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- Previous Year UPSC questions and trend analysis

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1) Which of the following statements regarding the Classical Languages of India is/are correct?

1. A total of 11 Indian languages have been accorded the status of Classical Language.
2. All Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
3. Hindi was among the first six languages to receive the Classical Language status.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1: Correct. The number of Classical Languages has been increased to 11 (Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali).

- Statement 2: Correct. All current classical languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule.
 - Statement 3: Incorrect. Hindi is not a Classical Language. The first six were Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
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2) Consider the following statements regarding the Kushana Empire:

1. Kanishka I is associated with the beginning of an era in 78 CE, which is used in the official calendar of the Government of India.
2. The Kushanas were among the earliest rulers in India to issue gold coins extensively, influenced by Roman coinage.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

Options:

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

Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- Statement 1: Correct. Kanishka I started the Shaka Era in 78 CE, which is the basis of the Indian National Calendar.
 - Statement 2: Correct. The Kushanas were the first to issue gold coins on a wide scale in India, modeling them after Roman Denarii.
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3) Consider the following statements regarding UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme:

1. It was launched in 1992 with the objective of preserving documentary heritage and preventing its loss due to neglect, decay, or disasters.

2. Inscription in this programme ensures the same legal status and financial support as accorded to UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

- Statement 1: Correct. Launched in 1992 to preserve documentary heritage (books, manuscripts, etc.).
 - Statement 2: Incorrect. It does not grant the same legal status or financial scale as the World Heritage Convention. It is a registry for "documentary" heritage, not physical sites.
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4) Consider the following names:

1. Ashfaqulla Khan
2. Chandrashekhar Azad
3. Manmathnath Gupta
4. Rajendra Lahiri

How many of the above personalities were directly involved in the execution of the Kakori train robbery?

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

(c) Only three

(d) All four

Answer: (d)

- All four (Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Manmathnath Gupta, and Rajendra Lahiri) were key members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) who participated in the Kakori train action in 1925.

5) With reference to the Eighth Central Pay Commission (8th CPC), consider the following statements:

- I. The Eighth Central Pay Commission will be headed by Justice Pankaj Jain, former Petroleum Secretary of India.
- II. The Commission's recommendations will come into effect from January 1, 2025.
- III. The additional term added to its Terms of Reference (ToR) deals with the funded cost of contributory pension schemes.
- IV. The Eighth CPC will review salaries, pensions, and allowances for central government employees and pensioners.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. I and II only
2. II and III only
3. IV only
4. I, III, and IV only

Answer: (3) IV only

Explanation:

- I – Wrong (Chairperson is **Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai**)
- II – Wrong (effective from 2026, not 2025)

- III – Wrong (focus on OPS, not contributory schemes)
 - IV – Correct
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6) In the context of the Indian Parliamentary system, consider the following types of 'Motions':

1. Censure Motion
2. No-Confidence Motion
3. Call Attention Motion
4. Adjournment Motion

How many of the above require the support of at least 50 members to be admitted in the Lok Sabha?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- The **No-Confidence Motion** and the **Adjournment Motion** both require the support of at least 50 members to be admitted.
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7) Which of the following best describes the 'Doctrine of Constitutional Silences'?

- (a) It refers to the power of the President to remain silent on a bill indefinitely (Pocket Veto).
- (b) It refers to the court's ability to derive meaning from what is NOT explicitly written in the Constitution to uphold democratic values.
- (c) It is a parliamentary convention where the Speaker remains silent during a tie-vote.

(d) It refers to the immunity of the Governor from being questioned in a court of law for his official acts

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- This doctrine allows courts to interpret constitutional values and fill gaps where the text is silent to ensure the smooth functioning of democracy.
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8) Consider the following pairs of schemes and their respective ministries:

Scheme — Ministry

1. **PM-MITRA** — Ministry of Textiles
2. **MISHTI** — Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
3. **Sagar-Manthan** — Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
4. **SHREYAS** — Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (d) All four pairs

Explanation:

- All pairs correctly match the scheme to the respective ministry.
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9) With reference to the ‘Coconut Promotion Scheme’ announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with 60:40 sharing.
2. It is part of ₹350 crore allocation for high-value crops.
3. It is currently under implementation with finalized allocations.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- It is a Central Sector Scheme (not 60:40)
- ₹350 crore allocation is correct
- Still under formulation (not implemented yet)

10) With reference to the 'BODH' initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by ICMR with NITI Aayog.
2. It evaluates AI healthcare solutions before deployment.

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1 – Incorrect

- Statement 2 – Correct (AI healthcare validation platform)
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11) Consider the following statements with reference to space missions:

1. The PUNCH mission is a technology demonstration for satellite docking in Low-Earth Orbit.
2. The Aditya-L1 mission is positioned at the Lagrange Point 1 to ensure an uninterrupted view of the Sun.

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- Statement 1: Incorrect. PUNCH is a NASA mission to image the Sun's outer corona.
 - Statement 2: Correct.
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12) Consider the following pairs of military exercises and the countries involved:

Exercise — Countries Involved

1. Desert Knight — India, France and UAE
2. Eastern Bridge — India and Oman
3. Cope India — India and United Kingdom
4. VINBAX — India and Vietnam

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

- Cope India (3) is between India and the USA, not the UK.
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13) Consider the following missile systems developed by DRDO:

1. Prithvi
2. Agni V
3. Trishul
4. Nag
5. BrahMos

How many of the above are classified as Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- Agni V - treated as ICBM
- Prithvi (SRBM), Trishul (SAM), Nag (ATGM), BrahMos (cruise missile) are not ICBMs

14) The National Campaign on Entrepreneurship, recently launched, aims to strengthen non-farm livelihoods for rural women under which of the following initiatives?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
- (b) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission
- (c) VB-G RAM G Act
- (d) National Skill Development Mission

Answer: (b)

Explanation:

- DAY-NRLM is the primary vehicle for rural women's entrepreneurship.
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15) With reference to the Gyan Bharatam Mission (GBM), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture to preserve, digitise, and disseminate India's vast manuscript heritage.
2. The mission aims to document and digitise over 10 million manuscripts across India over the next five years.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- GBM is the latest initiative to preserve the National Manuscript Mission's work.