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1) Consider the following statements regarding fundamental rights:

1. Article 25 guarantees freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion.
2. Article 26 grants religious denominations the right to manage their own affairs in matters of religion.
3. Both rights are absolute and cannot be restricted by the State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c) Explanation:

- Statement 1: Correct – Article 25 covers individual religious freedom.
- Statement 2: Correct – Article 26 covers the collective religious rights of denominations.
- Statement 3: Incorrect – No Fundamental Right in India is absolute. These rights are subject to public order, morality, and health.

2) Consider the following statements regarding Earthquake Lights (EQL):

1. They are atmospheric phenomena that occur due to the ionization of air near tectonic fault systems.
2. These lights are predominantly observed at subduction zones where one plate slides beneath another.
3. The phenomenon is triggered by the activation of “p-holes” (positive holes) acting as charge carriers in the crust.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b)

- Earthquake Lights (EQL) are rare, luminous events documented before or during seismic activity. They result from lithospheric-atmospheric coupling, where intense tectonic stress in the Earth’s crust—specifically in igneous rocks—activates charge carriers known as p-holes. These charges travel rapidly through fault systems to the surface. Upon reaching the interface with the atmosphere, they ionize the air, creating a luminous plasma-like discharge, confirming statements 1 and 3.
- Interestingly, research indicates that these lights are not common at all types of plate boundaries. Approximately 97% of documented cases occur at or near rift zones or sub-vertical fault systems where tectonic plates are pulling apart (extensional environments), rather than subduction zones. This makes statement 2 incorrect.
- EQL can manifest in various forms, including floating spheres (ball lightning) or steady glows. Because they often appear as pre-seismic events, they hold potential as a visual early-warning signal. This phenomenon bridges the gap between folklore and geophysics, allowing scientists to study the electrical properties of the crust under extreme stress.

3) Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist sites	Locations in the State/ UT of
1. Thiksey Monastery	Arunachal Pradesh

2. Pemayangtse Monastery Ladakh
3. Bharatpur Monastery Complex West Bengal
4. Dhamekh Stupa Uttar Pradesh

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b)

- Pair 1 is not correctly matched: Thiksey Monastery is a gompa affiliated with the Gelug sect of Tibetan Buddhism. It is located on the top of a hill in Thiksey in the Ladakh Union Territory.
- Pair 2 is not correctly matched: Pemayangtse Monastery is a Buddhist monastery in Sikkim state located 110 km west of Gangtok. Designed and founded by Lama Lhatsun Chempo in 1647. It is one of the oldest and premier monasteries of Sikkim.
- Pair 3 is correctly matched: Buddhist monastery complex has been recently excavated at Bharatpur in West Bengal alongside early village settlements from the chalcolithic age.
- Pair 4 is correctly matched: Dhamek Stupa is a massive stupa located at the archaeological site of Sarnath in the state of UP. It marks the precise location where the Buddha preached his first discourse to his first five disciples, and where all five eventually became fully liberated.

4) Consider the following statements:

1. The India National Army (INA) was established by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1942.
2. Rashbehari Bose was elected as the president of the Indian Independence league.

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)

- Statement 1 is not correct: Azad Hind Fauj or the India National Army (INA) was first established by Mohan Singh in 1942.
 - It was revived by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on October 21, 1943, during the Second World War to secure India's complete independence from British Raj. Hence, every year on 21 October, the anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government is celebrated across the country.
 - On this day, India's first independent provisional government named Azad Hind Government was announced.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Japanese after defeating the British in South East Asia, persuaded captain Mohan Singh to work in collaboration with the Japanese for India's freedom.
 - In 1942, a conference of Indians was held in Tokyo, and they formed the Indian Independence league. This was followed by a conference in Bangkok (June 1942), where Rashbehari Bose was elected president of the league and a decision was taken to raise the Indian National Army.
 - Captain Mohan Singh was appointed the commander of the INA, which had about 40,000 Indian soldiers. This conference invited Bose to lead the movement.

5) With reference to Battle of Bhima Koregaon, consider the following statements:

1. The Battle of Koregaon was fought between Maratha ruler Bajji Rao Peshwa II and the British East India Company.
2. The Battle of Bhima Koregaon was part of the Third Anglo-Maratha War.

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: (c)

- The Battle of Koregaon took place on 1 January 1818 in the village of Koregaon, Maharashtra between troops of Maratha ruler Baji Rao Peshwa II and 800 troops of the British East India Company.
- The soldiers of the East India Company successfully fought the Peshwa troops, preventing them from advancing into Pune.
 - After a 12-hour-long battle, the loss of 600 men, and fearing reinforcements from Pune, Baji Rao II withdrew his troops from Koregaon and gave up his efforts to attack Pune.
 - The Battle of Bhima Koregaon was part of the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
 - The third Anglo-Maratha War resulted in the defeat of the Peshwas which led to the rule of the British East India Company in almost all parts of South, Central and Western India.

Why Did The Battle Take Place?

- The Peshwas had established themselves as overlords of the Deccan till the end of the 18th century.
- By 1802, the British East India Company had entered into treaties with Maratha rulers of the Deccan, which included the Peshwas of Pune, the Scindias of Gwalior, the Holkars of Indore, the Gaekwads of Baroda, and the Bhonsles of Nagpur.
- Under the treaties, these former rulers ceded a large number of their rights of lordship, revenue, and other privileges.
- Peshwa leader Baji Rao II, the last of the reluctant Maratha leaders, was defeated by the British in the Battle of Khadki in November 1817 and escaped to Satara.
- Baji Rao, cornered after being pursued by British Colonel Smith for two months, turned his focus and his 30,000-strong army to Pune at the end of December 1817.

6) With reference to Chhatrapati Shivaji, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. His rule was contemporary to the rule of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
2. Asht Pradhan were appointed by him for advice on the matters of the state.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

- Statement 1 is not correct: Shivaji was formally crowned as the Chhatrapati (Monarch) of his realm at Raigad in 1674. At that time the Mughal throne was occupied by Aurangzeb (Alamgir) (1658-1707).
- Statement 2 is correct: He had a Council of Ministers (Asht Pradhan) to advise him on the matters of the state, however, he was not bound by its suggestions and he could appoint or dismiss the members. Asht Pradhan is one of the unique features of the Maratha empire.

7) Consider the following statements:

1. A trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises.
2. The Trademark Law Treaty (TLT) is administered by the World Trade Organization(WTO).

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)

- Recently, Delhi High Court ruled and dismissed a case of trademark infringement brought by the global fast food chain against Suberb, a Delhi-based restaurant.
- Statement 1 is correct: Trademark is a symbol, design, word or phrase that is identified with a business. When a trademark is registered, its owner can claim “exclusive rights” on its use.
- A trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises.
- Statement 2 is not correct : Trademark Law Treaty (TLT) is administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- The aim of the Trademark Law Treaty (TLT) is to standardize and streamline national and regional trademark registration procedures.

8) Consider the following statements:

1. Current Account Deficit (CAD) is the shortfall between the money flowing in on imports and the money flowing out on exports.
2. Balance of Trade measures only the gap in earnings and expenditure on exports and imports of goods and services.

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)

- Statement 1 is not correct: Current Account Deficit (CAD) is the shortfall between the money flowing in on exports, and the money flowing out on imports. It measures the gap between the money received into and sent out of the country on the trade of goods and services and also the transfer of money from domestically-owned factors of production abroad.
- Statement 2 is correct: Current Account Deficit (CAD) is slightly different from the Balance of Trade, which measures only the gap in earnings and expenditure on exports and imports of goods and services. Whereas, the current account also factors in the payments from domestic capital deployed overseas. For example, rental income from an Indian owning a house in the UK would be computed in the Current Account, but not in the Balance of Trade.

9) "Global Economic Prospects" is released by which of the following?

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) World Trade Organization
- (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (d) World Bank

Answer: (d)

- Global Economic Prospects: Global Economic Prospects is a World Bank Group flagship report that examines global economic developments and prospects, with a special focus on emerging market and developing economies.
 - It is issued twice a year, in January and June. The January edition includes in-depth analyses of topical policy challenges while the June edition contains shorter analytical pieces.
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10) With reference to Fiat Money, consider the following statements:

1. It is a government-issued currency.
2. It is not backed by a commodity such as gold.
3. To curb inflation, the printing of Fiat money is increased.

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

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

Answer: (c)

- The RBI launched a limited test of the retail digital rupee for specific use cases on November 1, 2022.
 - Statement 1 is correct: Fiat Money is a government-issued currency.
 - Statement 2 is correct: It is not backed by a commodity such as gold.
 - Statement 3 is not correct: It gives central banks greater control over the economy because they can control how much money is printed.
 - Most modern paper currencies such as the US dollar are fiat currencies.
 - One danger of fiat money is that governments will print too much of it, resulting in hyperinflation.
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11) Consider the following statements:

1. Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court are appointed by the provisions mentioned in Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution.
2. The High Court Collegium consists of the Chief Justice of the High Court and four seniormost judges of the apex court.

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 is correct: Article 124 deals with the appointment of Supreme Court judges, and Article 217 deals with High Court judges.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The High Court Collegium consists of the Chief Justice of that High Court and two senior-most judges of that same High Court. The Supreme Court Collegium (for SC appointments) consists of the CJI and four senior-most judges of the SC.

12) Consider the following statements:

1. Section 8 of the Representation of People's Act 1951, prevents a person convicted of the illegal use of the freedom of speech from contesting an election.
2. Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code deals with deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.

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: (c) Both 1 and 2

- Statement 1 is correct: Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 deals with disqualification on conviction for certain offences. While it specifically lists various crimes, the broader application includes those convicted of offences related to the misuse of speech (such as promoting enmity between groups or defamation, depending on the sentence duration) which prevents them from contesting elections for a specified period.
 - Statement 2 is correct: Section 295A of the IPC is a "hate speech" law that criminalizes deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class of citizens by insulting its religion or religious beliefs.
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13) With reference to the Polar vortex, consider the following statements:

1. The term "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air that helps keep the colder air near the Poles.
2. Polar vortex always exists near the poles, but weakens in summer and strengthens in winter.
3. The polar vortex is held in place by the Earth's rotation and temperature differences between the Arctic and mid-latitudes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

- Statement 1 is correct: The polar vortex is a large area of low pressure and cold air surrounding both of the Earth's poles. The "vortex" refers to the counter-clockwise flow of air.
- Statement 2 is correct: It exists year-round but is most defined in winter when the temperature contrast between the poles and the equator is greatest.
- Statement 3 is correct: It is driven by the Earth's rotation (Coriolis effect) and the sharp temperature gradient between the cold Arctic and the warmer mid-latitudes.

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