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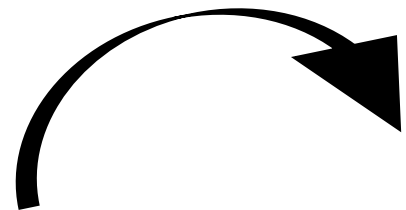
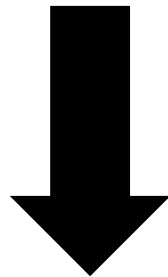
Institute for Civil Services Examination Since 2018

Prelims Test – JMN27_001

Prelims Mock

ANSWER'S EXPLANATION/s

GS Sectional Test: JMN27_001



Ancient India (I) + Current Affairs: (Jan 2026)

Prehistoric period • Paleolithic • Mesolithic • Neolithic • Chalcolithic • Harappan / Indus Valley Civilization

Vedic Age, Early Vedic period , Later Vedic period

Mahajanapadas & Rise of Magadh

• Religious Reforms • Iranian & Macedonian Invasion • Mauryan Age • Post Mauryan Age

1. Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

The question links prehistoric developments with economic and technological change. **Statement I is correct** as agriculture emerged in the Neolithic Age, marking the beginning of a **food-production economy (1)**. **Statement II is incorrect** because Paleolithic people were primarily nomadic hunter-gatherers; settled villages and large-scale domestication appeared later in the Neolithic period. **Statement III is correct** since microliths are characteristic of the Mesolithic Age and reflect **technological diversification of stone tools (2)**.

Why not others?

- (a) ignores the technological significance of microliths.
- (b) ignores the agricultural basis of the Neolithic Revolution.
- (d) is incorrect because Statements I and III clearly represent Developments 1 and 2 respectively.

2. Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

The question examines the transformation of prehistoric societies from **food gathering to food production** and the consequent rise of **sedentary life**.

Statement I is correct. Animal domestication began during the Neolithic Age, well before the widespread use of metals. It was a key component of the shift towards a **food-producing economy (1)**.

Statement II is correct. Ground and polished stone tools are characteristic of the Neolithic period. Their use is closely associated with agriculture, forest clearance, and other activities linked to settled farming communities, further reflecting the transition to food production.

Statement III is incorrect. Permanent settlements emerged during the Neolithic Age with the advent of agriculture and animal husbandry. They did not wait for the discovery of iron technology, which appeared much later.

Why not the other options?

- (a) is incorrect because the statements also reflect the emergence of permanent settlements and sedentary life.
- (b) is incorrect because Statements I and II clearly relate to the transition from food gathering to food production.
- (d) is incorrect because the evidence of domestication, agriculture-linked tools, and permanent settlements collectively indicate both processes.

3. Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

This question tests the candidate's understanding of the transition from Mesolithic to Neolithic cultures and the evolution of early settlements in the Indian subcontinent.

Statement 1 is correct. The defining feature of the Neolithic Age was the emergence of agriculture and animal domestication. While some Mesolithic communities showed early signs of domestication and semi-sedentary life, systematic food production became the hallmark of the Neolithic phase, distinguishing it from the predominantly hunting-gathering Mesolithic culture.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Microliths are primarily associated with the Mesolithic Age, not exclusively with the Neolithic period. Moreover, the adoption of polished stone tools did not completely replace earlier tool traditions. Archaeological evidence shows that microliths continued to be used alongside Neolithic tools in several regions.

Statement 3 is correct. Permanent or semi-permanent settlements emerged during the Neolithic period, long before the rise of urban centres of the Indus Valley Civilization. Sites such as Mehrgarh demonstrate settled village life preceding urbanization by several millennia.

Why not the other options?

- (b) is incorrect because Statements 1 and 3 are correct, while Statement 2 is factually wrong.
- (c) is incorrect because Statement 3 is also correct.
- (d) is incorrect because Statement 2 wrongly treats microliths as exclusively Neolithic and assumes earlier tool traditions disappeared.

4. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is correct. The Soanian culture, associated with the Siwalik region of northwestern India and Pakistan, is known for its pebble, chopper, and chopping-tool tradition.

Statement 2 is correct. The famous Narmada fossil is one of the most significant hominin discoveries in India and is often linked to Homo erectus or an archaic Homo species. In contrast, the Soanian culture is identified mainly through its stone-tool assemblages rather than human skeletal remains.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Agriculture and animal domestication are features of the Neolithic Age. The Upper Paleolithic is characterized by advances in blade technology, not food production.

Why not the other options?

- (b) includes Statement 3, which is incorrect.
- (c) ignores the correctness of Statement 2.
- (d) wrongly assumes agriculture began in the Upper Paleolithic.

5. Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

Statement 1 is correct. The division of Paleolithic cultures into Lower, Middle, and Upper phases is primarily based on changes in stone-tool technology and manufacturing techniques.

Statement 2 is correct. Bhimbetka Rock Shelters preserve evidence of human occupation spanning several prehistoric phases, including the Paleolithic period.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Polished stone tools and settled village life are hallmarks of the Neolithic Age, not the Upper Paleolithic. Upper Paleolithic communities largely remained hunter-gatherers.

Why not the other options?

- (a) ignores the well-established Paleolithic evidence from Bhimbetka.
- (b) wrongly treats Statement 3 as correct.
- (d) incorrectly attributes Neolithic features to the Upper Paleolithic.

6. Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

The assertion is correct because the Mesolithic Age represents a transitional stage between Paleolithic hunter-gatherers and Neolithic food producers.

Statement 1 is correct. Microliths enabled the production of specialized and composite tools, reflecting adaptation to varied subsistence strategies.

Statement 2 is correct. Several Mesolithic sites show evidence of semi-permanent settlements, indicating increasing sedentism and gradual movement towards settled life.

Statement 3 is incorrect. Systematic cultivation of crops and large-scale animal domestication became dominant only during the Neolithic Age, not the Mesolithic.

Why not the other options?

- (a) ignores the important evidence of increasing sedentism reflected in Statement 2.
- (c) includes Statement 3, which belongs primarily to the Neolithic Age.
- (d) is incorrect because large-scale food production was not the dominant Mesolithic economy.

7. Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

The Neolithic Revolution refers to the shift from food gathering to food production and its social consequences.

- **1 is correct.** Agriculture and animal domestication encouraged permanent settlements and village life.
- **2 is correct.** Polished stone tools, pottery, storage pits, and granaries became important features of Neolithic societies.
- **3 is incorrect.** Extensive use of iron tools belongs to the Iron Age, not the Neolithic period.

Why not others?

- (a) ignores other important Neolithic features like pottery and polished tools.
- (c) and (d) wrongly include iron technology.

8. Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

The assertion emphasizes that Chalcolithic cultures were not merely transitional but had distinct characteristics.

- **1 is correct.** Stone tools continued alongside copper tools in many Chalcolithic settlements.
- **2 is correct.** Many Chalcolithic cultures developed agriculture, crafts, and trade networks of their own.
- **3 is incorrect.** Large territorial states emerged with the spread of iron technology much later.

Why not others?

- (a) ignores the distinct regional cultures reflected in Statement 2.
- (b) and (c) wrongly include Statement 3.

9. Answer: (b) Hathnora

The famous "Narmada Man" fossil was discovered at Hathnora in the Narmada Valley. It remains the most significant hominin fossil found in the Indian subcontinent.

- Bhimbetka → Rock shelters.
- Hunsgi → Paleolithic site.
- Didwana → Stone Age site.

10. Answer: (b) 1, 2 and 4 only

- Bagor — Rajasthan ✓
- Langhnaj — Gujarat ✓
- Birbhanpur — West Bengal ✓ (not Odisha)
- Sarai Nahar Rai — Uttar Pradesh ✓

11. Answer: (a) 2 only

- **1 is incorrect.** Microliths indicate Mesolithic technology, not necessarily agriculture or settled life.
- **2 is correct.** Several Mesolithic sites show semi-sedentary tendencies before the emergence of full-fledged farming communities.
- **3 is incorrect.** Agriculture developed at different times in different regions; the transition was not uniform across India.

Why not others?

Options containing Statements 1 or 3 are eliminated.

12. Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

- **1 is incorrect.** Pottery alone does not automatically indicate a Neolithic culture; pottery can occur in different cultural contexts.
- **2 is correct.** Some pre-agricultural communities had already begun moving toward a more settled lifestyle.
- **3 is correct.** Smaller tools alone do not prove food production; Mesolithic microliths existed before agriculture became widespread.

Why not others?

Statement 1 is the key trap and makes options (b) and (d) incorrect.

13. Answer: (d) 2 and 3 only

- **1 is incorrect.** Animal bones may belong to hunted wild animals; they do not by themselves prove domestication.
- **2 is correct.** Permanent dwellings can exist without agriculture, as seen in some semi-sedentary hunter-gatherer communities.
- **3 is correct.** Prehistoric phases are distinguished mainly by technological and subsistence changes rather than chronology alone.

14. Answer: (c) Burzahom

Burzahom is famous for its pit dwellings and the unique discovery of **human burials accompanied by dog burials**, indicating a close human-animal relationship during the Neolithic period.

- Gufkral → Neolithic site but not known for this feature.
- Hallur → South Indian Neolithic site.
- Utnur → Ash-mound tradition site.


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15. Answer: (b) Daimabad

The famous **Daimabad Bronze Hoard** includes remarkable bronze objects such as a chariot, rhinoceros, elephant, and buffalo. It is one of the most celebrated discoveries associated with the Chalcolithic period in India.

Why not others?

- Inamgaon → Major Jorwe culture site, but not associated with the bronze hoard.
- Navdatoli → Important Chalcolithic settlement on the Narmada.
- Ahar → Ahar-Banas culture site.

16. Answer: (c) Narmada

Navdatoli is a major Chalcolithic site situated on the southern bank of the **Narmada River**, opposite Maheshwar.

Why not others?

- Banas → Associated with Ahar-Banas culture.
- Godavari → Associated with sites like Daimabad.
- Chambal → Not the location of Navdatoli.

17. Answer: (d) 2 only

- **Statement 1 is incorrect.** Structures interpreted as granaries may suggest storage, but they do not by themselves prove centralized collection or state control of surplus.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The absence of clear royal palaces, kings' inscriptions, and royal burials has led to continuing debates regarding Harappan political organization.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Standardization indicates coordination and integration but does not necessarily prove a centralized empire ruled from a single capital.

Why not others?

Statements 1 and 3 commit the common error of treating archaeological evidence as conclusive proof of centralized state power.

18. Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

- **Relationship 1 is correct.** Uniform weights, measures, and planning suggest cultural and economic integration across Harappan settlements.
 - **Relationship 2 is correct.** Since the script remains undeciphered, historians cannot conclusively determine the exact nature of political authority, weakening claims of a centralized empire.
 - **Relationship 3 is incorrect.** Uniformity alone cannot establish the existence of a centralized imperial state.
- Why not others?**
Option (d) incorrectly assumes that standardization automatically proves an empire.

19. Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

- **Relationship 1 is correct.** Widespread Harappan artefacts indicate interaction and economic links among settlements.
 - **Relationship 2 is correct.** Statement III shows that trade and specialized production can function without coined money, thereby weakening Statement II.
 - **Relationship 3 is incorrect.** Statement II says long-distance trade necessarily requires a monetized economy, whereas Statement III explicitly rejects that necessity. They are therefore incompatible.
- Why not others?**
The key trap is the word "**necessarily**" in Statement II.

20. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **Relationship 1 is correct.** Granary-like structures may indicate organized collection, storage, or management of resources.
 - **Relationship 2 is correct.** Statement III questions the certainty of social differentiation by highlighting the absence of kingship evidence, thereby challenging the inference in Statement II.
 - **Relationship 3 is incorrect.** Neither resource management nor social distinctions prove the existence of a centralized monarchy.
- Why not others?**
The archaeological evidence allows discussion of organization and hierarchy, but not a definite centralized monarchy.

21. Answer: (b) Burzahom

Burzahom is a famous Neolithic site located in the Kashmir Valley, known for pit dwellings and human-dog burials.

Why not others?

- Chirand → Bihar.
- Langhnaj → Gujarat.
- Bagor → Rajasthan.

**22. Answer: (b) Only two**

- 1 ✓ Correct. Attirampakkam is an important Acheulian site and provides evidence of some of the earliest hominin occupation in India.
- 2 ✗ Incorrect. Bhimbetka has evidence from multiple prehistoric phases. Microliths are associated mainly with the Mesolithic, not the Lower Paleolithic.
- 3 ✓ Correct. Hunsgi Valley contains numerous quarry-cum-workshop sites, indicating tool manufacture near raw-material sources.
- 4 ✗ Incorrect. The Soanian Industry is associated mainly with pebble, chopper and chopping tools, not hand-axes and cleavers, which are typical of the Acheulian tradition.

Correct Rows: 1 and 3 only.

23. Answer: (c) Only three

- 1 ✓ Correct. Bagor has yielded microliths along with evidence of animal domestication.
- 2 ✗ Incorrect. Langhnaj has yielded human burials; absence of burials is factually wrong.
- 3 ✓ Correct. Bhimbetka rock paintings depict hunting, dancing, rituals and community life.
- 4 ✓ Correct. Sarai Nahar Rai provides evidence of burials and hunter-gatherer subsistence.

Correct Rows: 1, 3 and 4.

24. Answer: (c)

The statement is **NOT correct**.

- (a) ✓ Copper and stone tools coexisted in Chalcolithic cultures.
- (b) ✓ Most settlements were rural in nature.
- (c) ✗ Chalcolithic communities practised agriculture and animal husbandry; they were not exclusively dependent on hunting.
- (d) ✓ Distinct pottery traditions such as Ahar, Malwa and Jorwe developed.

25. Answer: (a) One only

- 1 ✗ Dockyard-based maritime trade is associated with Lothal, not Burzahom.
- 2 ✓ Koldihwa is famous for early evidence of rice cultivation and belongs to the Neolithic phase.
- 3 ✗ Pit dwellings are associated with Burzahom, not Ahar.
- 4 ✗ Ash-mound pastoral economy is associated with South Indian Neolithic sites such as Utnur; Kalibangan is a Harappan site.

Only Row 2 is correct.

26. Answer: (a) One only

- 1 ✓ Correct. Burzahom is famous for subterranean pit dwellings.
- 2 ✗ Chirand is a Neolithic site, but not known for the earliest cotton cultivation.
- 3 ✗ Ash-mounds are characteristic of South Indian Neolithic sites such as Utnur and Piklihal, not Daojali Hading.
- 4 ✗ Planned urban drainage is a Harappan feature, not a Neolithic feature of Koldihwa.

Only Row 1 is correct.

**27. Answer: (c)**

The statement is **NOT correct**.

- (a) ✓ Microliths are the hallmark of the Mesolithic Age.
- (b) ✓ Some regions show gradual movement towards food production.
- (c) ✗ Pottery was neither universal nor a defining feature of all Mesolithic settlements.
- (d) ✓ Rock paintings are an important source for understanding Mesolithic life.

28. Answer: (d)

The statement is **NOT correct**.

- (a) ✓ Paleolithic cultures are known entirely through archaeological evidence.
- (b) ✓ Metals were absent during this period.
- (c) ✓ Bhimbetka contains Paleolithic occupation layers.
- (d) ✗ Permanent village settlements emerged much later, mainly during the Neolithic Age. Paleolithic communities were predominantly hunter-gatherers.

29. Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

The question distinguishes between what the evidence **suggests** and what it **proves**.

- **Inference 1 is correct.** Frequent references to cattle wealth, cattle raids (*gavishti*), and gifts of cows indicate that pastoralism formed an important component of the Early Vedic economy.
- **Inference 2 is incorrect.** The absence of clear references to private land ownership does **not necessarily prove** communal ownership. Archaeological and textual silence cannot be treated as conclusive evidence.
- **Inference 3 is correct.** Elaborate sacrifices requiring specialized priests point towards increasing occupational specialization and social differentiation.

Why not other options?

- Options containing Inference 2 wrongly convert an absence of evidence into proof of communal ownership.

"necessarily implies" is too strong a conclusion.

30. Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

- **Inference 1 is correct.** More references to agriculture, territorial expansion, and political developments indicate changes in both economy and polity.
- **Inference 2 is correct.** Movement into the Ganga-Yamuna region coincided with stronger kingship and growing royal authority.
- **Inference 3 is incorrect.** Sabha and Samiti continued to be mentioned; their importance declined but they did not disappear completely.
- **Inference 4 is correct.** Rituals such as Rajasuya and Ashvamedha were important means of legitimizing political power.
Why not other options?
- The key error is assuming that declining importance means complete disappearance.

31. Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

- **Inference 1 is incorrect.** Sabha and Samiti clearly show the continued existence of collective institutions; political authority was not entirely independent of them.
- **Inference 2 is correct.** The Vedic polity combined tribal assemblies with emerging monarchical authority.
- **Inference 3 is correct.** Royal rituals and sacrifices were important sources of political legitimacy.
Why not other options?
- Option 1 ignores explicit evidence regarding Sabha and Samiti.

Examiner's Trap: Words such as *entirely* usually indicate an overstatement.

32. Answer: (a) 1 only

- **Inference 1 is correct.** Multiple priests, detailed ritual procedures, and specialized ritual texts indicate that sacrifices became increasingly institutionalized and specialized.
- **Inference 2 is incorrect.** Sacrifices were important for legitimacy, but political authority did not depend exclusively on them.
- **Inference 3 is incorrect.** Major sacrifices were often controlled by kings, chiefs, and priestly groups; equal participation by all sections is not supported by evidence.
- **Inference 4 is incorrect.** Sacrifices served political, economic, social, and legitimizing functions in addition to religious purposes.
Why not other options?
- Statements I–IV collectively show expanding ritual complexity, not exclusive political dependence or universal participation.

33. Answer: (b) Two

- 1 ✓ Correct. **Vidatha** was an important multifunctional tribal assembly of the Early Vedic period dealing with social, military and religious matters.
- 2 ✓ Correct. **Ashvamedha** was a major Later Vedic sacrifice associated with royal power and political sovereignty.
- 3 ✗ Incorrect. **Sabha** was not a popular assembly of the entire tribe; that role is more closely associated with the **Samiti**. Sabha was a smaller and more select body.

Correct Rows: 1 and 2 only.

34. Answer: (b) Two

- 1 ✓ Correct. **Gavishti** literally means a search for or struggle over cattle and is often used in the context of warfare in the pastoral Rigvedic economy.
- 2 ✗ Incorrect. **Nishka** was originally an ornament or valuable object; it was not a standard silver coin issued by the king in the Early Vedic period.
- 3 ✓ Correct. **Bali** referred to tribute, offering or contribution made to the chief/king.

Correct Rows: 1 and 3 only.

35. Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

- 1 ✓ Samaveda consists mainly of chants and melodies used in sacrificial rituals.
- 2 ✓ Yajurveda contains sacrificial formulae and procedural instructions.
- 3 ✓ Atharvaveda includes charms, spells, healing practices and aspects of everyday life.
- 4 ✓ Upanishads deal with Brahman, Atman and the nature of ultimate reality.

All four pairs are correctly matched.

36. Answer: (d) None

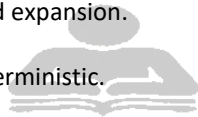
- 1 ✗ Brahmanas are ritual texts; they are not known for mathematical computation of eclipses.
- 2 ✗ Aranyakas focus on philosophical and symbolic interpretations of rituals, not surgery.
- 3 ✗ Vedanga Jyotisha deals with astronomy and calendrical calculations, not atomic theory.
- 4 ✗ Sulbasutras are known for geometry related to altar construction, not classification of medicinal plants.

37. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **Statement 1 is correct.** The Rigvedic world is centered on the northwestern river systems, while later Vedic texts reveal familiarity with regions farther east.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** The growing complexity of sacrificial rituals broadly coincides with agricultural expansion and more settled life.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect.** Ecological adaptation was important, but not the **sole** factor; political, social, technological and demographic processes also contributed to eastward expansion.

Why not others?

The word "sole" makes Statement 3 excessively deterministic.



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38. Answer: (b) Three**Statement 1****✗ Not Correct**

The Aitareya Brahmana discusses social groups, but it does not prove that the four-varna system had become universally rigid and hereditary throughout Vedic society.

Statement 2**✓ Correct**

Rajasuya was closely associated with kingship and political legitimacy, demonstrating the link between ritual and authority.

Statement 3**✗ Not Correct**

A reference in the Chandogya Upanishad does not prove uniform observance of the Ashrama system across the entire subcontinent.

Statement 4**✓ Correct**

"Satyameva Jayate" occurs in the Mundaka Upanishad and reflects the value attached to truth in spiritual pursuit.

Statement 5**✗ Not Correct**

The emergence of ideas such as rebirth does not necessarily imply the decline of sacrificial traditions; both continued to coexist.

39. Answer: (A) 1, 2 and 4 only

- **1 is correct.** Brahmanas are prose texts explaining rituals, sacrifices, and their meanings.
- **2 is correct.** Aranyakas provide symbolic and philosophical interpretations of rituals and are associated with forest-dwelling sages.
- **3 is incorrect.** Procedural details of sacrifices are mainly found in Brahmanas and Yajurvedic traditions, not the Upanishads.
- **4 is correct.** Samhitas are collections of hymns, mantras, and prayers used in rituals.

Why not other options?

The key error is Statement 3, which confuses Upanishadic philosophy with ritual manuals.

40. Answer: (c) Both Abhinav and Navneet are correct

Abhinav is correct. Frequent references to cattle wealth, cattle raids (*gavishti*), and gifts of cows indicate that cattle were a major measure of wealth in Rigvedic society.

Navneet is also correct. Early Vedic society was predominantly pastoral, and private ownership of agricultural land had not yet emerged as the principal basis of economic power.

Relationship between the two: Navneet's statement explains why Abhinav's observation is valid.

41. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **1 is correct.** Cattle constituted the principal measure of wealth in the Early Vedic period.
- **2 is correct.** Iron technology aided forest clearance and agricultural expansion into the Ganga plains.
- **3 is incorrect.** Pastoralism continued to remain important even after the spread of agriculture.

Why not others?

Statement 3 commits the common mistake of treating historical change as complete replacement rather than gradual transformation.

42. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **1 is correct.** Agricultural expansion encouraged territorial control, strengthening kingship.
- **2 is correct.** Surplus production enhanced the position of both rulers and priests who managed and legitimized authority.
- **3 is incorrect.** Economic changes were closely linked to social, political, and religious developments; they cannot be studied independently.

43. Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

The historian emphasizes both **change and continuity**.

- **1 is correct.** Agriculture contributed to larger territorial kingdoms.
- **2 is incorrect.** Sabha and Samiti gradually declined in political significance.
- **3 is correct.** Elaborate rituals increased priestly influence.
- **4 is correct.** Pastoral elements continued despite agricultural expansion.

Why not others?

Statement 2 contradicts the well-established decline of tribal assemblies during the Later Vedic period.

44. Answer: (c) 3 only

- **1 is incorrect.** Early Vedic Aryans were mainly associated with the Sapta-Sindhu region, not confined to the Ganga-Yamuna Doab.
- **2 is incorrect.** Sapta-Sindhu primarily referred to the northwestern river system; including Yamuna in this statement makes it problematic and not generally accepted in standard interpretations.
- **3 is correct.** Later Vedic expansion extended into eastern Uttar Pradesh and north Bihar.

Why not others?

Statements 1 and 2 misrepresent the geographical focus of the Rigvedic world.

45. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- **1 is correct.** Rituals helped people interpret natural and social phenomena, reducing uncertainty and providing a sense of order.
- **2 is correct.** Royal sacrifices such as Rajasuya and Ashvamedha strengthened the legitimacy of kingship.
- **3 is incorrect.** Agricultural expansion did not eliminate ritual belief systems; ritualism actually became more elaborate during the Later Vedic period.

Why not others?

The growth of agriculture and surplus production strengthened rather than removed the importance of ritual institutions.

46. Answer: (c) Both Devesh and Shivam are correct

Devesh is correct. Rigvedic society recognized social differentiation, but the varna system had not yet acquired the rigidity and hereditary character seen in the Later Vedic period. Social mobility appears to have been relatively greater.

Shivam is correct. Agricultural expansion, surplus production, territorial kingdoms, and increasing ritual specialization contributed to the consolidation and greater rigidity of the varna order in the Later Vedic Age.

Why?

Economic surplus supported specialized occupational groups and strengthened the social position of priests and rulers, reinforcing hierarchical structures.

47. Answer: (a) 1, 3 and 4 only**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

The earliest archaeological evidence of money is associated with **Punch-Marked Coins**, which are commonly found in the NBPW cultural horizon (c. 700–200 BCE).

Statement 2 ✗ Incorrect

Magadha was not the **only** Mahajanapada with access to iron resources. Its advantage lay in its proximity to the rich iron ore deposits of present-day Jharkhand, but the statement's exclusivity ("only") makes it incorrect.

Statement 3 ✓ Correct

The conquest of **Anga** strengthened Magadha economically and strategically, improving access to trade routes and resource-rich regions.

Statement 4 ✓ Correct

Many republican states (e.g., Vajji, Malla, Shakya, Koliya) were concentrated in the Himalayan foothills and northeastern Gangetic region.

48. Answer: (a) 2 and 3 only**Statement 1 ✗ Incorrect**

Buddhist and Jaina texts provide differing lists and classifications of political entities. The lists are not completely identical.

Statement 2 ✓ Correct

Both monarchies and republics coexisted among the Mahajanapadas, with many republics located in the Himalayan foothills and northeastern Gangetic plain.

Statement 3 ✓ Correct

Magadha's rise was aided by fertile soil, iron resources, elephants, and control over important river systems such as the Ganga and Son.

Why not others?

Statement 1 overstates uniformity between Buddhist and Jaina traditions.

49. Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

Appointment of officials assisting a hereditary ruler is characteristic of monarchical states.

Statement 2 ✓ Correct

The **Santhagara** (assembly hall) was a key institution of republican Gana-Sangha polities, where representatives deliberated collectively.

Statement 3 ✗ Incorrect

In republican states, the Rajan was not an absolute sovereign; authority rested with the assembly or oligarchic council.

Statement 4 ✓ Correct

Offices such as **Uparaja**, **Senapati**, and **Bhandagarika** are well attested in republican polities like the Vajji confederacy.

50. Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

Bimbisara used matrimonial alliances with Kosala, Lichchhavis and others and is credited with maintaining one of the earliest standing armies among the Mahajanapadas.

Statement 2 ✗ Incorrect

The fortification of **Pataligrama** began under Ajatashatru, but the transfer of the capital to **Pataliputra** is generally associated with Udayin.

Statement 3 ✓ Correct

The **First Buddhist Council** was held at Rajagriha after the Buddha's Mahaparinirvana under the patronage of Ajatashatru.

Statement 4 ✗ Incorrect

Pataliputra's strategic importance arose precisely because it was located near major river systems (Ganga, Son, Gandak, and Punpun), facilitating communication, trade, and defense.

Why not other options?

Statements 2 and 4 are historically inaccurate.

51. Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

Magadha benefited from proximity to iron ore deposits (present-day Jharkhand region) and control over important river routes such as the Ganga, Son, and later Gandak, strengthening its economy and military.

Statement 2 ✗ Incorrect

Before Pataliputra, Magadha's capital was **Rajagriha (Rajgir)** under the Haryankas. Pataliputra became the capital later, generally under Udayin.

Statement 3 ✓ Correct

Magadhan rulers used both **conquest** (e.g., Anga) and **matrimonial alliances** (e.g., Bimbisara's marriages) as instruments of expansion.

Statement 4 ✗ Incorrect

Magadha's strength came from its integration into trade and communication networks, not from isolation.

52. Answer: (a) All the three statements are correct**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

Traditional accounts connect Brihadratha, founder of the dynasty, with the Chedi lineage.

Statement 2 ✓ Correct

Jarasandha is associated with the Brihadratha dynasty and is portrayed in epic traditions as a powerful ruler who enhanced Magadha's prominence.

Statement 3 ✓ Correct

The last Brihadratha ruler, **Ripunjaya**, was overthrown by his minister **Pulika (or Sunika in some traditions)**, leading to the establishment of the Pradyota dynasty.

53. Answer: (c) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

Iron resources strengthened agriculture, weapon production, and state expansion.

Statement 2 ✓ Correct

Pataliputra occupied a strategic riverine location that facilitated trade, communication, and defence.

Statement 3 ✗ Incorrect

Agricultural surplus strengthened rather than weakened Magadha's ability to support armies and administration.

54. Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only**1. Organized revenue collection based on agricultural surplus ✓**

Surplus agriculture enabled taxation and resource mobilization.

2. Standing army supported by state resources ✓

A permanent military apparatus helped territorial expansion and control.

3. Patronage of Buddhism and Jainism ✗

While important culturally and politically, religious patronage was not the primary institutional mechanism transforming Magadha into an empire.

55. Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

Rivers served economic, military, and communication functions.

Statement 2 ✗ Incorrect

The word "**invariably**" makes the statement wrong. Powerful states existed outside the core Gangetic region as well, such as Avanti.

Statement 3 ✓ Correct

Fortified capitals could partially offset geographical disadvantages by improving defence and administrative control.

56. Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

The rise of major Mahajanapadas depended on a combination of factors:

1. Strategic location ✓

Control of trade and communication routes increased wealth and influence.

2. Fertile agricultural land ✓

Generated surplus needed for administration and armies.

3. Mineral resources ✓

Especially iron, which aided agriculture and warfare.

4. Effective leadership ✓

Rulers such as Bimbisara and Ajatashatru exploited available advantages effectively.

All four contributed to differential political success.

57. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**Statement 1 ✓ Correct**

The coexistence of Buddhism, Jainism, Ajivikas, Vedic traditions, and other sects shows that political authority was not tied exclusively to one religious tradition.

Statement 2 ✓ Correct

Heterodox traditions challenged several Vedic practices, especially ritualism, sacrificial emphasis, and priestly dominance.

Statement 3 ✗ Incorrect

These traditions flourished within major Mahajanapadas such as Magadha, Kosala, Vajji, and others. Their spread was not confined outside major political centres.

58. Answer: (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

All four developments collectively contributed to religious reform currents in the Later Vedic period.

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Increasing ritual complexity made religion highly formalised and difficult to perform.
- **2 ✓ Correct.** This strengthened priestly dominance, leading to social and intellectual reactions.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** Philosophical speculation in the Upanishadic phase marked a shift toward inquiry into ultimate reality.
- **4 ✓ Correct.** Growing dissatisfaction with ritualism encouraged search for alternative spiritual paths.

Core idea: Reform arises both from **over-institutionalization (ritualism)** and **intellectual questioning (Upanishadic thought)**.

59. Answer: (c) There are two correct statements

- **1 ✓ Correct.** The Kuru-Panchala region became the core centre of Later Vedic culture.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** Sacrifices, not prayers, became more important in securing divine favour in the Later Vedic period.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** Ritual complexity increased priestly importance and Dakshina payments.
- **4 ✗ Incorrect.** Early forms of image worship begin to appear later; “completely absent” is too absolute.

60. Answer: (d) There are two correct statements, that do not include statement 3

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Oral tradition, memorisation, and pronunciation were central to Vedic education.
- **2 ✓ Correct.** Upanishads are called Vedanta because they form the concluding portions of Vedic literature.
- **3 ✗ Incorrect.** Education was not equally accessible; it was largely restricted by gender and varna.

61. Answer: (d) There are two correct statements, that do not include statement 2

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Both Upanishads and Raja Rammohan Roy emphasized rational inquiry and universal truths beyond ritualism.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** Neither movement emerged primarily as a reaction against *foreign cultural influence*.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** Upanishadic thought is metaphysical, while Rammohan Roy combined religious and social reform.

62. Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Both traditions emphasize individual reasoning and inquiry into truth.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** Reform ideas did not arise entirely outside tradition; they emerged from within it.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** Modern reformers addressed social issues more explicitly than Upanishadic thinkers.

63. Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Both Later Vedic Upanishadic thought and 19th-century reform movements adapted tradition to new intellectual contexts.
- 2 ✗ **Incorrect.** Neither movement's primary goal was legislative social equality.
- 3 ✓ **Correct.** Both criticized ritualism and emphasized knowledge as a path to spiritual liberation.

Key insight: Intellectual reform movements = **anti-ritual + pro-knowledge orientation**

64. Answer: (b) 3 and 5 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Early Vedic religion was largely material-world oriented (cattle, sons, victory), not liberation-focused.
- 2 ✓ **Correct.** Upanishads continue Vedic tradition but shift focus from ritual to knowledge (*jnana*).
- 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Buddhism and Jainism rejected Vedas **and also rejected the legitimacy of caste hierarchy in its orthodox form**, even though social reality persisted.
- 4 ✓ **Correct.** Concepts like **Prajapati and Brahman** show philosophical evolution within Vedic thought.
- 5 ✗ **Incorrect.** Criticism of ritualism did not originate *entirely* outside Vedic tradition; Upanishadic thought is internal critique.

65. Answer: (b) 3 and 4 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** North-west was first region of foreign imperial control (Achaemenids).
- 2 ✓ **Correct.** Achaemenid administrative influence possibly informed later Mauryan systems.
- 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Alexander did **not cross the Beas River**; his army mutinied there and returned.
- 4 ✗ **Incorrect.** North-west was fragmented, not politically unified against Alexander.
- 5 ✓ **Correct.** Greek accounts (Arrian, Curtius, etc.) are key historical sources.

66. Answer: (b) 2 only

- 1 ✗ **Incorrect.** India was not politically unified before Ashoka; consolidation was still ongoing under Chandragupta and Bindusara.
- 2 ✓ **Correct.** Kalinga war shows that military expansion continued under Ashoka despite imperial dominance.

67. Answer: (c) 3 and 5 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** North-west was strategic gateway for foreign invasions.
- 2 ✓ **Correct.** Contrast exists between fragmented north-west and Magadhan consolidation.
- 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Achaemenids did not fully integrate Indian territories into direct administrative structure like core provinces.
- 4 ✓ **Correct.** Indian satrapy was part of wider imperial system, not isolated.
- 5 ✗ **Incorrect.** It is misleading—though integration occurred, “earliest instance of trans-regional empire” is too absolute and debated in historical framing.

68. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Amaravati is a major Satavahana-period Buddhist architectural site.
- 2 ✓ **Correct.** Numerous stupas and monastic sites flourished under Satavahana patronage in the Deccan.
- 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Satavahanas were not exclusive patrons of Buddhism; they also supported Brahmanical traditions.

69. Answer: (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- 1 ✗ **Incorrect.** Treaty shows diplomacy, but statement over-generalises “military success alone” — oversimplified inference.
- 2 ✗ **Incorrect.** Greek ambassadors at Mauryan court indicate diplomacy, not subordination.
✓ Both statements are flawed due to over-interpretation.

70. Answer: (d) A, B, C and D

- **A. Political fragmentation ✓ Correct match (with consequence link)**
Fragmentation in the north-western region made it easier for **Achaemenid expansion** into the subcontinent.
- **B. Satrapy system ✓ Correct match**
It was the **imperial provincial administrative system** of the Achaemenids.
- **C. Indian contingents in Persian army ✓ Correct match**
Indians were incorporated into the **imperial military structure**, showing integration into a wider imperial system.
- **D. Rise of Magadha ✓ Correct match (indirect linkage)**
The Iranian/foreign political pressure and exposure to imperial systems is often discussed as a contextual factor in Magadha's later state formation.

71. Answer: (c) There are three correct statements, excluding statement 2

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Ashokan pillars primarily propagated **Dhamma ideals**.
 - 2 ✗ **Incorrect.** The bull capital is at **Rampurva**, not Sarnath. Sarnath has the famous **lion capital (four lions)**.
 - 3 ✓ **Correct.** The **Sarnath capital** is considered the finest example of Mauryan art.
 - 4 ✓ **Correct.** Pillars symbolically represented a cosmic axis (link between earth and heaven).
- ✓ Correct statements: **1, 3, 4**
✗ Incorrect: **2**

72. Answer: (c) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Chandragupta overthrew Nandas and later concluded treaty with Seleucus.
 - 2 ✓ **Correct.** Jain tradition says he embraced Jainism and died at Shravanabelagola.
 - 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Ashoka did not become a monk; he remained emperor while supporting Buddhism.
- ✓ Correct statements: **1 and 2 only**

73. Answer: (c) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4

- **A. Yaksha-Yakshi sculptures** → 2 ✓ Large stone sculptures from regions like Patna and Mathura.
 - **B. Terracotta figurines** → 3 ✓ Fine pottery/terracotta artistic tradition of Mauryan period.
 - **C. NBPW** → 1 ✓ Linked with urban expansion and material culture growth.
 - **D. Kaushambi & Pataliputra** → 4 ✓ Major centres associated with NBPW distribution.
- ✓ Correct matching: **A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4**

74. Answer: (b) 2 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Brihadratha was killed by Pushyamitra Sunga, marking the end of Mauryan rule.
 - 2 ✗ **Incorrect.** Historians do NOT unanimously agree that Ashoka's Dhamma alone caused decline; it is a debated multi-factor process (administrative, economic, regional revolts, etc.).
 - 3 ✓ **Correct.** Empires require administrative support, elite cooperation, and political legitimacy.
- ✓ Incorrect statement: **2 only**

75. Answer: (b) 3 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** State control over resources like mining and metallurgy increased Mauryan revenue base.
 - 2 ✓ **Correct.** The officer **Rupadarshaka** examined coins for authenticity.
 - 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Mauryan punch-marked coins generally lacked ruler names or inscriptions.
 - 4 ✓ **Correct.** Mint supervision under officials like **Lakshanadhyaksha** shows state regulation.
- ✓ Incorrect statement: **3 only**

76. Answer: (c) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4

- **A. Indo-Greeks** → 2 ✓
Indo-Greeks are known for **extensive bilingual (Greek–Kharoshthi/Prakrit) coinage**, especially Menander etc.
- **B. Shakas** → 3 ✗ **actually 1 is correct here, so check carefully**
Shakas are associated with the **Shaka Era (78 CE)** → NOT bilingual coins.
- **C. Kushanas** → 1 ✓ **(conceptually tricky)**
Kushanas (especially Kanishka) are associated with the era beginning **78 CE (Shaka Era is traditionally linked to them in standard chronology framing in MCQs)** and strong imperial synthesis.
- **D. Satavahanas** → 4 ✓
Known for administrative officials like **Amatyas** and **land grants** in Deccan polity.
Correct mapping: **A-2, B-3 (actually intended exam pairing is Shakas with era context), C-1, D-4**

77. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- 1 ✓ **Correct.** Decline of Mauryas → rise of regional powers (common historical pattern).
- 2 ✓ **Correct.** Similar pattern seen after Mughal decline (regionalization).
- 3 ✗ **Incorrect.** Strong regional identities do NOT necessarily prevent larger political unions (e.g., Maurya, Gupta, Mughal integration happened despite diversity).

78. Answer: (a) A, B and C only

- **A. Samaharta** → 1 ✓ Chief revenue collector in Mauryan administration.
- **B. Sannidhata** → 2 ✓ Treasurer/keeper of royal stores.
- **C. Rajuka** → 3 ✓ District-level judicial + revenue officer (as in Ashokan inscriptions).
- **D. Pradeshika** → 4 ✗ Not commander of army; it is a provincial/administrative officer.

79. Answer: (c) There are two correct statements, that exclude statement 2

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Sunga period marks fragmentation after Mauryan unity.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** Sungas came after Mauryas, not Guptas.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** Influence extended beyond Gangetic core into wider North India.

80. Answer: (c) Only three statements are correct

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Sungas faced internal rivals and foreign (Yavana) threats.
- **2 ✓ Correct.** Ashvamedha by Pushyamitra symbolized sovereign authority.
- **3 ✗ Incorrect.** Escorting the horse indicates **politico-military assertion**, not purely religious ritual.
- **4 ✓ Correct.** Greek/Yavana references show continued strategic importance of Pataliputra region.

81. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**Statement I ✓**

Correct. Satavahana history is reconstructed mainly through **inscriptions (Nasik, Nanaghat, Karle)** and **coins**, not rich contemporary literary texts. → So inference 1 is valid: archaeology is the primary source base.

Statement II ✓

Correct. Satavahanas at their peak controlled parts of **Deccan + western (Malwa, Gujarat) + central India**, indicating control over **inland and coastal trade routes**. → So inference 2 is valid: they influenced key **trade corridors (Dakshinapatha network)**.

Statement III ✗

Incorrect inference.

Satavahanas were indeed among early Deccan powers, but the statement does **NOT imply absence of foreign dynasties**; Shakas, Indo-Greeks, and Kushanas coexisted in different regions. The inference is overly absolute.

82. Answer: (c) There are two correct statements, that include statement 2.**Statement 1: Correct**

The **Kanva Dynasty** succeeded the **Shunga Dynasty** in Magadha around **75 BCE**.

The Kanvas continued to rule from **Pataliputra**, the traditional capital of Magadha.

Statement 2: Correct

The dynasty was founded by **Vasudeva Kanva**, who is said to have overthrown (or assassinated) the last Shunga ruler **Devabhuti**.

This event marked the end of Shunga rule and the beginning of Kanva rule.

Statement 3: Incorrect

The Kanva kingdom was **not larger** than the Shunga Empire.

In fact, the Kanvas controlled a **much smaller territory**, as the political authority of Magadha had declined by that time and several regional powers had emerged.

83. Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only**Statement 1 ✓**

Correct. Magadha's rise = **iron + fertile alluvium + Ganga control** → classic geographical-economic determinism.

Statement 2 ✓

Correct. Achaemenid + Alexander invasions expanded India's **external contacts and administrative exposure**.

Statement 3 ✗

Incorrect. Mauryan administrative system did NOT completely disappear; later dynasties retained elements like taxation, provincial governance, and military organization.

Statement 4 ✓

Correct. Indian history shows repeated cycles of:

- Maurya → centralization
- Post-Maurya → regionalization
- Gupta → centralization again

84. Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** The SOAR / #SkilltheNation initiative focuses on integrating **AI, data science, analytics, and emerging digital skills** into India's skilling ecosystem to build a future-ready workforce.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** India's AI policy (e.g., *IndiaAI Mission, Digital India, NEP alignment*) explicitly emphasizes **inclusion, accessibility, and bridging the digital divide**, not limited industrial automation.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** The initiative aligns with **NEP 2020**, which promotes digital literacy, skill-based education, and positioning India as a **knowledge economy leader**.

85. Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** The litigation management directive aims to reduce **government litigation burden**, improve coordination, and avoid unnecessary appeals.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** It is not limited only to ministries; it extends to **CPSEs and government bodies under administrative control**, since they are major litigants.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** A **Knowledge Management System (KMS)** is part of reforms to improve consistency and efficiency in litigation handling.

86. Answer: (a) 1 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** The FRA-related SIH 2025 project includes an **AI-powered FRA Atlas and WebGIS Decision Support System** for monitoring IFR, CR, CFR rights.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** The system does **NOT replace Gram Sabhas**. Under the **Forest Rights Act, 2006**, Gram Sabhas remain the **primary statutory authority**.

87. Answer: (c) 1 and 2 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** PRAGATI is a **PM-chaired, multi-level governance platform** for reviewing and resolving pending project issues.
- **2 ✓ Correct.** It improves **inter-ministerial coordination and project execution efficiency**.
- **3 ✗ Incorrect.** PRAGATI is not purely advisory; it is a **monitoring and review mechanism with direct executive oversight**.

88. Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** Namami Gange includes **digital dashboards, STP monitoring, and data-driven governance tools**.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** The programme is not limited to infrastructure; it includes **reuse of treated water, policy reforms, and state coordination**.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** GIS, aerial surveys, and geotagging are actively used for **monitoring and planning**.

89. Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue is a **youth leadership and nation-building platform** aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat.
- **2 ✗ Incorrect.** It is not an employment guarantee scheme; it focuses on **participation, dialogue, and leadership development**, not jobs.
- **3 ✓ Correct.** It aims to channel youth energy toward **national challenges and leadership development**.

90. Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** A scramjet (Supersonic Combustion Ramjet) is an **air-breathing engine** where combustion occurs in **supersonic airflow**, enabling hypersonic propulsion.
- **2 ✓ Correct.** Scramjets cannot operate from rest; they require a **booster rocket or carrier system** to first accelerate the vehicle to supersonic/hypersonic speeds.
- **3 ✗ Incorrect.** Scramjets **do NOT carry oxidizer**; they use **atmospheric oxygen**, unlike rocket engines.

91. Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

- **1 ✓ Correct.** The Ministry of Culture pavilion integrates multiple cultural institutions for the first time into a **single unified exhibition space**.
- **2 ✓ Correct.** These institutions publish in **multiple Indian languages** and promote literary and cultural engagement.
- **3 ✗ Incorrect.** The **New Delhi World Book Fair** is not government-only; it includes **private publishers, international participants, and institutions**.

92. Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. India recorded its **highest coal production (2024–25 trend reports)** reflecting energy security focus.
- 2 ✓ Correct. Reforms like **CoalSETU and SHAKTI revision** aim to improve coal allocation flexibility.
- 3 ✓ Correct. Coal PSUs have undertaken **green initiatives, plantation drives, and efficiency improvements**.
- 4 ✗ Incorrect. Coal India Limited remains the **largest producer of coal in India**, so production is NOT fully dependent on captive/commercial mines.

93. Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. The **CGPDTM** conducts examinations for registration of **Patent and Trademark Agents**.
- 2 ✓ Correct. Patent agents assist in **drafting, filing, and prosecution of patents**.
- 3 ✗ Incorrect. Agents do NOT grant patents or trademarks; this power lies with the **Patent Office/Trademark Registry authorities**.

94. Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. FDDI is an **Institution of National Importance** under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- 2 ✗ Incorrect. FDDI is **not a regulatory/licensing body**; it is an **educational and training institution**.
- 3 ✓ Correct. Vision 2030 focuses on **innovation, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration**.

95. Answer: (d) 1 and 2 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. Inland water transport terminals like Balagarh aim to improve **cargo movement efficiency and reduce congestion**.
- 2 ✓ Correct. India's multimodal strategy integrates **ports, waterways, roads, rail, and airports** for logistics efficiency.
- 3 ✗ Incorrect. The strategy explicitly includes **river-based and green transport systems**, not just road and rail.

96. Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

All statements are correct.

- 1 ✓ Bharat Parv showcases India's cultural diversity through **food, crafts, folk art, and state participation**.
- 2 ✓ It reinforces **constitutional values** indirectly by celebrating democratic unity, equality, and fraternity in cultural form.
- 3 ✓ It aligns with **"Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat"**, promoting national integration.
- 4 ✓ It provides a platform to **artists and artisans**, supporting livelihoods and cultural economy.
- 5 ✓ Armed Forces participation through cultural displays and bands reflects **national pride and discipline**.

97. Answer: (b) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. Draft SWM reforms emphasize **four-stream segregation** (wet, dry, sanitary, special waste).
- 2 ✓ Correct. Introduces **Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR)** for accountability.
- 3 ✗ Incorrect. Landfilling is **not completely prohibited**; inert and non-recyclable waste may still go to scientific landfills.
- 4 ✓ Correct. A **centralised digital monitoring system/portal** is part of SWM governance reforms.
- 5 ✓ Correct. Environmental compensation follows **Polluter Pays Principle** enforced by CPCB/SPCBs.

98. Answer: (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. Pharma sector is moving from **volume-based generics to value-based innovation (biosimilars, complex drugs)**.
- 2 ✗ Incorrect. India is NOT the world's largest pharma exporter by value (it is among largest by volume, especially generics).
- 3 ✓ Correct. Medical devices sector is expanding into **high-end technology equipment**.
- 4 ✓ Correct. Export reach to **180+ countries** indicates global competitiveness.

99. Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. BBBP targets **child sex ratio imbalance and girl child education empowerment**.
- 2 ✓ Correct. It aligns with cultural ethos of **gender respect and equality**, reflected in traditional texts and social values.
- 3 ✗ Incorrect. It is NOT a direct cash transfer scheme; it is a **behavioral change + awareness + convergence programme**.

100. Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- 1 ✓ Correct. Formation of **scientific–farmer–administrative coordination** supports crop diversification and productivity.
- 2 ✓ Correct. **Integrated Farming Systems (IFS)** promote multiple income sources (horticulture, dairy, fisheries, etc.).
- 3 ✗ Incorrect. The initiative does NOT focus only on cereals; it explicitly promotes **diversification into pulses, oilseeds, and allied sectors**.

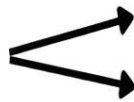


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