districts, viz. Angul, Cuttack, Boudh and Nayagarh. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

- The terrain is hilly with moderate to steep slopes and narrow valleys. The river Mahanadi flows through the valleys in the middle of the Reserve.
- The forest vegetation comprises North Indian tropical moist deciduous Forests and Moist peninsular low-level sal. Several plant associations are discernible, the main tree species being sal, which grows in gregarious formations.
- The Reserve has a low population of tigers, leopards, elephants, spotted deer, sambar, chowsingha, barking deer, bison, wild dog, sloth bear, jackal, giant squirrel and porcupine.
- The Satkosia gorge is the natural habitat of two endangered species, viz. the freshwater crocodile and the gharial. There are a few meadows, invaded by mixed deciduous forest and bamboo.
