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FOR PPSC PRELIMS 2025

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Punjab Budget

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Drug Census 2025-26:

1. The Punjab government has allocated Rs 150 crore for conducting the first-ever drug census in the state
2. The census aims to collect data only on drug usage in urban areas of Punjab.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The drug census is **not limited to urban areas.** It is statewide, covering every household in Punjab—rural and urban alike—to gather comprehensive data on drug prevalence, de-addiction centre usage, and socioeconomic conditions

Q. Consider the following statements about the "Khed-da Punjab, Badalda Punjab" initiative launched in Punjab for 2025-26:

1. The government has allocated Rs 979 crore for this initiative, marking a 355% increase in sports funding compared to the previous year.
2. The initiative includes the construction of 3,000 world-class indoor gyms throughout Punjab.
3. The primary goal is to promote drug use awareness through sports-related education programs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2
B. 2 and 3
C. 1 and 3
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect** because the campaign's primary goal is to promote sports and youth engagement to combat drug issues, but not specifically through drug use awareness education programs; rather, by providing sports infrastructure and opportunities.
- It is a strategic effort **to engage youth through sports** as part of the broader **"Yudh Nasheyan Virudh"** (War Against Drugs) campaign—offering productive alternatives to steer them away from drugs.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Mukh Mantri Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana:

1. The scheme provides cashless medical treatment coverage up to Rs 10 lakh per family.
2. It covers treatment only in government hospitals within Punjab.
3. The Sehat Card issued under the scheme requires only basic identity proof like Aadhaar for registration.
4. The scheme excludes families who are covered under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one
B. Only two
C. Only three
D. All 4

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect** because treatment can be availed in both government and empaneled private hospitals.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect** because the scheme also provides additional coverage for families already covered under Ayushman Bharat.

Q. Which of the following correctly describes the classification of the power subsidy provided by the Punjab government in the state budget?

A. Power subsidy is a revenue receipt for the Punjab government.

B. Power subsidy is a capital receipt for the Punjab government.

C. Power subsidy is a revenue expenditure for the Punjab government.

D. Power subsidy is a capital expenditure for the Punjab government.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The power subsidy represents money paid out by the government to reduce consumers' electricity bills and is thus **treated as a revenue expenditure**, not as a receipt or as capital expenditure.
- Sometimes, state governments receive grants from the Centre to fund things like power subsidies.
- That **grant received becomes a revenue receipt** for the state, but the subsidy itself is an expenditure.

Q. Consider the statements regarding Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2025:

1. It is released by NITI Aayog.
2. The FHI 2025 evaluates 18 major Indian states on five key sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilization, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.
3. Punjab ranked first in the FHI 2025, while Odisha ranked last among the major states.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2

B. 2 and 3

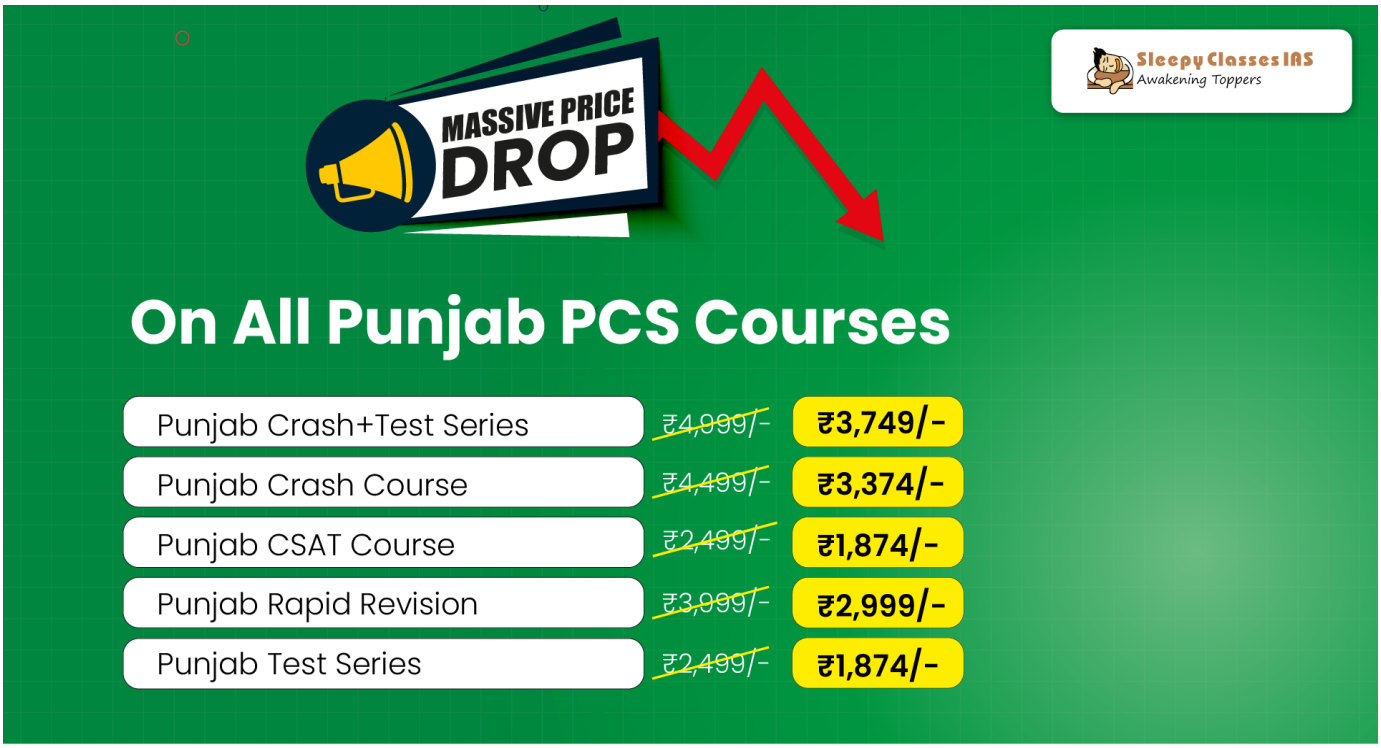
C. 1 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- It is released by **NITI Aayog.**
- The FHI 2025 evaluates **18 major Indian states** on five key sub-indices: Quality of Expenditure, Revenue Mobilization, Fiscal Prudence, Debt Index, and Debt Sustainability.
- **Punjab ranked last** (18th) among the 18 major states assessed.
- The state scored just 10.7, highlighting serious concerns over its fiscal health.
- The main weaknesses identified for Punjab were a high and rising debt-to-GSDP ratio, low revenue mobilization, poor fiscal discipline, and inadequate growth in capital expenditures.
- **Odisha topped this year's rankings**, followed by Chhattisgarh and Goa with notably higher scores and healthier fiscal profiles.
- The FHI is based on **recent data compiled by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for 2022-23,** applying a composite index to benchmark states' fiscal policies, strengths, and sustainability



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Punjab Geography

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Ghaggar river:

1. The Ghaggar River originates from the Shivalik Hills in Himachal Pradesh.
2. It flows through the states of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
3. It eventually merges into the Arabian Sea near Gujarat.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2

B. 2 and 3

C. 1 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Ghaggar River does originate from the Shivalik Hills in Himachal Pradesh.
- It flows through Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.
- However, the Ghaggar River does not merge into the Arabian Sea near Gujarat; it dries up (vanishes) into the Thar Desert in Rajasthan.
- Therefore, statement 3 is incorrect.



Q. Consider the following statements about the Shiwalik Hills:

1. The Shiwalik Hills form the northeastern boundary of Punjab.
2. They are the oldest and most stable part of the Himalayan system.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

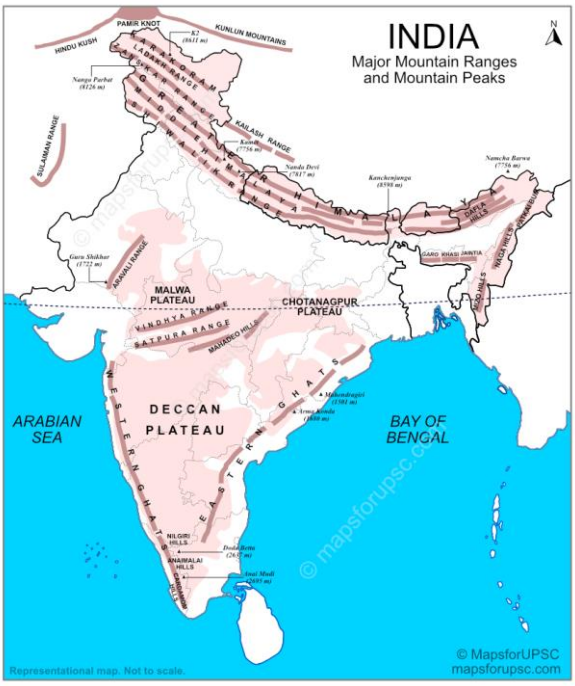
C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Shiwalik Hills, also known as the Outer Himalayas, form the northeastern boundary of Punjab.
- These hills are the youngest and most fragile part of the Himalayan system, stretching across multiple Indian states, including Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- These hills run parallel to the main Himalayan range, separating the Punjab Plains from the Himalayas.



Q. Consider the following statements about the Beas River:

1. The Beas River originates from Beas Kund, near Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh.
2. It flows through the Kullu Valley and Kangra Valley before entering Punjab.
3. The Beas River joins the Sutlej River near Harike in Punjab.
4. The total length of the Beas River is about 970 km.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

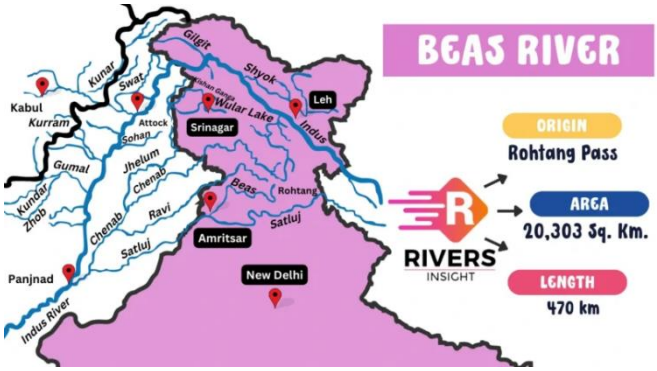
C. Only three

D. All 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Beas river originates from Beas Kund (also called Vyas Kund) in Himalaya mountains in Himachal Pradesh.
- It enters Punjab in Hoshiarpur district.
- The total length of the river is approximately 470 Km and terminates by merging with Sutlej river at Harike in Tarn Taran district of Punjab.
- Pong dam and Pandoh dam are the two main dams built on this river.
- Pong Dam, also called as Maharana Partap Sagar, is located in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- Pandoh dam is located in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh and it diverts the waters of Beas river to Sutlej river.



Q. Match the soil types of Punjab in Column A with their characteristics or locations in Column B:

Column A	Column B
1. Alluvial Soil	A. Found throughout Punjab
2. Sandy Soil	B. Found in parts of Ferozepur, Bathinda, Mansa
3. Loamy Soil	C. Found in central Punjab
4. Saline-Alkaline Soil	D. Found in Malwa region

Options:

A. 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D

B. 1-B, 2-A, 3-D, 4-C

C. 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A

D. 1-D, 2-C, 3-A, 4-B

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Alluvial Soil: Found throughout Punjab; highly fertile and supports wheat, rice, and sugarcane.
- Sandy Soil: Found in parts of Ferozepur, Bathinda, and Mansa; suitable for cotton and pulses.
- Loamy Soil: Found in central Punjab; ideal for diverse crops.
- Saline and Alkaline Soil: Found in semi-arid regions of Malwa due to excessive irrigation and poor drainage.

Q. Which of the following Indian states does NOT share a border with Punjab?

A. Haryana

B. Himachal Pradesh

C. Rajasthan

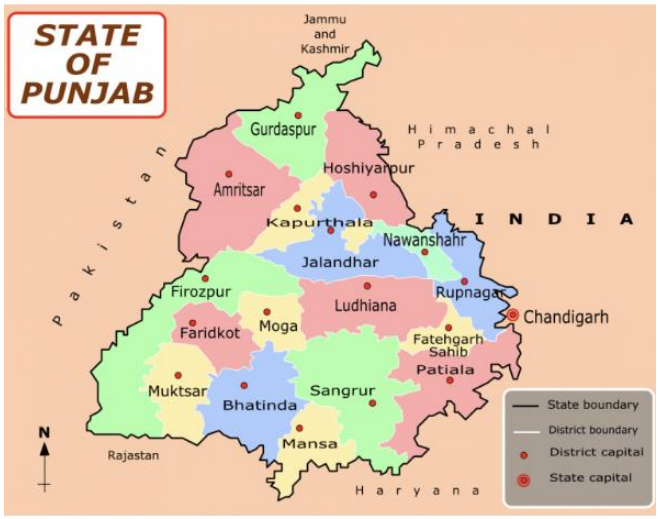
D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer: D

Explanation:

Punjab is bordered by

- Haryana
- Himachal Pradesh
- Rajasthan
- Jammu and Kashmir (union territory)
- Chandigarh (union territory)



Q. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar researchers have discovered the rare metal tantalum in the sands of the Sutlej river.

Statement 2: The source of tantalum in the Sutlej river is conclusively proven to be erosion from tectonic activity in the Indian Himalayas.

Which of the following is correct?

A. Both statements 1 and 2 are true.

B. Statement 1 is true, but statement 2 is false.

C. Statement 1 is false, but statement 2 is true.

D. Both statements 1 and 2 are false.

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** IIT Ropar researchers discovered tantalum in the Sutlej river sand, but the exact source of tantalum is not conclusively identified yet and could be from various upstream or geological sources rather than a proven

single origin from Himalayan tectonic erosion.

- It may be coming from China, who knows, because 80 per cent of the catchment area of Sutlej is in China, in Tibet.

Q. Which of the following statements about potash reserves in Punjab is correct?

1. Potash reserves in Punjab have been found primarily in the districts of Fazilka and Sri Muktsar Sahib.
2. The potash deposits in Punjab are located close to the surface, making mining economically viable immediately.
3. Punjab is the only state in India with potash reserves.

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

A. Only 1 statement is correct

B. Only 2 statements are correct

C. All 3 statements are correct

D. None of the above statements is correct

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The potash deposits are found at depths of 400-800 meters, making mining not immediately economically viable.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Punjab is not the only state in India with potash reserves; Rajasthan has larger reserves.

Q. Which of the following statements regarding recent amendments to the Punjab Minor Mineral Policy is/are correct?

1. Monopolisation of sand and gravel mining by a single government agency.
2. Deputy Commissioners have been authorised to issue No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for mining on government and Panchayat lands.

Options:

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The recent amendments to Punjab's Minor Mineral Policy were made to prevent monopolization of sand and gravel mining by a single government agency and instead allow multiple stakeholders to obtain mining leases, such as crusher owners and landowners through new categories like Crusher Mining Sites (CRMS) and Landowner Mining Sites (LMS).

Q. Which of the following statements about the impact of waterlogging on kinnow orchards in Punjab in 2025 is/are correct?

1. Kinnow trees survive well in waterlogged and saline soil conditions without damage.
2. Water stagnation has resulted in severe fruit dropping, root decay, and difficulty in pest management.

Options:

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Kinnow trees are sensitive to waterlogged and saline soil conditions, which cause damage to the trees.

Q. Which of the following soil types covers the maximum area in the state of Punjab?

A. Alluvial soil

B. Black cotton soil

C. Red soil

D. Laterite soil

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The maximum soil in Punjab is alluvial soil, covering **about 66% of the state.**
- This highly fertile, loamy soil is deposited by rivers and is ideal for agriculture, supporting a wide variety of crops like wheat, rice, and sugarcane.
- Alluvial soils in Punjab are further classified into older, less fertile Bhangar soils found on higher ground, and younger, more fertile Khadar soils in floodplains.

Polity & Governance

Q. The government of India has constituted National Council for Transgender Persons. Which of the following statements are correct about the council?

1. The Council will be headed by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment
2. The council is a statutory body found under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019
3. State Level and District Level councils for each state will be set up under this act to address the grievances of transgenders at grassroot level.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. Only 2 and 3

B. Only 1 and 2

C. Only 1 and 3

D. 1,2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted National Council for Transgender Persons under the Transgender Persons (protection of rights act) 2019. Hence statement 1 is correct.

The National Council shall perform the following functions, namely:—

- to advise the Central Government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
- to monitor and evaluate the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
- to review and coordinate the activities of all the departments of Government and other Governmental and non-Governmental Organisations which are dealing with matters relating to transgender persons;
- to redress the grievances of transgender persons; and
- to perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
- The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be Chairperson (ex-officio) and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment will be Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio). Hence statement 2 is correct.

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- There is no specific mention of state or district level council.
- Hence statement 3 is INCORRECT.

Q. Which of the statements given below is correct?

A. The Attorney General of India is entitled to all the privileges that are available to a Member of Parliament

B. The Attorney General of India is a member of cabinet

C. The Attorney General of India is appointed by the Chief Justice of India

D. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed as Judge of High Court

Answer: A

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The sixth schedule has conferred the District Councils the power to constitute Village Councils or Courts for the trial of cases between persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes
2. The Sixth Schedule has recognised the power of the district councils to impose certain specified taxes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Para 4 of the Sixth Schedule gives District Councils the power to constitute Village Councils or Courts for the trial of certain suits and cases **between Scheduled Tribe members**.
- Para 8 of the Sixth Schedule empowers District Councils to levy and collect certain taxes such as land revenue, taxes on professions, animals, vehicles, entry of goods, etc.

Features of 6th Schedule:

- **Creation of Autonomous Districts and Regions**
- Tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram** are declared as **Autonomous Districts**.
- Within districts, Autonomous Regions can also be created for different tribes.

District Councils and Regional Councils

- Each Autonomous District has a **District Council**, and Autonomous Regions have **Regional Councils**.
- These are **elected bodies** with legislative, administrative, and judicial powers over certain subjects.

Legislative Powers

- Councils can make laws on subjects like land, forests (other than reserved forests), shifting cultivation, village administration, marriage & divorce, inheritance, and social customs of tribes.
- These laws require the Governor's assent.

Judicial Powers

- District Councils can constitute **Village Councils or Courts** to try cases involving members of Scheduled Tribes.
- They administer justice according to tribal customs.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Matters concerning Trade Unions, industrial and labour disputes fall within the purview of Concurrent list.
2. The subject of welfare of labour including conditions of work , provident fund, workmen's compensation and maternity benefits are included in the State List

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

Financial and Taxation Powers

- District Councils can levy and collect taxes on professions, trades, animals, vehicles, land revenue, and entry of goods into the markets.
- They also receive grants-in-aid from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Matters concerning Trade Unions, industrial and labour disputes fall within the purview of Concurrent List.
- Entry 22, 23, 24 of the **Concurrent List** include Trade Unions, industrial and labour disputes, social security and welfare of labour.
- Hence, statement 1 is **correct**.
- The subject of welfare of labour including conditions of work, provident fund, workmen's compensation and maternity benefits are covered under the **Concurrent List** (Entry 23, 24).
- The State List does not include these specific provisions.
- Hence, statement 2 is **incorrect**.

Q. Which of the following is NOT a provision of the Representation of People Act 1950?

A. Qualifications and Disqualifications for membership of parliament and state legislatures

B. Allocation of Seats in the House of the People , the State Legislative Assemblies and the State Legislative Councils.

C. Delimitation of Parliamentary, Assembly Constituencies

D. Local Authorities for purposes of elections to the State Legislative Councils

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA 1950)** deals with:
- Allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies
- Local authorities for the purpose of elections to Legislative Councils
- Preparation of electoral rolls and matters relating to elections.
- But **qualifications and disqualifications of members of Parliament and State Legislatures** are **NOT covered in RPA 1950**.

  These are dealt with in the **Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RPA 1951)**.

Environment

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Ramsar sites in Punjab:

1. Punjab has a total of three Ramsar sites.
2. Harike Wetland is formed at the confluence of the Beas and Sutlej rivers.
3. Beas Conservation Reserve is recognised as a Ramsar site in Punjab.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2

B. 2 and 3

C. 1 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

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Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct.**
- Punjab has **6 Ramsar sites.**
- Harike Wetland, Ropar Wetland, Kanjli Wetland, Beas Conservation Reserve, Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve, and Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary.

Q. Consider the following statements about the forests in Punjab:

1. Punjab has a forest cover of approximately 7% of its geographical area, mostly concentrated in hilly regions like the Shiwaliks.
2. The major portion of Punjab's forests is Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Thorn, and Subtropical Pine forests.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- According to ISFR 2023, Forest cover in Punjab is 1,846.09 sq km, which is **3.67% of its geographical area of 50,362 sq km.**
- This represents a marginal decrease from 1,846.54 sq km in 2021, a loss of 0.45 sq km （–0.001% approx）

Q. Consider the following statements about the Punjab Plains:

1. The Punjab plains are divided into three regions: Majha, Doaba, and Malwa.
2. The Punjab plain forms the western part of the Indo-Gangetic Plain and is bounded by the Shiwalik Hills in the north.
3. Alluvial deposits brought by rivers mostly form the Punjab plains and are highly fertile.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. All three

D. None of the above statements are correct

Answer: C

Q. Match the Wildlife Sanctuary with its District:

Wildlife Sanctuary	District Options
1. Harike Wildlife Sanctuary	a) Ferozepur
2. Abohar Wildlife Sanctuary	b) Fazilka
3. Jhajjar Bachauli Sanctuary	c) Rupnagar

Choose the correct option:

A. 1-b, 2-c, 3-a

B. 1-c, 2-a, 3-b

C. 1-a, 2-b, 3-c

D. 1-b, 2-a, 3-c

Answer: C

Q. Which of the following invasive species are commonly found in Punjab?

1. Lantana camara
2. Prosopis juliflora
3. Leucaena leucocephala (Subabool)
4. Eichhornia crassipes (Water hyacinth)

Options

A. 1, 2 and 3 only

B. 2, 3 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Lantana camara -** A notorious invasive shrub, widely spread in Shiwalik foothills and forest areas of Punjab.
- **Prosopis juliflora** (Vilayati Babool / Mesquite) – Introduced species, invasive in arid/semi-arid tracts, found in Punjab too.
- **Leucaena leucocephala** (Subabool) - Promoted for social forestry but turned invasive, suppressing native grasses and biodiversity.
- **Eichhornia crassipes** (Water hyacinth) - A common invasive aquatic weed in Punjab's canals, ponds, and wetlands (e.g., Harike wetland).

Q. With reference to the Smooth Coated Otter in India, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It prefers shallow and placid freshwater habitats such as wetlands, swamps, rivers, and lakes.
2. It is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List
3. It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India.

Which of the statements above is or are incorrect?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is protected under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India.



Q. With reference to the Black Buck, consider the following statements:

1. It lives in grasslands and forests in India only.
2. It is considered to be the fastest animal in the world next to the Cheetah.
3. It is the State animal of Rajasthan.

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

A. Only 1 statement is correct

B. Only 2 statements are correct

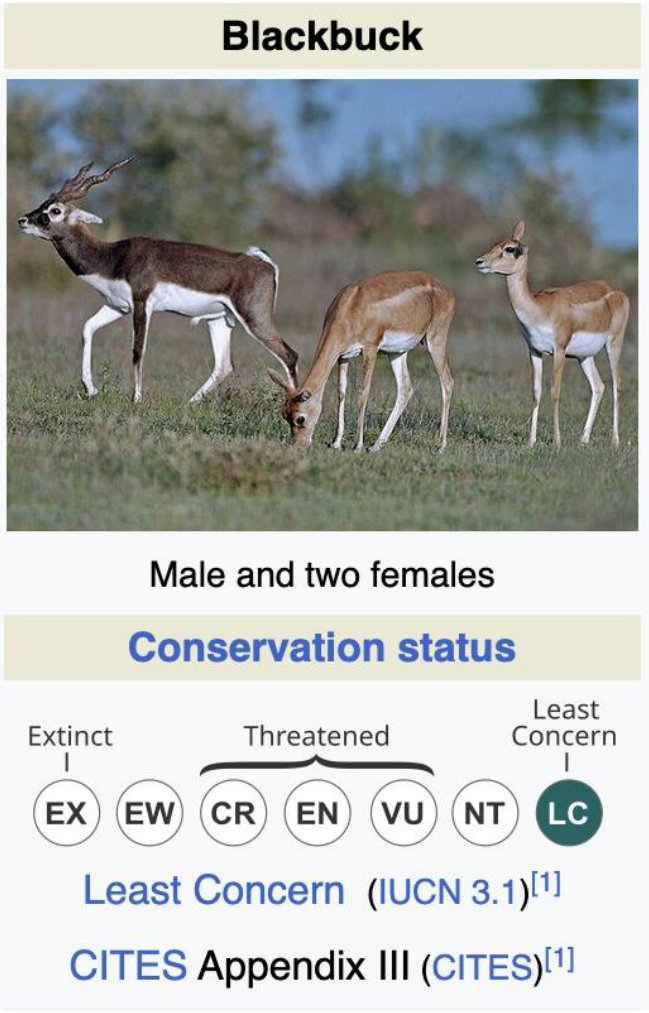
C. All 3 statements are correct

D. None of the above statements is correct

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: The blackbuck, also known as the Indian antelope, is an antelope native to India and Nepal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: It has been declared as the State Animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh. The state animals of Rajasthan are the chinkara/Indian gazelle. and the camel.



Q. Which of the following statements about Bir Bhadsun Wildlife Sanctuary is/are correct?

1. It is located in Nabha, Patiala district of Punjab.
2. The sanctuary consists of dry deciduous forest and grasslands.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because Bir Bhadsun Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Patiala district of Punjab, specifically near Nabha.

Q. What is the state tree of Punjab?

A. Banyan (Ficus benghalensis)
B. Peepal (Ficus religiosa)
C. Shisham (Dalbergia sissoo)
D. Neem (Azadirachta indica)

Answer: C

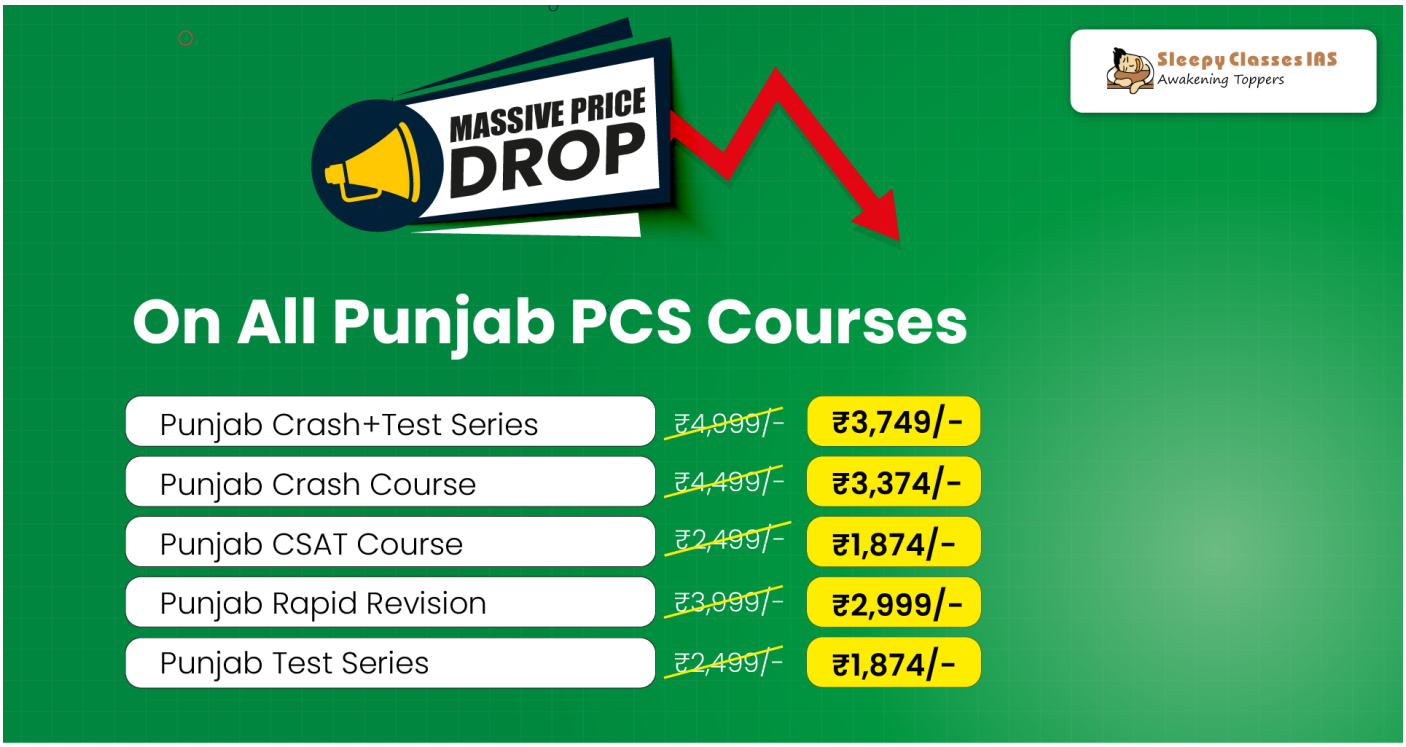
Q. Baseline toxicity refers to -

A. The process by which the concentration of a chemical in the tissues of an organism increases as it passes through several levels in the food web.
B. The process by which the concentration of a chemical in the tissues of an organism increases with time
C. A depression in biological activity due to toxicants being present in the organism
D. An empirically derived "safe" concentration of a chemical

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Baseline Toxicity refers to the general depression of biological activity from exposure to a non specifically acting toxicant.



Ancient Punjab History

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Gupta Age and Punjab:

1. The Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta mentions campaigns in north-west India, including areas adjoining Punjab.
2. Chandragupta II defeated the Shakas, after which Punjab came firmly under Gupta control.
3. The Chinese pilgrim Faxian visited India during Chandragupta II's reign and wrote about social and cultural life in Punjab.
4. The Hunas, led by Mihirakula, finally weakened Gupta power in Punjab.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Samudragupta's inscription records campaigns in north-west frontier regions, showing the Gupta reach near Punjab.
- **Chandragupta II** (Vikramaditya) defeated the Shakas and consolidated Punjab.
- **Faxian (Fa-Hien)** travelled during Chandragupta II's reign and observed prosperity + caste practices, including in Punjab.
- **Huna invasions** under Toramana and Mihirakula devastated Punjab, contributing to Gupta decline.

Q. Which of the following statements about Harappan sites in Punjab are correct?

1. Rupnagar (Ropar) was the first Harappan site excavated in post-partition India.
2. Sanghol is an ancient Harappan culture site near Fatehgarh Sahib with Buddhist relics.

Options:

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Rupnagar (Ropar)** was indeed the first Harappan site excavated in independent India (post-partition).
- **Sanghol (Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab)** is known as an archaeological site with Harappan cultural traces.
- It later became significant for Buddhist stupas, monasteries, and relics (2nd century BCE–4th century CE).
- This makes Sanghol unique for showcasing both Harappan heritage and Buddhist remains.

Q. Consider the following statements about the Sunet archaeological site in Ludhiana:

1. Excavations at Sunet have yielded coins, seals, molds, terracotta figurines, pottery, and beads.
2. Sunet is not a Harappan site.
3. Sunet was home to one of the largest ancient mints in India with over 30,000 coin molds discovered.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. All three

D. None of the above statements are correct

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Sunet is **Harappan.**
- Sunet is **not a Harappan urban center** in the same sense as Harappa or Mohenjo-daro.
- But it is a site where **Late Harappan cultural remains** have been documented.
- Thus, it *is associated with* the Harappan civilization, especially its later phase.

Q. Which of the following statements about Punjab's political and cultural history during the Sungas, Greeks, Parthians, and Shakas periods is/are correct?

1. The Greeks introduced Hellenistic culture
2. The Parthians maintained Indo-Greek traditions and introduced Iranian elements.
3. The Sungas were responsible for introducing Persian architectural styles in Punjab.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2

B. 2 and 3

C. 1 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The **Sungas (185–73 BCE) were largely based in Magadha/North India, not Punjab.**
- They patronised Bharhut and Sanchi art (indigenous styles), but not Persian architecture in Punjab.
- Persian/Irani elements had earlier influence (Achaemenids, 6th–4th BCE), not via Sungas.

Q. The name "Punjab" is derived from which language, meaning "Land of Five Rivers"?

A. Sanskrit

B. Arabic

C. Persian

D. Punjabi

Answer: C

Explanation:

The name *Punjab* comes from the **Persian words** *"panj"* (five) and *"āb"* (water), meaning the *"Land of Five Rivers."*

Punjab Culture

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Gupta Age and Punjab:

1. The Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Samudragupta mentions campaigns in north-west India, including areas adjoining Punjab.
2. Chandragupta II defeated the Shakas, after which Punjab came firmly under Gupta control.
3. The Chinese pilgrim Faxian visited India during Chandragupta II's reign and wrote about social and cultural life in Punjab.
4. The Hunas, led by Mihirakula, finally weakened Gupta power in Punjab.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All four

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Samudragupta's inscription records campaigns in north-west frontier regions, showing Gupta reach near Punjab.
- Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) defeated the Shakas and consolidated Punjab.
- Faxian (Fa-Hien) travelled during Chandragupta II's reign and observed prosperity + caste practices, including in Punjab.
- Huna invasions under Toramana and Mihirakula devastated Punjab, contributing to Gupta decline.

Q. Which of the following statements about Harappan sites in Punjab are correct?

1. Rupnagar (Ropar) was the first Harappan site excavated in post-partition India.
2. Sanghol is an ancient Harappan culture site near Fatehgarh Sahib with Buddhist relics.

Options:

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Rupnagar (Ropar)** was indeed the first Harappan site excavated in independent India (post-partition).
- **Sanghol (Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab)** is known as an archaeological site with Harappan cultural traces.
- It later became significant for Buddhist stupas, monasteries, and relics (2nd century BCE–4th century CE).
- This makes Sanghol unique for showcasing both Harappan heritage and Buddhist remains.

Q. Consider the following statements about the Sunet archaeological site in Ludhiana:

1. Excavations at Sunet have yielded coins, seals, molds, terracotta figurines, pottery, and beads.
2. Sunet is not a Harappan site.
3. Sunet was home to one of the largest ancient mints in India with over 30,000 coin molds discovered.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. All three

D. None of the above statements are correct

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Sunet is Harappan.
- It is not a Harappan urban center in the same sense as Harappa or Mohenjo-daro.
- But it is a site where Late Harappan cultural remains have been documented.
- Thus, it *is associated with* the Harappan civilization, especially its later phase.

Q. Which of the following statements about Punjab's political and cultural history during the Sungas, Greeks, Parthians, and Shakas periods is/are correct?

1. The Greeks introduced Hellenistic culture
2. The Parthians maintained Indo-Greek traditions and introduced Iranian elements.
3. The Sungas were responsible for introducing Persian architectural styles in Punjab.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2

B. 2 and 3

C. 1 and 3

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Sungas (185–73 BCE) were largely based in Magadha/North India, not Punjab.
- They patronised Bharhut and Sanchi art (indigenous styles), but not Persian architecture in Punjab.
- Persian/Irani elements had earlier influence (Achaemenids, 6th–4th BCE), not via Sungas.

Q. The name "Punjab" is derived from which language, meaning "Land of Five Rivers"?

A. Sanskrit

B. Arabic

C. Persian

D. Punjabi

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The name *Punjab* comes from the Persian words *"panj"* (five) and *"āb"* (water), meaning the *"Land of Five Rivers."*

Punjab Current Affairs

Q. Consider the following statements regarding selenium toxicity in Punjab:

1. Selenium contamination in Punjab is mainly geogenic.
2. Chronic selenium exposure in affected populations has been associated with symptoms such as hair loss, brittle nails, and skeletal deformities.
3. The problem of selenium toxicity is concentrated in the south-western districts.

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: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The districts most cited for selenium toxicity include Nawanshahr (now Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar), certain parts of Ludhiana, and the Kandi belt, which extends across the north and northeast (including Hoshiarpur, parts of Ropar).
- These areas are actually in northeastern Punjab.

Q. Which of the following statements about uranium contamination in Punjab are correct?

1. Uranium contamination is most severe in the Malwa region of Punjab.
2. Chronic uranium exposure primarily affects the kidneys.
3. Uranium enters groundwater only through industrial effluents, with no natural contribution.
4. Excessive use of phosphate fertilisers is considered a possible anthropogenic factor for uranium contamination.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only one

B. Only two

C. Only three

D. All 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Uranium contamination is both geogenic (naturally occurring in rocks/soil) and anthropogenic (fertilisers, effluents).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding floods in Punjab:

1. Extensive canal irrigation and poor drainage have aggravated the flood situation in low-lying areas.
2. Punjab is outside the influence of the southwest monsoon, hence, floods are mainly due to glacial melt.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect –** Punjab is very much under the influence of the Southwest Monsoon. Glacial melt contributes more to flooding in Himalayan states (e.g., Himachal, Uttarakhand), not Punjab.

Q. Consider the following statements about the drug issue in Punjab:

1. The most commonly abused substances in Punjab include synthetic opioids such as heroin, as well as pharmaceutical drugs.
2. The "Punjab Opioid Dependence Survey" highlighted that the problem is concentrated only in the south-western Malwa region of the state.
3. The "Drug Abuse Prevention Officers (DAPO)" program is a community initiative launched by the Punjab government to curb drug abuse.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A. 1, 2, and 3

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1 and 2 only

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The survey (by AIIMS & Punjab Govt, 2015) found the issue was state-wide, not restricted to Malwa. While Malwa is heavily affected, Majha and Doaba also face the problem.

Q. Arrange the following major export sectors of Punjab in order from maximum to minimum contribution to the state's export economy in 2025:

1. Agricultural products
2. Textiles and hosiery products
3. Sports goods
4. Pharmaceuticals
5. IT and software services

Choose the correct sequence:

A. 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 – 5

B. 2 - 1 - 3 - 5 – 4

C. 1 - 3 - 2 - 4 – 5

D. 3 - 1 - 2 - 4 - 5

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Agricultural products are the largest export contributor from Punjab, followed by textiles and hosiery from Ludhiana, sports goods from Jalandhar, pharmaceuticals, and lastly IT and software services from Mohali, reflecting their relative export volumes and economic importance.

Q. With reference to the wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in India, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Wild boar is listed as 'Least Concern' on the IUCN Red List.
2. The global population trend of the wild boar is currently stable, according to the latest IUCN assessment.
3. Wild boar is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:



- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Wild boar is protected under Schedule IV, not Schedule I, of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, in India.

Q. With reference to Bhai Jaita in Sikh history, which of the following statements are correct?

1. He brought the severed head of Guru Tegh Bahadur from Delhi to Anandpur Sahib, risking his life.
2. He received the name 'Jiwan Singh' after taking Amrit from Guru Gobind Singh during the creation of the Khalsa in 1699.
3. He belonged to the Ranghreta (Mazhabi Sikh) community and was called 'Ranghreta Guru Ka Beta'.
4. Bhai Jaita attained martyrdom in the Battle of Amritsar, fighting against Ahmad Shah Abdali.

How many of the statements above are correct?

A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Only 3
D. All 4

Answer: C

Explanation:



- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Bhai Jaita did not attain martyrdom in the Battle of Amritsar. He was martyred at the Battle of Chamkaur Sahib, not fighting against Ahmad Shah Abdali at Amritsar.

Q. Which of the following statements about False Smut disease of rice are correct?

1. False Smut is caused by the virus *Ustilaginoidea virens.*
2. False Smut affects the leaves and stems of rice plants extensively but rarely affects grains.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:



- **Statement 1 is incorrect** because False Smut is caused by the fungus *Ustilaginoidea virens*, not a virus.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect** because False Smut primarily affects rice grains, not leaves and stems

Q. Uranium exposure in humans can lead to which of the following renal conditions?

A. Proteinuria and tubule degeneration

B. Acute hepatitis

C. Appendicitis

D. Glaucoma

Answer: A

Explanation:



Q. The 300-year-old footwear worn by Guru Gobind Singh and Mata Sahib Kaur, kept in the custody of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's family for centuries, has recently been handed over to which sacred Sikh site?

A. Takht Sri Hazur Sahib

B. Takht Sri Kesgarh Sahib

C. Takht Sri Patna Sahib

D. Takht Sri Damdama Sahib

Answer: C

Explanation:



Q. Which environmental condition favors the outbreak of Pink Stem Borer in Punjab?

A. Cool and dry winter

B. Heavy rainfall followed by high humidity

C. Continuous drought conditions

D. Low humidity with strong wind

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Pink Stem Borer (PSB) thrives in the rice-wheat cropping system in Punjab and is closely linked to environmental factors such as **timing of wheat sowing, soil moisture, and weather conditions.**
- Heavy rainfall followed by high humidity creates favorable conditions for PSB outbreaks.
- Cool winter conditions reduce the pest's activity as it tends to decline with the onset of severe winter, and drought or low humidity are not conducive for its proliferation.
- PSB larvae bore into young plant stems causing damage mainly in late paddy stages and early wheat crops sown at the wrong time, particularly when soil moisture and humidity are higher.
- This aligns with expert observations from Punjab Agriculture University and agricultural authorities highlighting that

timely sowing, soil moisture management, and weather conditions are critical to PSB prevalence more than stubble burning practices alone.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Cabinet approved grand celebrations to mark the 350th Shaheedi Divas of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji to be held at Anandpur Sahib.
2. The Cabinet decided to create a new district by combining parts of Rupnagar and Hoshiarpur districts to be named Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib District.
3. The event will be jointly organised by the Punjab Government and the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In October 2024, the Punjab Cabinet approved grand celebrations for the 350th Shaheedi Divas of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Anandpur Sahib. However, as of now, no official Cabinet decision has been made to create a new district specifically named "Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib District.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The celebrations are organized by the Punjab Government, aligned with the SGPC's initiatives.
- No official announcement confirms joint organization with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Q. Consider the following statements about the Roshan Punjab Mission launched in 2025:

1. It aims to make Punjab the first power-cut-free state in India.
2. The project's total outlay is approximately ₹5,000 crore, to be implemented by Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).
3. The scheme also provides free rooftop solar panels to all rural households.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The *Roshan Punjab Mission* aims to make Punjab the first power-cut-free state in India by ensuring 24×7 uninterrupted electricity supply.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The mission involves an investment of about ₹5,000 crore, and it is being implemented by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL).
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The scheme does not include free rooftop solar panels for rural households; its focus is on upgrading power infrastructure—replacing open meter boxes, strengthening low-tension networks, and reducing voltage fluctuations.

Q. With reference to health insurance schemes in Punjab, consider the following statements:

1. The Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) is a universal health insurance scheme covering all residents of Punjab without any eligibility criteria.

2. The Mukhya Mantri Sehat Yojana (MMSY) is jointly funded by the Central and State governments in a 60:40 ratio.
3. MMSY provides health coverage of ₹5 lakh per family per year, similar to AB-MMSBY.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. All 3
D. None are correct

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 2 is incorrect: MMSY is fully funded by the Punjab Government, not jointly.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: MMSY provides ₹10 lakh per family per year, which is double that of Ayushman Bharat – Mukhya Mantri Sehat Bima Yojana (AB-MMSBY).

Q. Which of the following Punjabi writers have been awarded with the prestigious Jnanpith Award?

1. Gurdial Singh
2. Amrita Pritam
3. Surjit Patar
4. Jaswant Kanwal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

A. 1, 2 and 3 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Gurdial Singh has received the Jnanpith Award in 1999 for his contribution to Punjabi literature.
- Amrita Pritam was the first Punjabi writer to receive the Jnanpith Award (1981).
- Surjit Patar is a celebrated Punjabi poet and Padma Shri awardee, but has not received the Jnanpith Award (as of 2025).
- Jaswant Kanwal is a noted Punjabi novelist, but has not received the Jnanpith Award.

Punjab Schemes

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the eligibility of the Punjab Ashirwad Scheme:

1. The parents or guardians of the girl must be domiciled in the state of Punjab.
2. The bride should be at least 21 years old at the time of marriage
3. The annual family income should not exceed ₹51000.
4. The widows or divorcees are not eligible for financial assistance at the time of remarriage

Which of the statements given above are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 2 and 3 only
D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: A

Explanation:

Minimum Age Requirement	The girl must be 18 years or older at the time of marriage.
Family Income Limit	The annual family income from all sources should not exceed ₹32,790.
Domicile Requirement	The parents or guardians of the girl must be domiciled in Punjab.
Application Timing	Applications can be submitted either before the fixed date of marriage or within 30 days after the marriage to receive financial assistance.
Assistance Limit per Family	Financial assistance under the scheme is limited to two girls per family.
Eligible Beneficiaries	Assistance is provided to: - Scheduled Caste (SC) and Christian girls - Backward Class (BC) girls - Girls from economically weaker sections - Daughters of widows from any caste - Scheduled Caste widows or divorcees eligible for financial assistance at the time of remarriage
Assistance Amount	The scheme provides ₹51,000 as a one-time financial aid.

Q. The primary objective of the Bebe Nanki Laadli Beti Kalyan Scheme is:

A. To provide marriage assistance to poor families for their daughters

B. To improve the sex ratio and support the education & welfare of girl children

C. To provide free health insurance to all female children in Punjab

D. To give employment opportunities to young women in rural Punjab

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Bebe Nanki Laadli Beti Kalyan Scheme** is a scheme by the Punjab Government, launched in 2011.
- To promote the welfare of girl children, improve the sex ratio, discourage female foeticide, and support the education & financial security of girls.

Q. Consider the following statements about the Bhagwant Mann Sarkar Tuhade Dwaar scheme:

1. It provides doorstep delivery of 43 government services, including birth, death, income, caste, and marriage certificates by trained operators.
2. Citizens outside Punjab can also avail services under this scheme by calling the toll-free number 1076.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Incorrect:** Originally, 43 services were offered under Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar. As of early 2025, the scheme has been expanded, and now offers **406 doorstep services** across 29 government departments.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The services are meant for residents of Punjab. It **does not say that citizens from outside Punjab** can avail these services via the toll-free number 1076.

Q. Consider the following statements about the Punjab Mukhyamantri Nishulk Teerth Yatra Yojana:

1. It is open to all permanent residents of Punjab regardless of caste, religion, or economic status.
2. Pilgrimage destinations are limited to Punjab.
3. The state government bears all pilgrimage related expenses, including train/train tickets, accommodation, and medical facilities.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A. 1, 2, and 3

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1 and 2 only

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The scheme covers destinations outside Punjab as well, including important shrines across India like Varanasi, Mathura, Ajmer Sharif, Hazrat Nizamuddin, and others. It is not confined only to Punjab.

Q. Which ministry or department oversees the implementation of the Punjab Maternity Benefit Scheme for construction workers?

A. Department of Women & Child Development

B. Department of Health & Family Welfar

C. Department of Labour, Punjab

D. Department of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Punjab Maternity Benefit Scheme is aimed at providing financial assistance to construction workers to support childbirth-related expenses for up to two living children.
- It is operated by the Punjab Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (PBOCWWB) under the Department of Labour, Punjab.

Punjab Agriculture

Q. Under which rule of the Punjab Minor Mineral Rules, 2013 was a special amendment made to allow flood-affected farmers to remove and sell sand deposited in their fields without permits?

A. Rule 87

B. Rule 90

C. Rule 75

D. Rule 100

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Punjab government amended Rule 90 of the Punjab Minor Mineral Rules, 2013 to provide a one-time exemption allowing farmers to remove and sell sand deposited by floods in their fields without needing permits or environmental clearances, as part of the 'Jisda Khet, Usdi Ret' policy.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Fiji virus affecting paddy crops:

1. It belongs to the *Reoviridae* family.
2. It is transmitted through wind or water.
3. Infected plants usually show excessive tillering, dark green stiff leaves, and shortened internodes.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A. 1, 2, and 3

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1 and 2 only

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The Fiji virus / Southern Rice Black-Streaked Dwarf Virus (SRBSDV) is indeed a *Reoviridae* family member and is not airborne or waterborne; it is transmitted **persistently and propagatively by insect vectors,** mainly leafhoppers.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding farm holdings in Punjab as compared to the all-India average:

1. Punjab has one of the lowest shares of marginal holdings (below 1 hectare) among Indian states.
2. The average size of farm holdings in Punjab is more than three times the national average.
3. Unlike the all-India pattern, the share of medium and large holdings in Punjab is significantly higher.
4. Despite larger farm sizes, Punjab's average productivity per hectare is lower than the national average due to over-mechanisation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1, 2, and 3 only

B. 1 and 4 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 4 is incorrect: Punjab's productivity per hectare is among the highest in India for wheat and rice, though growth has plateaued.

Q. Which of the following factors best explain why rural inflation in Punjab has been higher than urban inflation in recent years?

1. Higher weight of food items in the rural consumption basket.
2. Rising agricultural input costs (fertilizers, pesticides, diesel, electricity).
3. Rural households have a higher share of discretionary spending compared to urban households.

Options:

A. 1, 2, and 3

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1 and 2 only

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Rural households generally spend more on essentials, not discretionary items, unlike urban households.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding cotton cultivation in India:

1. India is the world's largest cotton-producing country.
2. Punjab contributes the highest share of cotton area among all Indian states.

Which of the statements above is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

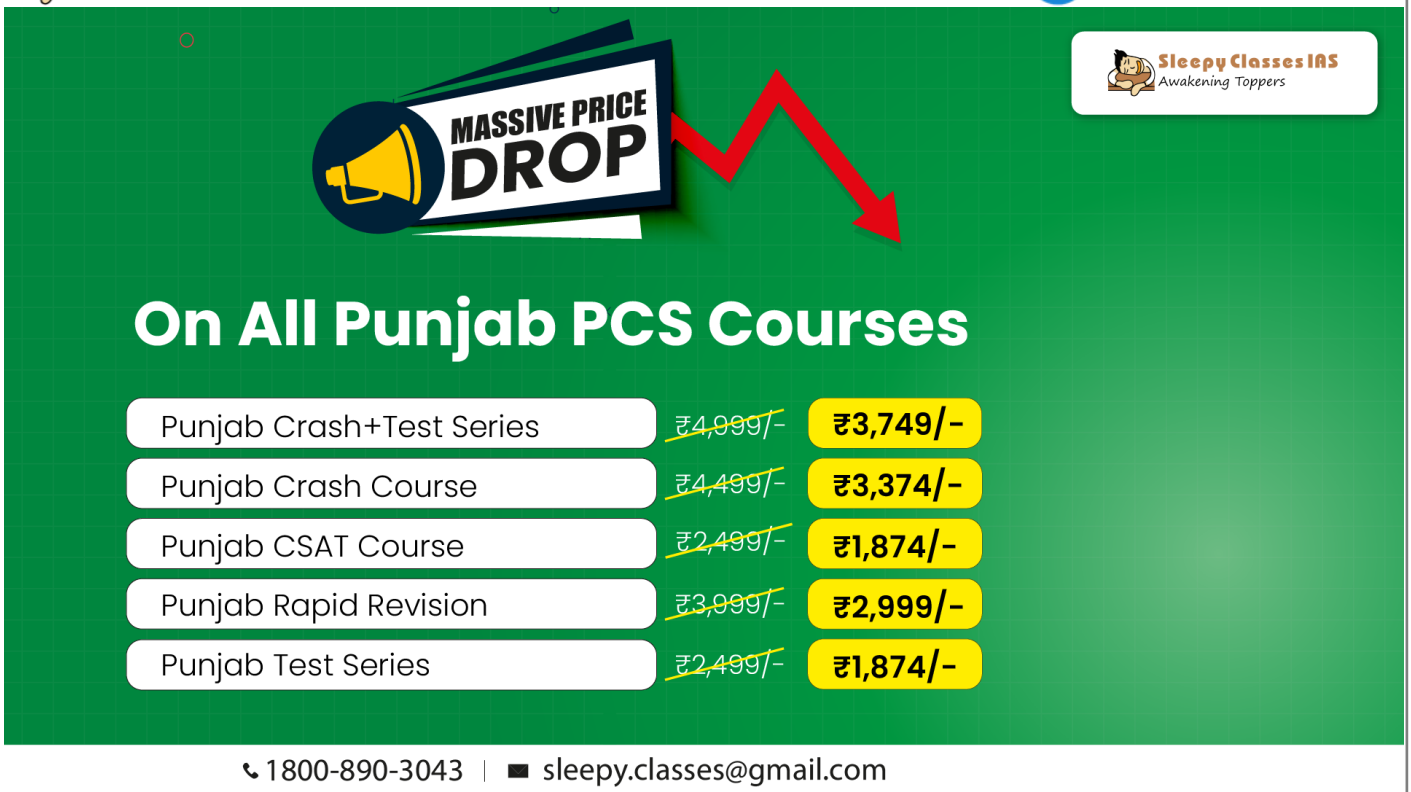
C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** Punjab is important in North India, but the largest cotton area is in Maharashtra and not Punjab.



Punjab Miscellaneous Topics

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Gross State Domestic Product of Punjab for 2025-26 at current prices is projected to have 10% growth over 2024-25.
2. Punjab is estimated to spend Rs 500 crore on power subsidies in 2025-26

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Gross State Domestic Product** (GSDP) of Punjab for 2025-26 (at current prices) is projected to be Rs 8,91,301 crore, amounting to growth of 10% over 2024-25.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Punjab is estimated to spend Rs 20,500 crore on power subsidies in 2025-26 (18% of its budgeted revenue receipts). This is 1.5% higher than the revised estimate for 2024-25. In 2023-24, the state spent Rs 18,177 crore on power subsidies which was 20% of its revenue receipts. According to the state government, the inflating power subsidies as a share of revenue receipts is a major concern. The 15th Finance Commission had observed that long-term finances of the state are dependent on the rationalisation of free power given to farmers.
- **Sources: 15th Finance Commission Report; Medium Term Fiscal Policy, Punjab Budget Documents 2025-26.**

Q. Consider the following:

1. The Fiscal Health Index of the Niti Aayog for the year 2022-23 ranked 18 states based on their fiscal health.
2. Punjab was ranked 8th among all the assessed states.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. None of the above

D. Both 1 and 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Fiscal Health Index of the Niti Aayog for the year 2022-23 ranked 18 states based on their fiscal health. The performance of states was assessed on five criteria: (i) quality of expenditure, (ii) revenue mobilisation, (iii) fiscal prudence, (iv) debt index, and (v) debt sustainability. Punjab was ranked 18th among all the assessed states.
- The report observed that Punjab has witnessed growing debt burdens raising serious concerns about debt sustainability. The report also noted that without intervention debt levels may continue to rise in Punjab.
- It recommended the state to improve revenue mobilisation and capital project execution.
- **Sources: Fiscal Health Index 2025, Niti Aayog.**

Q. Consider the following with respect to the Economic Survey of Punjab 2024-25:

1. In 2024-25 Punjab's Agriculture & Allied sector is projected to grow by 3.1%.
2. Agriculture and allied activities are expected to contribute 25% of Punjab's GSVA in 2024-25.
3. The per capita income in Punjab is 2.05 times the per capita income at all India levels.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. All of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Punjab's economy is projected to grow in line with the national average in 2024-25. Although growth is expected to slow slightly compared to the previous year, it reflects the overall national trend. The quick estimates indicate a real GSDP growth of 6.2% for Punjab in 2023-24, and this positive growth is expected to continue into 2024-25. Over the last five years (2020-21 to 2024- 25), Punjab's economy has seen an average growth rate of 4.9%.
- In 2024-25, Punjab's 'Agriculture & Allied' sector is projected to grow by 3.1%, a notable rise from the 1.3% growth recorded in 2023-24. The state's agricultural sector generally experiences cyclical variations in both growth and production. Compared to national trends, Punjab's Gross Value Added (GVA) is more evenly distributed across sectors. Although the services sector has become the largest contributor, agriculture and industry continue to hold a substantial share in the state's GSVA.
- Agriculture and allied activities are expected to contribute 25% of Punjab's GSVA in 2024-25 while employing 27% of the labor force. This is largely due to the widespread use of advanced agricultural techniques. The sector plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, fostering expansion in both industry and services.
- The industry sector contributes 28% to Punjab's GSVA and has sustained a growth rate exceeding 6.8% over the past five years. The manufacturing sector, which makes up over 17% of the GSVA, recorded a 4.6% growth rate in 2024-25 (A). Additionally, the construction sector accounted for 7.7% of the GSVA, while electricity and other utility services contributed 3.1%.

- The services sector remains the most dynamic part of the economy, driving growth and making a significant contribution to both GSVA and employment. The services sector grew at 7.1% in 2023-24 and 6.8% in 2024-25, the expansion was primarily fueled by areas such as health, education, personal services, financial services, and public administration.
- The per capita income in Punjab is 1.05 times the per capita income at all India levels, which shows into better welfare outcomes for people.

Q. In the light of Economic Survey of Punjab 2024-25, Consider the following statements:

1. Punjab ranks at the 6th position in terms of share of migrants from other states.
2. Approximately 55.2% of females migrated to Punjab as per 2011 census data.

Which of the statements above is or are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Punjab is the unique state which attracts high in-migration from other States. As per 2011 Census data, over 24 lac people (24,88,299) from other states across the country migrated to Punjab.
- This was 5.3% of total migrants within India. **This makes Punjab the state with the 8th largest share of migrants from other states**. The majority of these migrants were females, with a share of 55.2%. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect and Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Most of the in-migrants to the state settled in industrial city Ludhiana and SAS Nagar. Gender wise reasons for in-migration to Punjab varies.
- Males migrated to Punjab in search of work/employment opportunities, the majority of the females shifted for marital purposes.
- A similar trend is observed across the country. Uttar Pradesh is the leading state in terms of migration to Punjab with a share of 26.1%. Majority of the migrants from UP and Bihar come to Punjab in search of employment opportunities.
- These people work as casual labour in farms or daily wage earners. The high influx of population from other states in search of employment opportunities puts pressure on the labour market in the State and requires interventions to ensure availability of appropriate employment opportunities.

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to annual rainfall recorded in 2023:

1. Barnala received more rainfall than Gurdaspur in 2023.
2. Rupnagar received the most rainfall in the year 2023.
3. Fazilka received the least amount of rainfall in the year 2023.

How many statements is or are correct?

A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None of the above

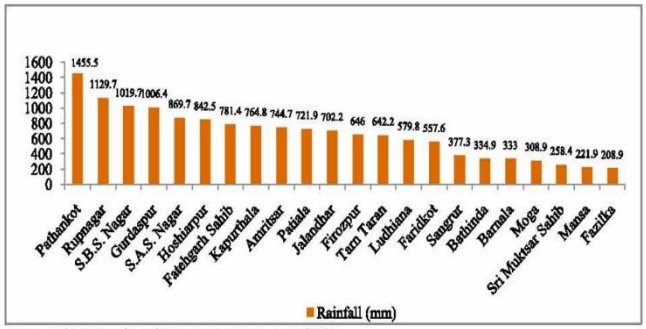
Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Barnala received 333 mm of average rainfall in 2023 whereas Gurdaspur received 1006.4 mm of rainfall.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Pathankot received the most rainfall of 1455.5 mm whereas Rupnagar received 1129.7 mm which is the second highest rainfall.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Fazilka received the least amount of rainfall in the year 2023 i.e., 208.9 mm.

Figure 22: District-wise average annual rainfall 2023 (mm)



Source: India Meteorological Department, Government Of India.

Anglo-Sikh Wars

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Treaty of Lahore (1846):

1. It marked the formal end of the First Anglo-Sikh War between the British East India Company and the Sikh Empire.
2. The Koh-i-Noor diamond was surrendered to the British under this treaty itself.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** The Treaty of Lahore (9 March 1846) formally ended the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–46) between the British East India Company and the Sikh Empire.
- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** The Koh-i-Noor diamond was not surrendered under the *original* Treaty of Lahore.
- It was ceded later under the Supplementary Treaty of Lahore (29 March 1849), after the Second Anglo-Sikh War, when Punjab was annexed by the British.

2. Arrange the following battles of the First Anglo-Sikh War in their correct chronological order:

1. Battle of Ferozeshah
2. Battle of Aliwal
3. Battle of Mudki
4. Battle of Sobraon

Options:

A. 3 – 1 – 2 – 4
B. 1 – 3 – 2 – 4
C. 3 – 2 – 1 – 4
D. 2 – 3 – 1 – 4

Answer: A

Explanation:

Battle	Date	Significance
1. Battle of Mudki	18 December 1845	First engagement; British victory under Sir Hugh Gough.
2. Battle of Ferozeshah	21–22 December 1845	Fierce two-day battle; heavy casualties on both sides.
3. Battle of Aliwal	28 January 1846	Brilliant British victory under Sir Harry Smith; restored British morale.
4. Battle of Sobraon	10 February 1846	Decisive encounter; Sikh defeat led to the Treaty of Lahore (1846).

3. Arrange the following battles of the Second Anglo-Sikh War in their correct chronological order:

1. Battle of Chillianwala
2. Battle of Ramnagar
3. Battle of Gujarat
4. Battle of Multan

Options:

A. 4 – 2 – 1 – 3

B. 2 – 4 – 1 – 3

C. 4 – 1 – 2 – 3

D. 2 – 1 – 4 – 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

Battle	Date	Significance
1. Siege of Multan	April 1848 – January 1849	Rebellion of Diwan Mulraj; initial spark of the war. The fort finally captured by the British.
2. Battle of Ramnagar	22 November 1848	Fought on the Chenab River; indecisive engagement between Sher Singh Attariwala and Gough.
3. Battle of Chillianwala	13 January 1849	Fierce, bloody battle; heavy casualties on both sides; considered a tactical setback for the British.
4. Battle of Gujarat	21 February 1849	Decisive British victory under Lord Gough; ended organized Sikh resistance and led to annexation of Punjab (1849).

4. Despite their victory over the Sikhs, the British East India Company did not annex Punjab in 1846. Consider the following statements:

1. The British preferred to maintain Punjab as a buffer state between their Indian territories and Afghanistan.
2. A British Resident was stationed at Lahore to exercise indirect control through the Sikh regency council.
3. The Governor-General, Lord Dalhousie, opposed annexation due to financial concerns.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** In 1846, the Governor-General was Sir Henry Hardinge, *not* Dalhousie. Hardinge favoured indirect control. Dalhousie became Governor-General later (1848) and actually annexed Punjab in 1849 after the Second Anglo-Sikh War.

5. With reference to the annexation of Punjab by the British East India Company, consider the following statements:

1. The Battle of Gujarat (1849) was the decisive conflict that ended Sikh resistance and led directly to annexation.
2. The Doctrine of Lapse was invoked to justify the annexation of Punjab.
3. The annexation was proclaimed by Lord Dalhousie, who described it as "a just and necessary measure."

4. After annexation, the Board of Administration for Punjab included both Henry Lawrence and John Lawrence.

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

A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Only 3
D. All 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Doctrine of Lapse applied to states without a natural heir (like Satara, Jhansi, Nagpur).
- Punjab was annexed by right of conquest, not under this doctrine.

Punjab Economy

1. Which of the following schemes have been launched by the Government of Punjab to promote horticulture development and diversification in the state?

1. PHASE Scheme
2. Bhav Antar Bhugtan Yojana
3. Per Drop More Crop
4. SMAM

Options:

A. 1 and 2
B. 1, 2 and 3
C. 1 and 4
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **PHASE Scheme (Punjab Horticulture Advancement and Sustainable Entrepreneurship):** Announced in the Punjab Budget 2024–25 with a ₹5 crore allocation to boost horticulture, crop diversification, and entrepreneurship in the sector.
- Bhav Antar Bhugtan Yojana: Introduced in the 2023–24 Budget, it cushions horticulture growers against market price fluctuations by compensating them when market prices fall below benchmark levels.
- Per Drop More Crop: A central government component under PMKSY, not Punjab-specific, aimed at improving irrigation efficiency, not directly a horticulture-promotion scheme of Punjab.
- SMAM (Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation): Focuses on farm mechanisation and equipment subsidies, not horticulture development.

2. With reference to the level of urbanization in Punjab as per Census 2011, consider the following statements:

1. Punjab ranks in the top 3 among Indian states in terms of the proportion of urban population.
2. The national average of urbanization as per Census 2011 was approximately 31.16%, which is lower than Punjab's level.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1, only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Punjab does not rank in the top 3 most urbanized states. As per Census 2011, it ranks 5th, after Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Karnataka.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The national urbanization average in 2011 was 31.16%, whereas Punjab's urban population share was 37.48%, making it higher than the national average.

3. With reference to Punjab's livestock composition as per the 20th Livestock Census (2019), consider the following statements:

1. Buffaloes constitute the largest share of Punjab's total livestock population, accounting for about 57.4%.
2. The share of cross-bred cattle in Punjab's livestock population is higher than that of indigenous cattle.
3. The state's livestock density per 1,000 persons is among the lowest in northern India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2, 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** As per the 20th Livestock Census (2019), buffaloes make up the largest share (about 57.4%) of Punjab's total livestock population, reflecting the state's strong dairy orientation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The share of cross-bred cattle is indeed higher than that of indigenous cattle, owing to Punjab's focus on high-yield dairy breeds.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Punjab's livestock density per 1,000 persons is relatively high, not among the lowest in northern India, due to its intensive dairy sector and high animal-to-human ratio

4. With reference to Punjab's sectoral composition and employment trends as per the Economic Survey 2024–25, consider the following statements:

1. The services sector has emerged as the largest contributor to Punjab's Gross State Value Added (GSVA).
2. The services sector employs 41% of Punjab's total workforce, which is higher than the national average of around 30%.
3. The industrial sector employs a smaller share of Punjab's workforce compared to agriculture.
4. The contribution of the services sector to GSVA is higher than the national average.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Only 3

D. All 4

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The services sector contributes about 48% to Punjab's GSVA — the largest share among all sectors.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The services sector employs 41% of the state's workforce, which is indeed higher than the national average of around 30%.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect**: The industrial sector employs 28%, while agriculture employs 27% — hence, industry's share is slightly higher, not smaller.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** Punjab's services sector share (48%) is lower than the national average (55.3%), not higher.

5. With reference to Punjab's debt profile and fiscal management, consider the following statements:

1. Punjab's debt-to-GSDP ratio is one of the highest in India, exceeding 45%, well above the FRBM target of 30%.
2. Interest payments alone consume more than one-third of the state's revenue receipts.
3. The state government's per-capita debt burden is estimated to be above ₹1 lakh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 and 3 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Punjab's debt-to-GSDP ratio exceeds 45%, among the highest in India, significantly breaching the FRBM limit of 30%.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Interest payments alone consume around 38–40% of the state's total revenue receipts, indicating high debt servicing pressure.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Punjab's per-capita debt burden has crossed ₹1 lakh, making it one of the most indebted states in India on a per-person basis

