

General Knowledge - I

INDIAN HISTORY

Black Hole Tragedy, 1756

- The Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daula held European Prisoners in a small chamber wherein due to suffocation and wounds many died.
- Holwell who was the Magistrate Collector of Bengal gave the account of the tragedy which was considered as evidence against the Nawab.
- Robert Clive was sent to India to retaliate who defeated Sirajud- Daula at the Battle of Plassey fought in 1757

The Carnatic Wars

- The First Carnatic War, 1744–1748: Fought between the French under Dupleix and the British at Carnatic. French were victorious. Treaty of Axi-La Chapelle was signed.
- The Second Carnatic War, 1749–1754: The English consolidated themselves and captured Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and defeated French under General Bussy.
- The Third Carnatic War, 1756–1763: English Armies led by Sir Eyre Coot defeated the French and Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763 disallowing the French to hold any power in India Revolt of 1857
- Started on 10th May in Meerut.
- Main Cause: Greased Cartridges were required to be bitten off before loading. It was feared that it was made of pig and cow fat which was repulsive to both Hindus and Muslims.
- Mangal Pandey, a sepoy of the 34th Bengal Native Infantry (BNI) targeted

and killed lieutenant Baugh—the adjutant of that infantry.

Queen’s Proclamation, November 1, 1858

- Through this declaration, India was now to be governed by and in the name of the British Crown
- System of Dual Government came to an end. Court of Directors and Board of Control were abolished and were substituted by Secretary of State for India, a member of the British Cabinet.
- Secretary of State governed India through Governor-General.
- The Governor-General, representing the crown, was given the title of Viceroy. The queen appointed Lord Canning to be the first Viceroy.
- Called as ‘Magna Carta of the people of India’

Ilbert Bill Controversy, 1883

- Introduced in 1883 by Sir C.P. Ilbert — legal advisor of the Viceroy’s Council.
- The Bill sought to give equal powers to Indian and European Judges.
- It was severely criticised by the European community.
- Eventually, Lord Ripon, the then Viceroy of India was forced to modify the Bill defeating its original purpose.

Formation of Indian National Congress, 1885

- Indians wanted an All India Party which could unite them politically.
- The foundation of INC was laid by Surendranath Banerjee in 1876 by the

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formation of Indian Association at Calcutta.

- First President: Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee.

Partition of Bengal under Lord Curzon, 1905

- Came into effect on 16th October, 1905.
- Reason: the British stated that the reason behind the partition was that Bengal was too large a province to be administered properly and so it was necessary to divide it into Eastern Bengal, which later became East Pakistan and present day Bangladesh and West Bengal. However, the actual reason behind the partition was to divide the people on the basis of religion and to put the Muslims against the Hindus (Divide & Rule Policy).
- Partition took place under Lord Curzon

Formation of Muslim League, 1906

- The League was established by Aga Khan, Nawab Salimullah of Dhaka and Mohsin-ul-Mulk
- It consisted of Bureaucrats, Zamindars and upper class Muslims.
- Main aim of the league was to promote faith among the Muslims towards the British Government and remain loyal to it; to protect the interests of Muslims in India.

The Surat Split, 1907

- Reason: Differences in ideologies of the Moderates and the Extremists
- Extremists were led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Aurobindo Ghosh and passed resolutions on boycott, Swadeshi and National Education which was opposed by Moderates but accepted in 1906 at the Calcutta session.

- At the Calcutta session, both the groups put forward their leader for President-ship but Dadabhai Naoroji was accepted as a compromise.
- In 1907, the Extremists wanted Lala Lajpat Rai to become the President and the Moderates wanted Rash Behari Bose. This led to some clashes between the two groups. Ultimately, Rash Behari Bose became the President. Further, the moderates were against the resolutions on boycott, Swadeshi and National Education
- The British cracked down on the Extremists and arrested their leaders.

Government of India Act, 1919

(The Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms)

- It gave the other Indian communities also the right to separate electorates.
- It divided the Central Legislature into two houses—the Council of the State (tenure:5 years) and the Legislative Assembly (tenure:3years).
- The Secretary of State for India was now to be paid out of British Exchequer and not out of the Indian revenues.
- Introduced Dyarchy in the Provinces. Under the system, provincial government was divided into two subjects: Reserved and transferred.

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre — 13th April, 1919

- Also known as Amritsar Massacre
- In Punjab, two popular leaders—Dr Satyapal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlu—were arrested for propagating the Rowlatt Satyagraha. This led to a general strike in Amritsar.
- On April 12th, Brigadier-General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer issued an

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order prohibiting all meetings and gatherings.

- On 13th April, large number of people gathered in Jallianwala Bagh and peacefully passed a resolution, calling for the repeal of the Rowlett Act. General Dyer ordered firing at the crowd which continued for about 20 minutes, killing thousands of innocent people.
- Rabindranath Tagore renounced the British Knighthood in Protest.
- A committee was set up named 'Hunter Committee' to enquire about the massacre.
- The Sikhs formed the All India Sikh League as a representative body for political action.

Non-Cooperation Movement, 1920–1922

- Launched by Mahatma Gandhi on August 1st, 1920 following the policy of non-violent non-cooperation towards the government.
- However, the movement was suspended in February, 1922 because of the violence at ChauriChaura in U.P. where a police station was burnt by the peasants, killing 22 officials.
- Dissatisfied with Gandhiji's Policies, C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru formed the Swaraj Party.

Simon Commission, 1927

- The British Government under Stanley Baldwin appointed this commission to review the working of the system of the government established under the GOI Act, 1919 and to report as to what extent it is desirable to establish responsible government in India.
- It was an all-white commission, consisting of Europeans only.

- It was boycotted by all the political leaders and was greeted with black flags wherever it went.
- Lala Lajpat Rai, while holding a procession in Lahore against the commission got badly injured and died.
- A heavy blow inflicted on Govind Ballabh Pant (who later become the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh) during the protest against Simon Commission in Lucknow, which disabled him for life.

The Civil Disobedience Movement, 1930–1934

- Launched by Gandhiji by breaking the Salt law. The British had monopoly over the sale of salt and they levied heavy taxes on it.
- He started his Satyagraha from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi where he illegally made salt by picking it from the shore.
- In 1932, the British government arrested Gandhi and declared Congress as an illegal organisation.
- In 1933, Gandhiji suspended the movement, resigned his membership from the Congress and confined his work only towards the upliftment of the Harijans.

Gandhi–Irwin Pact, March 1931

- The Congress agreed to attend the Second Round Table Conference; called off the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- Irwin agreed to release all the political Prisoners, except those guilty of violence.
- The British government also agreed to the right to peaceful picketing to make salt. Government of India Act, 1935
- The Simon Commission, 1927 formed the basis of the Act.
- The Act introduced Provincial Autonomy and abolished diarchy in the provinces.

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August Offer, 1940

- The Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, made a statement of behalf of the British Government that Governor General's Executive Council would be expanded.
- An advisory war council was to be established.
- New Indian Constitution should be framed
- In return for all the above provisions Indians were required to help the British during the ongoing World War
- Gandhi and Nehru opposed the proposal. The Muslim League however was happy and thus welcomed it

The Cripps Mission, 1942

- Sir Stafford Cripps was sent to India by the then British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill with the following draft proposals:
- A new Constitution for India with Indian States having participation in the constitution making body
- The provinces were free to join or not join.
- Gandhiji called it 'a post-dated cheque'
- It was rejected by all the political parties.

Quit India Movement, 1942–1945

- Disappointed with the failure of the Cripps Mission, the Congress now demanded withdrawal of the British power from India.
- Gandhiji gave the slogan 'Do or Die' to his countrymen wanting to bring British rule to an end.
- All the Congress leaders, including Gandhiji, were arrested. Gandhi went on a 21 day fast which gave immense

strength to the public, making demand for Independence a priority.

- Many Indians were killed and wounded, numerous acts of violence and destruction to property took place.

The Cabinet Mission Plan, 1946

- The Cabinet Mission consisting of Sir Stafford Cripps, Lord Pethick-Lawrence and A. V. Alexander was sent by British Prime Minister Clement Atlee.
- The plan rejected the idea of a separate state of Pakistan. This greatly disturbed Mr. Jinnah and he passed the 'Direct Action' resolution which condemned both the British government and the Congress.
- August 16, 1946, was fixed as the 'Direct Action Day'. This day witnessed great killings in Calcutta.

The Indian Independence Act, 1947

- The Indian Independence Bill was introduced in Parliament on July 4, 1947.
- The Act provided for Partition of India and establishment of two Dominions (India and Pakistan).

Partition of India, 1947

- India was partitioned from Pakistan and became an independent country on 15th August, 1947
- Lord Mountbatten became the first Governor-General of free India.
- C. Rajagopalachari became the only Indian Governor-General of India in 1948.
- Sardar Vallabhai Patel dealt with the accession of the Princely States.

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Warren Hasting

- Last Governor-General of Bengal. He also abolished dual system set up by Robert Clive
- Set up Diwani (for Civil Cases) and Faujdari Adalats (for Criminal Cases) at District Level.
- Started Quinquennial Settlement System: Five-year settlement system wherein the right to collect land revenue was given to the highest bidder.

Lord William Bentinck

- Regarded as the Father of Modern Western Education in India. He also abolished Sati and suppressed thugi.
- Passed Charter Act of 1883 which provided that 'No Indian subject of the company in India would be debarred from holding any office by reason of birth, religion, descent and color'.
- Concluded treaty of Perpetual Injunction with Ranjit Singh and Commercial-cum-Political treaty with Amirs of Sind

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan

- Also called 'Frontier Gandhi' because he organized the people of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) of undivided India (now merged with Pakistan) on Gandhian principles.
- He was a staunch Congress man who called himself a soldier of the freedom struggle.
- His admirers called him Badshah Khan. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1987.

Akbar

- The greatest Mughal Emperor of India, he reigned from 1556 until his death (1605)

- In 1579, a mazhar or declaration was issued that granted Akbar the authority to interpret religious laws. This came to be known as 'Infallibility Decree'.
- In 1582, he established a new cult, the 'Din-i-Ilahi', the Divine faith.

Alexander the Great

- Considered one of history's most successful commanders.
- King of Macedonia, who conquered most of Asia Minor and defeated King Porus (India) in 327 BC,
- A mutiny in his army prevented him from advancing further into India and he died in 323 BC.

Ashoka, the Great

- Grandson of Chandragupta, Ashoka was one of the greatest emperors that ever ruled India.
- After the battle of Kalinga (modern day Odisha), he renounced violence and embraced Buddhism.

7. Vijaylakshmi Pandit

- Sister of Jawahar Lal Nehru. First Indian woman to hold a Cabinet post.
- Holds the distinction of being the first woman to become President of the UN General Assembly.
- First woman ambassador to Soviet Union.

Bhagat Singh

- A patriot and revolutionary, known as **Shahid-e-azam**, who along with Sukhdev and Raj Guru became a martyr on March 23, 1931.
- Killed a British officer named Saunders to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- Presided over the Banaras session in 1905

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- Played an important role in the formulation of the Morley– Minto reforms of 1909.

Subhash Chandra Bose

- He was popularly known as ‘Netaji’.
- Led an Indian National force against the Western powers during World War II.
- Alleged death due to third-degree burns on 18th August, 1945, after his Japanese plane crashed in Formosa (now Taiwan).

Gautama Buddha

- Founder of Buddhism, Buddha was born in Lumbini near Nepal.
- He was the son of Suddhodana, king of Kapilvastu (Nepal)
- His first teaching was called the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta, which means the Turning of the Wheel of Truth.

Sardar Vallabhai Patel

- Got involved in the satyagraha in Nagpur, led peasant’s agitation at Bardoli
- Served as independent India’s first Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs
- Dealt with the accession of states of the Indian Union

Jayaprakash Narayan

- Also known as ‘Loknayak’, he formed the Janata Party and defeated the Congress party in 1977.
- He was conferred the title of Rashtra Bhushan.

C. Rajgopalachari

- Only Indian Governor–General of independent India.
- Became the founder and leader of the Swatantra Party in 1959

- Served on the working committee of the Indian National Congress (INC) for 20 years

Lal Bahadur Shastri

- Indian statesman, who succeeded Pandit Nehru as the second Prime Minister of India.
- He signed the Tashkent Agreement with Ayub Khan for a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.
- Also known as ‘Man of Peace’, he died in Tashkent on January 1st, 1966, few hours after he had signed the Indo–Pak accord.

Madan Mohan Malaviya

- A prominent lawyer of Allahabad, he also founded the Banaras Hindu University.
- He served as President of Indian National Congress, and was an Indian delegate at the Round Table Conference.

Panini

- Well known Hindu sage and Sanskrit grammarian, he belonged to the Vedic era and authored Ashtadhyayi.
- Ashtadhyayi means ‘eight chapters’ and the text is the basis of the Vedanga’s grammatical chapter.

Samudragupta

- Son and successor of Chandragupta I; and a powerful and able Hindu King
- Also known as ‘India’s Napoleon’, as he waged many wars.

Shah Jahan

- Mughal emperor of India who brought the Mughal Empire to its golden age.
- A great patron of art, architecture and literature, he built the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved Mumtaz Mahal.

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- He was deposed by his son Aurangzeb and imprisoned in Agra

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

- Also known as 'Veer Savarkar' ; he was a pro-independence revolutionary
- Was imprisoned in the Andamans till 1937
- Coined the term Hindutva

Jainism

- Rishabhadeve was the founder of Jainism and the first Tirthankara.
- Mahavira was the last of the 24 tirthankaras, or great teachers. Their teachings constitute the core of the religion of Jainism.
- Mahavira was born at Kundagrama (near Vaishali), in Bihar around 2500 years ago. His father was the head of the Jnatrika clan and his mother was a Lichchavi princess
- Five doctrines of Jainism: (i) Ahinsa (non-violence) (ii) Satya (do not speak a lie) (iii) Aehaurya (do not steal) (iv) Brahmacharya (celibacy) and (v) Aparigraha (nonpossessiveness).
- Ratnatraya (three jewels) of Jainism - Samyagdarshan (right belief), Samyagyana (correct knowledge), and Samyak Charitra (correct behaviour). One of the three cannot exist exclusive of the others, and all are required for spiritual liberation.
- The followers of Jainism divided into Digambaras (skyclad or naked) and Svetambaras (white-clad).

Buddhism

- Gautam Buddha was the founder of Buddhism. His real name was Siddhartha. He was born as a royal prince in 624 BC

at a place called Lumbini, Bihar, now part of Nepal.

- His father was a king named Suddodana Tharu, the chief of the Shakya clan, and his mother's name was Mahamaya.
- Siddhartha left home to seek knowledge and the true meaning of life. For six years, he wandered from place to place. After many days of intense meditation, he discovered enlightenment under the Peepal tree in Gaya, Bihar at the age of 35. He thus, became the 'Buddha', the enlightened or the Awakened or the Wise one.
- He gave his first sermon at the Deer Park in Sarnath. It is known as the Dharmachakra Pravartana (setting in motion the wheel of dharma).
- The Tiratana (Three Jewels) of Buddhism are Buddha (The Enlightened), Dhamma (The Teaching) and Sangha (The Community).
- The Buddhism spread over worldwide due to the missionaries activities of Emperor Ashoka.

Timeline

BC Timeline

- 2350-1750 Indus Valley Civilization.
- 540 Birth of Mahavir; Nirvana in 468. BC
- 563 Birth of Gautam Buddha; Nirvana in 483 BC
- 327-26 Alexander's invasion of India and the opening of land route between India and Europe.
- 269-232 Ashoka's reign.
- 261 Battle of Kalinga.
- 57 Beginning of Vikrama era.

AD Timeline

- 78 Beginning of Saka era.

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- 320 Beginning of Gupta era.
- 380-413 Rule of Chandragupta Vikramaditya, age of Kalidasa, renewal of Hinduism.
- 606-647 Rule of Harsha Vardhana.
- 629-645 Hieun Tsang's visit in India.
- 1001-27 Repeated attacks of Mahmud of Ghazni.
- 1025 Sacking of Somnath temple by Mahmud.
- 1191 First battle of Tarain in which Prithviraj Chauhan defeated Mohd. Ghori.
- 1192 Second battle of Tarain in which Mohd. Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan.
- 1398 Timur invaded India.
- 1498 Vasco da Gama landed at Calicut.
- 1510 Portuguese captured Goa-Albuquerque Governor.
- 1526 First Battle of Panipat in which Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi and established the Mughal dynasty.
- 1556 Second battle of Panipat in which Akbar defeated Hemu.
- 1565 Battle of Talikota in which Vijaynagar empire is defeated.
- 1576 Battle of Haldighati in which Akbar defeated Maharana Pratap.
- 1600 English East India Company established.
- 1611 The English built a factory at Masulipatnam.
- 1631 Death of Shahjahan's wife Mumtaz Mahal. The building of Taj Mahal.
- 1699 Guru Gobind Singh created 'Khalsa'.

- 1739 Nadir Shah invaded India; the peacock throne and the Kohinoor Diamond taken away from India.
- 1757 Battle of Plassey in which the English defeated Siraj-ud-Daule, Nawab of Bengal.
- 1761 Third Battle of Panipat in which Ahmed Shah Abdali defeated the Marathas.
- 1764 Battle of Buxar in which the English defeated the tripe alliance of Nawab Mir Qasim of Bengal, Nawab Shuja-ud-daula of Awadh and Mughal emperor Shah Alam.
- 1828 Lord William Bentinck became Governor General; Era of social reforms; Prohibition of Sati (1829), Suppression of thugs (1830).
- 1853 First Indian railway from Bombay to Thane.
- 1857-58 First war of Indian Independence.
- 1858 British crown took over the Indian Government; End of East India Company's rule.
- 1869 Birth of M.K. Gandhi.
- 1885 Formation of Indian National Congress.
- 1905 Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon.
- 1906 Formation of All India Muslim League.
- 1909 Minto-Morley Reforms.
- 1911 Delhi durbar held, partition of Bengal cancelled, capital shifted from Calcutta to Delhi.
- 1914 World War I started
- 1918 End of World War I.

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- 1919 Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Montague- Chelmsford reforms.
- 1921 Moplah rebellion in Malabar; visit of Prince of Wales.
- 1923 Swaraj Party formed.
- 1927 Simon Commission appointed.
- 1928 Visit of Simon Commission to India, death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- 1929 Congress demanded 'Poorna Swaraj' in Lahore session.
- 1930 January 26 celebrated as Independence Day throughout India, Dandi Salt Satyagraha, First Round Table Conference.
- 1931 Gandhi-Irvin Pact, Second Round Table Conference.
- 1932 Suppression of Congress Movement, Third Round
- Table Conference, Communal Award, Poona Pact.
- 1935 Government of India Act.
- 1937 Inauguration of Provincial Autonomy. Congress ministries formed in 9 (7 + 2 Coalition) out of 11 provinces.
- 1939 Beginning of World War II. Resignation of Congress ministries.
- 1942 Cripps Mission Plan, Quit India Movement, Formation of Indian National Army by SC Bose.
- 1945 Simla conference held and the failure of Wavell Plan, INA trials at Red Fort, Delhi.
- 1946 Cabinet Mission Plan, Formation of Interim Government, Direct Action Resolution by Muslim League.
- 1947 Mountbatten Plan of June 3 in which partition of India resolution is proposed, India divided, Pakistan created,

both achieved independence, Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru became the 1st Prime Minister of India.

Example

1. The monk who spread Buddhism in Tibet and Far-East:
(a) Ananda (b) Nagar una
(c) Padmasambava (d) Mahendra
2. The leader who led the country in atoning for the past wrongs:
(a) John Howard
(b) Desmond Tutu
(c) Kevin Rudd
(d) Jimmy Carter
3. Gandhiji expounded his economic ideas in
(a) Hind Swaraj
(b) My Experiments with Truth
(c) Unto the Last
(d) Economics of Permanence
4. By signing which pact with Gandhiji did Ambedkar give up his demand for separate electorates:
(a) Poona Pact (b) Aligarh Pact
(c) Deccan Pact (d) Delhi Pact
5. The Chipko movement is associated with
(a) preventing the felling of trees
(b) afforestation
(c) transparency in public life
(d) sustainable development
6. The first Great Indian Empire was
(a) Magadha Empire
(b) Kuru Empire
(c) Pandava Empire
(d) Gandhara Empire

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7. The King who gave permission to establish East India Company in India
(a) Jahangir (b) Aurangzeb
(c) Shahjahan (d) Shershah
8. The person who conceptualized the idea of Pakistan
(a) M.A. Jinnah
(b) Hakim Azmal Khan
(c) Mohammad Iqbal
(d) Liaquat Ali Khan
9. Khilafat movement was organized
(a) for getting Muslim Homeland
(b) as a protest against British suppression of Turks
(c) to preserve Turkish Empire with Khilafat as temporal head
(d) as a protest against communal politics
10. Indian who played a very important role in World Communist Movement?
(a) Jyoti Basu (b) M.N. Roy
(c) A.K. Gopalan (d) Prakash Karat

Answer

1. (c)
2. (c)
3. (a) Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule is a book written by Mohandas K. Gandhi in 1909.
4. (a) The Poona Pact refers to an agreement between Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi signed on 24 September 1932 at Yerwada Central Jail in Pune, India. It was signed by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and B.R. Ambedkar and some other leaders to break the fast unto death undertaken by Gandhi in Yerwada prison to annul the Macdonald Award giving separate electorates to Dalits for

- electing members of state legislative assemblies in British India.
5. (a) Chipko Movement, started in 1970's, was a non violent movement aimed at protection and conservation of trees and forests from being destroyed.
 6. (a)
 7. (a)
 8. (c)
 9. (c)
 10. (b) M. N. Roy was an Indian revolutionary, radical activist and political theorist. He was also an Indian philosopher of twentieth century. Roy was a founder of the Mexican Communist Party and the Communist Party of India.

Example

1. Ancient treatise on law?
(a) Vedas (b) Upanishads
(c) Smritis (d) Shrutis
2. The island of Bombay was acquired by the East India Company from
(a) Netherlands (b) France
(c) Portugal (d) Spain
3. The outstanding achievement of Todar Mal was in the field of
(a) Military Conquests
(b) Revenue Administration
(c) Religious Reforms
(d) Art and Architecture
4. The deity most praised in Rigveda is
(a) Indra (b) Agni
(c) Mitra (d) Varuna
5. The Peacock throne of Shahjahan was taken away by
(a) Changez Khan
(b) Timur

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- (c) Nadir Shah
(d) Ahmad Shah Abdali
6. Shivaji's Council of Ministers was called
(a) Nava Patnas
(b) Ashta Pradhans
(c) Ashta Diggajas
(d) Mantri Parishad
7. Charakha was the court physician of
(a) Ashoka
(b) Kanishka
(c) Chandragupta Maurya
(d) Samudragupta
8. Which of the following reasons was mainly responsible for the unpopularity of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq?
(a) Bad luck
(b) Lack of resources
(c) Subordination of the theologians
(d) Transfer of capital from Delhi to Devagiri
9. The empire of the 'Satavahana kings' is known by which of the following names at present?
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Punjab
(c) Gujarat (d) Uttar Pradesh
10. The High Courts at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay were established under the
(a) Indian High Courts Act, 1911
(b) Government of India Act, 1909
(c) Indian High Courts Act, 1861
(d) Indian High Courts Act, 1865

Answer

1. (c)
2. (c) The growing power of the Dutch by the middle of the seventeenth century forced the Surat Council of the British

- Empire to acquire Bombay from King John IV of Portugal in 1659. The marriage treaty of Charles II of England and Catherine of Portugal on 8 May 1661 placed Bombay in British possession as a part of Catherine's dowry to Charles.
3. (b) Raja Todar Mal, a Khatri Rajput had served his youth under the administration of Sher Shah Suri and had gained priceless experience in management of Land and revenues. He assisted Akbar's chancellor of exchequer Muzafar Khan first and then took part in suppression of Ali Kuli in 1566.
4. (a) Indra is the most referred to deity in the Rigveda. He is celebrated for his powers, and the one who kills the great symbolic evil named Vritra who obstructs human prosperity and happiness.
5. (c) The Peacock Throne was a famous jewelled throne that was the seat of the Mughal emperors of India. It was commissioned in the early 17th century by Emperor Shah Jahan and was located in the Diwan-i-Khas in the Red Fort of Delhi. The original throne was subsequently captured and taken as a war trophy in 1739 by the Persian king Nadir Shah.
6. (b) The Ashta Pradhan was a council of eight ministers that administered the Maratha empire. The council was formed in 1674 by their king, Shivaji. The body discharged the functions of a modern council of ministers; this is regarded as one of the first successful instances of ministerial delegation in India.
7. (b) Charaka has been called the Court Physician of Kanishka, though it is very much disputed.
8. (d) In 1327, Muhammad bin Tughluq passed an order to shift the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (in presentday

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Maharashtra) in the Deccan region of south India. Tughluq said that it would help him to establish control over the fertile land of the Deccan plateau. Even though the citizens migrated, they showed dissent. In the process, many died on the road due to hunger and exhaustion.

9. (a) The Satavahanas were an Indian dynasty based in the Deccan region. The Satavahana kingdom mainly comprised the present-day Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.
10. (c) The Indian High Courts Act of 1861 was an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom to authorize the Crown to create High Courts in the Indian colony. Queen Victoria created the High Courts in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay by Letters Patent in 1865. These High Courts would become the precursors to the High Courts in the modern day India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Example

1. Prophet Mohammed was born in
(a) 570 AD (b) 720 AD
(c) 620 AD (d) 510 AD
2. When was the First World War declared?
(a) 1914 (b) 1915
(c) 1918 (d) 1913
3. Who destroyed the Somnath temple in Gujarat ?
(a) Mohammad Ghouri
(b) Mahmud Ghaznavi
(c) Changhez Khan
(d) Taimur Lang
4. In Cape Trafalgar, the famous battle of Trafalgar was fought in 1805. Where is Cape Trafalgar situated?]
(a) Italy (b) Greece

- (c) Spain (d) Portugal
5. India's Imperial Capital was officially shifted from Calcutta to Delhi in
(a) 1911 (b) 1935
(c) 1947 (d) 1872
6. Who said that Swaraj is my birth right?
(a) M.K. Gandhi
(b) Balagangadhar Tilak
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru
(d) Mohammed Ali Jinnah
7. The first venture of Mahatma Gandhi in all India politics was
(a) Non-cooperation Movement.
(b) Dandi March.
(c) Champaran Movement.
(d) Rowlatt Satyagrah.
8. Which of the following statements are correct with regard to the Indus Valley Civilisation?
I. The people of this civilisation were the earliest to make use of cotton.
II. They did not cremate their dead.
III. A grid system was followed in city planning.
IV. Stone was the chief building material.
(a) I and II (b) II and III
(c) III and IV (d) I and III
9. The famous queen Chand Bibi who fought gallantly against Akbar belonged to
(a) Berar (b) Ahmadnagar.
(c) Bijapur (d) Golconda.
10. Who among the following Indian rulers established embassies in foreign countries on modern lines?
(a) Haider Ali (b) Mir Qasim
(c) Shah Alam II (d) Tipu Sultan

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Answer

1. (a)
2. (a) World War I, also known as the First World War, or the Great War, was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918.
3. (b) In 1024, during the reign of Bhima I, the prominent Turkic ruler Mahmud of Ghazni raided Gujarat, plundering the Somnath temple and breaking its jyotirlinga. He took away booty of 20 million dinars.
4. (c) Cape Trafalgar is a headland in the Province of Cádiz in the south-west of Spain. The 1805 naval Battle of Trafalgar, in which the Royal Navy decisively defeated Napoleon's combined Spanish and French fleet, took place off the cape.
5. (a) On 12 December 1911, during the Delhi Durbar, George V, then Emperor of India, along with Queen Mary, his Consort, made the announcement that the capital of the Raj was to be shifted from Calcutta to Delhi, while laying the foundation stone for the Viceroy's residence in the Coronation Park, Kingsway Camp.
6. (b)
7. (c) The first Satyagraha movements inspired by Mahatma Gandhi occurred in Champaran district of Bihar and the Kheda district of Gujarat on 1917 to 1918. Champaran Satyagraha was the first to be started, but the word Satyagraha was used for the first time in Anti Rowlatt Act agitation.
8. (d)
9. (b) Chand Bibi is best known for defending Ahmednagar against the Mughal forces of Emperor Akbar in 1595.

Chand Bibi was the daughter of Hussain Nizam Shah I of Ahmednagar, and the sister of Burhan-ul-Mulk, the Sultan of Ahmednagar.

10. (d)

GEOGRAPHY

The Solar System

The Solar system consists of the sun, the eight planets and various heavenly bodies like asteroids, meteoroids, comets etc.

Sun is at the centre of the solar system and all the other planets revolve around it in elliptical orbit. Sun is constituted mainly by Hydrogen and Helium. Nuclear fusion takes place in it which releases large amounts of heat and light energy.

Planets

- **Mercury** is the planet closest to the sun.
- **Venus**—the 'Veiled Planet'—is also known as the Morning and the Evening star. It is the hottest planet of the solar system
- **Earth** is the only planet which can sustain life and thus is known as 'Goldilock Planet'. Goldilock Zone is a zone which is capable of sustaining life as its surface is neither too hot and nor too cold. Earth's only natural satellite is moon which has no atmosphere.
- **Mars** is known as the Red Planet. It has iron rich red soil which gives it a red colour. Mars is home to the largest volcano of the Solar System 'Olympus Mons'. It has two small moons called Phobos and Deimos.
- **Jupiter** is the largest planet of the solar system. It is also known as the winter planet due to its low temperature. Jupiter has rings like Saturn but the rings are much fainter and smaller.

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- **Saturn** is the second largest planet of the solar system. Its largest moon 'Titan' is the only moon in the Solar System to have atmosphere. It is the least dense planet in the solar system.
- **Uranus** was the first planet to be discovered after the discovery of the Telescope. It was earlier believed to be a constellation until Sir William Herschel discovered it as a planet.
- **Neptune** is the coldest planet in the Solar system.

Spheres of the Earth

- **Lithosphere** is the solid crust of the earth. It comprises of rocks, minerals and soil. It has various landforms like mountains, plateaus, plains, valleys, etc which are found over the continents as well as the ocean floors. It provides us forests, grasslands, land and is a rich source of mineral wealth.
- **Hydrosphere** covers about three-fourth of the earth's surface. It comprises of various sources of water and various water bodies like rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, etc.
- **Atmosphere** is the thin layer of air that surrounds the earth. The gravitational force of the earth holds the atmosphere around it.
- **Biosphere** comprises of plant and animal kingdom together.

Interior of the Earth

- **Crust** is the uppermost layer over the earth's surface. It is the thinnest of all the layers. It is about 35 km on the continental masses and only 5 km on the ocean floors. The main mineral constituents of this layer are silica and alumina and therefore called sial (silica and al-alumina).

- **Mantle:** Just beneath the crust is the mantle which extends up to a depth of 2900 km below the crust. Mantle is made up of silica and magnesium and is called sima. The discontinuity between the crust and the mantle is known as Mohorovicic discontinuity.
- **Core** is the innermost layer having a radius of about 3500 km. It is mainly made up of nickel and iron and is called nife (ni – nickel and fe – ferrous i.e., iron). The central core has very high temperature and pressure. The core-mantle boundary is known as Gutenberg discontinuity.

Earth's Atmosphere

Our atmosphere is divided into five layers starting from the earth's surface. These are Troposphere, Stratosphere, Mesosphere, Thermosphere and Exosphere.

- **Troposphere** is the most important layer of the atmosphere. Its average height is 13 km. The various weather phenomena like rainfall, fog and hailstorm take place in this layer.
- **Stratosphere** lies above the troposphere. It extends up to a height of 50 km. Weather phenomenon and cloud formation does not take place in this layer making conditions most ideal for flying aeroplanes. This layer contains ozone gas and protects the earth from the harmful effect of the sun rays.
- **Mesosphere:** This is the third layer of the atmosphere which lies above the stratosphere. It extends up to the height of 80 km. Meteorites burn up in this layer on entering from the space.
- **Thermosphere:** Here temperature rises very rapidly. This layer helps in radio transmission. Radio waves transmitted from the earth are reflected back to the

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earth by this layer. Ionosphere is a part of this layer. It extends from 80 to 400 kms.

- **Exosphere:** This is the upper most layer of the atmosphere. It has very thin air. It has light gases like helium and hydrogen which float into the space.

Major Crops of the world

- **Rice:** Rice is the major food crop of the world. It is the staple diet of the tropical and sub-tropical regions. Rice needs high temperature, high humidity and rainfall. It grows best in alluvial clayey soil, which can retain water. China is the largest producer of rice followed by India, Japan, Sri Lanka and Egypt.
- **Wheat:** During growing season wheat requires moderate temperature and rainfall while at the time of harvest it requires bright sunshine. It thrives best in well drained loamy soil. Wheat is grown extensively in USA, Canada, Argentina, Russia, Ukraine, Australia and India.
- **Millets:** They are also known as coarse grains and can be grown on less fertile and sandy soils. These need low rainfall and moderate temperature. The crops grown in India include jowar, bajra and ragi.
- **Maize (corn):** Maize requires well-drained fertile soils with moderate temperature, rainfall and abundant sunshine. Maize is grown in North America, Brazil, China, Russia, Canada, India, and Mexico.
- **Cotton:** Cotton is one of the main raw materials for the cotton textile industry. It requires high temperature, light rainfall, 210 frost-free days and bright sunshine for its growth. It grows best on black and alluvial soils. China, USA, India, Pakistan, Brazil and Egypt are the leading producers of cotton.

- **Jute:** Also known as the 'Golden Fibre', it grows well on alluvial soil and requires high temperature, heavy rainfall and humid climate. This crop is mainly grown in the tropical areas. India and Bangladesh are the leading producers.
- **Coffee:** Coffee requires warm and wet climate and well drained loamy soil. Hill slopes are more suitable for growth of this crop. Brazil is the leading producer followed by Columbia and India.
- **Tea:** Tea is a beverage crop grown on plantations. This requires cool climate and well distributed high rainfall throughout the year for the growth of its tender leaves. It needs well-drained loamy soils and gentle slopes. Labour in large number is required to pick the leaves. Kenya, India, China, Sri Lanka produce the best quality tea in the world.

Major Physiographic Divisions

The physical features of India can be grouped under the following physiographic divisions:

The Himalayas

- The Himalayas are one of the most uneven mountains of the world. They consist of three parallel ranges in their longitudinal extent.
- The northern most range is known as the Great or Inner Himalayas or the 'Himadri'. It is the most continuous range consisting of all the prominent peaks.
- The range lying to the south of the Himadri is known as Himachal or lesser Himalaya.
- The outer most range of the Himalayas is called the Sivaliks.

The Northern Plains

The Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the Indus along with their tributaries have formed these plains. This plain is made of alluvial soil.

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Older alluvium is known as Bhangar which forms the larger part of the Plains. The new deposits of the flood plains are called khadir. They are very fertile, thus, ideal for intensive agriculture.

The Peninsular Plateau

- It is one of the oldest landmasses composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks. It was formed due to the breaking and drifting of the Gondwana land. It consists of two broad divisions, namely, the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.
- The part of the plateau covering a major area of the Malwa plateau is known as the Central Highlands.
- The Deccan Plateau is a triangular landmass that makes up the central and southern India. The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats lie in the Deccan Plateau.
- The Western Ghats are higher than the Eastern Ghats being discontinuous and irregular.

The Indian desert/Thar Desert

This lies towards the western part of India stretching from Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to Rajasthan. Luni is the only large river in this region.

The Coastal Plains

The Eastern Coastal Plains are located between Eastern Ghats and Bay of Bengal. This region experiences humidity and heavy rainfall. The western coastal plains are located between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. The Western Coastal Plains are divided into three sections: the Malabar Coast of Kerala, the Konkan Coast and the Kanara Coast.

The Islands

The Islands comprise of the Lakshadweep Islands and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Lakshadweep is composed of small coral islands. Earlier they were known as Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi. In 1973 these were named as Lakshadweep covering a small area of 32 sq km. Kavaratti Island is the administrative headquarters of Lakshadweep.. The elongated chain of islands located in the Bay of Bengal extending from north to south are the Andaman and Nicobar islands. They are bigger in size and are more numerous and scattered. The entire group of islands is divided into two broad categories—The Andaman in the north and the Nicobar in the south. These islands lie close to equator and experience equatorial climate and have thick forest cover.

Minerals found in India

- **Iron:** India has deposits of high grade iron ore. This mineral is found mainly in Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **Bauxite:** Major bauxite producing states are Jharkhand, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- **Mica:** Mica deposits mainly occur in Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. India is the largest producer and exporter of mica in the world.
- **Copper:** It is mainly produced in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Manganese:** India's manganese deposits lie in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Limestone:** Major limestone producing states in India are Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

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- **Gold:** Karnataka has large deposits of gold in India. These mines are among the deepest in the world.
- **Salt:** It is obtained from seas, lakes and rocks. India is one of the world's leading producers and exporters of salt.
- **Coal:** The coal producing areas of India are Raniganj, Jharia, Dhanbad and Bokaro in Jharkhand.
- **Petroleum:** The leading producers in India are Digboi in Assam, Bombay High in Mumbai and the deltas of Krishna and Godavari rivers.
- **Natural Gas:** In India, Jaisalmer, Krishna Godavari delta, Tripura and some areas off shore in Mumbai have natural gas resources.

Major Food Crops of India

- **Rice (Kharif)** West Bengal, UP, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Karnataka, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat
- **Wheat (Rabi)** UP, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Uttaranchal, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu & Kashmir
- **Millets** Jowar Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, UP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana
- **Bajra** Rajasthan, UP, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
- **Ragi** Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand
- **Pulses** UP, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar

The Continents

Africa : It is second as far as population and size among the Earth's continents. About 1 billion people live in the 54 countries in Africa. This is about 15 percent of the world's population living on 20 percent of the total land area. The equator passes through the center of the continent with largely tropical climates.

Antarctica : The continent is the most southern of the seven continents and includes the South Pole. It is also the least populated with less than 5,000 residents. Antarctica is known as the *coldest* landmass.

Asia : Asia covers nearly 9 percent of the earth's surface making it the largest of the continents. It is also the home to the most people with an estimated population of 4.3 billion.

Australia : The continent of Australia includes the mainland of the country Australia and the island nations of New Guinea, Tasmania and Seram.

Europe : The western portion of the Eurasian continent is known as Europe. It is noted as one of the smallest of the continents, with 7 percent of the world's landmass. However, Europe is home to about 11% of Earth's population, and is the second most densely populated continent, with 134 people per square mile, behind Asia's 203 people per square mile. Europe, by definition, includes the continental mainland ending in the east at the Ural Mountains in Russia. The British Isles consist of the large island that is home to England, Scotland, and Wales, and is called Great Britain.

North America : The North American continent includes the Latin American regions that serve as a connection between North and South America. North America makes up about 17 percent of the world's landmass and is home to about 8 percent of the people.

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South America : The South American continent is the southern portion of the larger American continent. The equator passes through the continent yielding a tropical climate to much of the landmass with temperate conditions possible in the south.

The Oceans

There are five oceans which cover the surface of our globe. They cover more than 71% of the Earth's surface.

Pacific Ocean The largest coral reef in the world is located off the Australian coast and is called the Great Barrier Reef. The ring of fire is also located in the Pacific Ocean.

Atlantic Ocean The Atlantic is the second biggest ocean in the world and is between the continents of America and Europe and Africa. The Atlantic Ocean is about half the size of the Pacific Ocean and covers roughly 20% of the Earth's surface.

Indian Ocean The Indian Ocean is located between Africa and Austral-Asia. The waters of the Indian Ocean provide the largest breeding grounds of the world for humpback whales. The Northern Indian Ocean also is the most important transport route for oil as it connects the oil-rich countries of the Middle East with Asia.

Arctic Ocean The Arctic Ocean is located around the North Pole across the Arctic circle. There are many polar bears living on the Arctic ice. The Arctic Ocean's ice covers are shrinking by 8% every ten years.

Southern Ocean The Southern Ocean is located around the South Pole across the Antarctic circle in the Southern Hemisphere off Antarctica. The Southern Ocean is the home of Emperor Penguins and Wandering Albatrosses.

Mountains

A mountain is a geological landform that rises above the surrounding land. Typically a

mountain will rise at least 1,000 feet above sea level. Some mountains exceed 10,000 feet above sea level with the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest, rising 29,036 feet. Small mountains (below 1,000 feet) are usually called hills. They are most often formed by movement of the tectonic plates in the Earth's crust. Great mountain ranges like the Himalayas often form along the boundaries of these plates. Tectonic plates move very slowly. It can take millions and millions of years for mountains to form.

Fold mountains Fold mountains are formed when two plates run into each other or collide. The force of the two plates running into each other causes the Earth's crust to crumple and fold. Many of the world's great mountain ranges are fold mountains including the Andes, Himalayas, and the Rockies.

Fault-block mountains Fault-block mountains are formed along faults where some large blocks of rock are forced upwards while others are forced down.

Volcanic mountains Mountains that are caused by volcanic activity are called volcanic mountains. There are two main types of volcanic mountains: volcanoes and dome mountains. Volcanoes are formed when magma erupts all the way to the surface of the Earth. The magma will harden on the Earth's surface, forming a mountain. Dome mountains are formed when a large amount of magma builds up below the Earth's surface. This forces the rock above the magma to bulge out, forming a mountain. Examples of volcanic mountains include Mount Fuji in Japan and Mount Mauna Loa in Hawaii.

Nick Name of Indian Places

Golden City	Amritsar
Manchester of India	Ahmedabad
City of festivals	Mudurai
Deccan Queen	Pune

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City of Buildings	Kolkata
Dakshin Ganga	Godavari
Old Ganga	Godavari
Egg bowls of Asia	Andhra Pradesh
Soya region	Madhya Pradesh
Manchester of South	Coimbatore
City of Nawabs	Lucknow
Venice of the East	Kochi
Queen of the Mountains	Mussoorie
Sacred river	Ganga
Hollywood of India	Mumbai
City of Castles	Kolkata
State of Five Rivers	Punjab
City of weavers	Panipat
City of lakes Srinagar	
Steel city of India	Jamshedpur
City of Temples	Varanasi
Manchester of North	Kanpur
City of Rallies	New Delhi
Heaven of India	Jammu & Kashmir
Boston of India	Ahmedabad
Garden of spices of India	Kerala
Switzerland of India	Kashmir
Abode of the God	Prayag (Allahabad)
Pittsburgh of India	Jamshedpur
City of seven islands	Mumbai
Blue Mountains	Nilgiri
Queen of Arabian Sea	Kochi
Space City	Bengaluru
Garden City of India	Bengaluru
Silicon valley of India	Bengaluru
Electronic City of India	Bengaluru
Pink City	Jaipur
Gateway of India	Mumbai

Longest, Largest, Biggest, Smallest, Tallest and Highest

- Longest river (India) - Ganges
- Longest river (World) - Nile
- The longest tributary river of India - Yamuna
- The longest river of the south - Godavari
- Highest mountain peak - Godwin Austin (K2)
- Largest lake (Fresh water) - Wular lake (Kashmir)
- Highest Dam - Tehri Dam on Bhagirathi River
- Largest Mosque - Jama Masjid, Delhi
- Longest Road - Grand Trunk Road
- State with longest coastline - Gujarat
- Largest railway route - Dibrugarh in Assam to Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu
- Longest Tunnel - Jawahar tunnel (Jammu & Kashmir)
- Longest National Highway - NH-7 which runs from Varanasi to Kanyakumari
- Longest Dam - Hirakod Dam (Orissa)
- Longest River Bridge - Mahatma Gandhi Setu, Patna
- Longest Populated City - Mumbai (1.60 crore)
- Largest Museum - National Museum, Kolkata
- Largest Delta - Sunderban Delta, W. Bengal
- Largest Dome - Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur (Karnataka)
- Largest Zoo - Zoological Gardens, Alipur, Kolkata
- Largest man-made Lake - Govind Vallabh Pant Sagar (Rihand Dam)

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- Largest Desert - Thar (Rajasthan)
- Highest Tower - Pitampura Tower, Delhi
- Smallest State (Area) - Goa
- Smallest State (Population) - Sikkim
- Highest Waterfall - Gersoppa waterfall (Karnataka)
- Longest Electric Railway Line - From Delhi to Kolkata via Patna
- Densest Populated State - West Bengal
- Largest cave temple - Kailash temple, Ellora (Maharashtra)
- Largest Animal Fair - Sonapur (Bihar)
- Highest Gateway - Buland Darwaza, Fatehpur Sikri (Agra)
- Biggest Hotel - Oberoi-Sharaton (Mumbai)
- Largest State (Area) - Rajasthan
- Largest State (Population) - Uttar Pradesh
- Place of Heaviest Rainfall - Mawsynram (Meghalaya)
- Largest Corridor - Rameshwaram temple corridor (Tamil Nadu)
- Largest Cantilever Span Bridge - Howrah Bridge (Kolkata)
- Largest Forest State - M.P.
- Highest Straight Gravity Dam - Bhakra Dam
- Longest Railway Platform - Kharagpur (W. Bengal)
- Largest Stadium - Salt lake (Yuva Bharti), Kolkata
- Largest Port - Mumbai
- Highest Lake - Devatal (Garhwal)
- Largest Lake (Saline water) - Chilka lake, Orissa
- Highest Award - Bharat Ratna

AMIE(I)

STUDY CIRCLE(REGD.)

A FOCUSED APPROACH

- Highest Gallantry Award - Paramveer Chakra
- Largest Gurudwara - Golden Temple, Amritsar
- Longest river which forms estuary - Narmada
- Largest Church - Saint Cathedral (Goa)
- Longest Beach - Marina Beach, Chennai
- Highest Battle field - Siachin Glacier
- Highest Airport - Leh (Ladakh)
- Largest river island - Majuli (Brahmaputra river, Assam)
- Largest Planetarium - Birla Planetarium (Kolkata)

Monuments in India

- Ajanta Ellora Caves - Aurangabad (Mah.) - Gupta rulers
- Aram Bagh - Agra (UP) - Babur
- Agra Fort - Agra (UP) - Akbar
- Akbar's Mausoleum - Sikandra (UP) - Akbar
- Itimodud daula Fort - Agra (UP) - Noorjahan
- Anand Bhawan - Allahabad (UP) - Motilal Nehru
- BadaImambara - Lucknow (UP) - Asafuddaula
- Bharatpur Fort - Bharatpur (Raj.) - Raja Surajmal Singh
- Bibi Ka Maqbara - Aurangabad (Mah.) - Aurangzeb
- Char Minor - Hyderabad (AP) - Quli Qutub Shah
- Charare Sharif - Jammu & Kashmir - Zainul Abedin
- Chhota Imambara - Lucknow (UP) - Muhammad Ali Shah

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- Dargah Ajmer Sharif - Ajmer (Raj.) - Sultan Shyasuddin
- Dilwara's Jain Temple - Mount Abu (Raj.) - Siddharaja
- Deewane Khas - Agra Fort (UP) - Shahjahan
- Adhai Din Ka Jhopra - Ajmer (Raj.) - Qutubuddin Aibak
- Elephanfa's cave - Mumbai (Mah.) - Rashtrakuta rulers
- Fatehpur Sikri - Agra (UP) - Akbar
- Ferozshah Kotla - Delhi - Ferozshah
- Tughlaq Golghar - Patna (Bih.) - British Government
- Gateway of India - Mumbai (Mah.) - British Government
- Hauz Khas - Delhi - Alauddin Khilji
- Hawa Mahal - Jaipur (Raj.) - Maharaja Pratapb Singh
- Humayun's Tomb - Delhi - Hymayun's wife
- Jama Masjid - Agra (UP) - Shahjahan
- Jama Masjid - Delhi - Shahjahan
- Jagannath Temple - Puri (Ori.) - Anantvarmun Ganga
- Jantar Mantar - Delhi - Sawai Jai Singh
- Jaigarh Fort - Jaipur (Raj.) - Sawai Jai Singh
- Jim Corbett Park - Nainital (Uttar.) - Sir Malcom Hqilley
- Jodhpur Fort - Jodhpur (Raj.) - Rao Jodhoji
- Kanheri's Fort - Mumbai (Mah.) - Buddhists
- Khirki Masjid - Delhi Ghyasuddin - Tughlaq
- Lai Bagh - Bangalore (Kar.) - Hyder Ali

AMIE(I)

STUDY CIRCLE(REGD.)

A FOCUSED APPROACH

- Lakshmi Narayan Temple - Delhi - Birla Family
- Makka Masjid - Hyderabad (AP) - Quli Qutub Shah
- Moti Masjid - Agra Fort (UP) - Shahjahan
- Moti Masjid - Delhi Fort - Aurangzeb
- Nahargarh Fort - Jaipur (Raj.) - Sawai Jai Sing h
- Nishat Garden - Srinagar (J & K) - Asaf Ali
- Purana Qila - Delhi - Shershah Suri
- Pathar Ki Masjid - Patna (Bih.) - Pervez Shah
- President House - Delhi - British Government
- Qutub Minar - Delhi - Qutubuddin Aibak
- Red Fort - Delhi - Shahjahan
- Safdar Jung Tomb - Delhi - Shujauddaula
- Sabarmati Ashram - Ahmadabad (Guj.) - Mahatma Gandhi
- Shantiniketan - West Bengal - Rabindra Nath Tagore
- Shish Mahal - Agra (UP) - Shahjahan
- Shalimar Garden - Srinagar (J & K) - Jahangir
- Shershah's Tomb - Sasaram (Bih.) - Shershah's son
- Saint George Fort - Chennai (TN) - East India Company
- Sati Burj - Mathura (UP) - Raja Bhagwan Das
- Sun Temple - Konark (Ori.) - Narsimhadeva
- Swarna Mandir (Golden Temple) - Amritsar (Pun.) - Guru Ramdas
- Taj Mahal - Agra (UP) - Shahjahan

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- Vellure Math - Kolkata (WB) - Swami Vivekanand
- Victoria Memorial - Kolkata (WB) - British Government
- Vishnupad Temple - Gaya (Bihar) - Rani Ahiliabai
- Viiaya Stambha - Chittorgarh (Raj.) - Maharana Kumbha

Example

1. Which type of mango from Andhra Pradesh received a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in 2017?
 - (a) Alphonso
 - (b) Banganapalle
 - (c) Totapuri
 - (d) Himsagar
2. Where is the temple of Angkor Wat located?
 - (a) Singapore
 - (b) Cambodia
 - (c) Thailand
 - (d) Indonesia

Answer

1. (b) 2. (d)

Example

1. Which one of the following has been described as a 'Frozen Moment in History' ?
 - (a) Fatehpur Sikri
 - (b) Jallianwala Bagh
 - (c) Gol Gumbas Bijapur
 - (d) Kutub Minar
2. In a coastal city, a high tide occurs every
 - (a) 24 hours
 - (b) 12 hours and 25 minutes
 - (c) 12 hours
 - (d) 24 hours and 25 minutes

Answer

1. (a)
2. (b) Earth rotates through two tidal "bulges" every lunar day, coastal areas experience two high and two low tides every 24 hours and 50 minutes. High tides occur 12 hours and 25 minutes apart. It takes six hours and 12.5 minutes for the water at the shore to go from high to low, or from low to high.

Example

1. Which of the following seas of Antarctica has been declared as world's largest marine protected area?
 - (a) Amundsen Sea
 - (b) Bellingshausen Sea
 - (c) Weddell Sea
 - (d) Ross Sea
2. Ms. _____ from _____ has been crowned Miss International 2016.
 - (a) Kylie Verzosa, Venezuela
 - (b) Kylie Verzosa, Philippines
 - (c) Edymar Martinez, Venezuela
 - (d) Edymar Martinez, Australia
3. _____ has developed the concept of Human Development Index in _____.
 - (a) Mahbub-ul-Haq, 1990
 - (b) Avinash Dixit, 1999
 - (c) Jagdish Bhagwati, 1980
 - (d) Amartya Sen, 1970
4. The position of the Earth in its orbit, when it is at its greatest distance from the Sun causing summer in the Northern Hemisphere is
 - (a) Apogee
 - (b) Perigee
 - (c) Aphelion
 - (d) Perihelion
5. India won _____ medals in 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games held in Austria.

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- (a) 73 (b) 10
(c) 12 (d) 63
6. Recently a huge Dead Zone is discovered in
- (a) Gulf of Mexico
(b) Bay of Bengal
(c) Coasts of Namibia
(d) Baltic Sea

Answer

- (d) Antarctica's Ross Sea has recently been declared the world's largest marine protected area (MPA). In a bid to conserve Ross Sea and the marine life it supports from most human activities that would destroy its eco system, the international community has decided to protect the area for future generations.
- (b) Edymar Martínez from Venezuela crowned her successor Kylie Fausto Alonte Verzosa from the Philippines as Miss International 2016 at the 56th Miss International pageant, held on October 27, 2016 at the Tokyo Dome City Hall in Tokyo, Japan.
- (a) Pakistani economist Mahbub ul Haq created HDI in 1990 which was further used to measure the country's development by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- (c) The Earth is closest to the Sun, or at the perihelion, about 2 weeks after the December Solstice, when it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Conversely, the Earth is farthest away from the Sun, at the aphelion point, 2 weeks after the June Solstice, when the Northern Hemisphere is enjoying warm summer months.
- (a) India won 73 medals in 2017 Special Olympics World Winter Games including 37 gold, 10 silver and 26 bronze medals.

6. (b) The Bay of Bengal hosts a 'dead zone' of an estimated 60,000 square kilometres - an area that contains little or no oxygen and supports microbial processes that remove vast amount of nitrogen from the ocean.

Example

- The 'Friends for Life'—an elephant conservation project has been launched by World Wide Fund for Nature India and
(a) Aditya Birla Group
(b) Muthoot Group
(c) Manapuram Group
(d) Reliance Limited
- Greece and Turkey are working to resolve their dispute over sovereignty and related rights in the area of which see?
(a) Black see
(b) Sea of Marma
(c) Aegean sea
(d) Mediterranean sea
- Which of the following is incorrect option?
(a) Within the Arctic and Antarctic circles, there is at least one day in the year during which the Sun does not set and at least one day on which it never rises
(b) At the North pole, there is darkness for half the year.
(c) At summer solstice, the Sun shines vertically over the Tropic of Capricorn.
(d) The Sun shines vertically over the equator twice in the year.
- Project Varsha, India's new naval base under construction, is near which of the following cities?
(a) Kochi (b) Karwar

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- (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Chennai

Answer

- (b) The Muthoot Group, one of India's leading business conglomerates and World Wide Fund for Nature- India (WWF-India) has launched 'Friends for Life', an elephant conservation project dedicated towards effective management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) and protecting the habitats of Asian elephants across six states in India. The project is part of the Muthoot Haathi Mera Saathi CSR initiative.
- (c) The Aegean dispute is a set of interrelated controversial issues between Greece and Turkey over sovereignty and related rights in the area of the Aegean Sea.
- (c) In the northern hemisphere, summer solstice takes place between June 20 and 22. The June solstice happens when the tilt of Earth's axis is most inclined towards the sun, directly over the Tropic of Cancer, so that's why we get the most daylight of the year.
- (c) INS Varsha is a new naval base being developed under Project Varsha for the Indian Navy. This base will be the home of the navy's new fleet of nuclear submarines and ships. It was planned to be located within a radius of approximately 200 kilometres (124.27 statute miles) from Visakhapatnam, the headquarters of the navy's Eastern Naval Command.

Example

- The sun reaches its maximum angular distance from the equator at the
 - zenith
 - solstice
 - equinox
 - noon time

- The difference in the duration of day and night increases as one move from
 - West to East
 - East and West of the prime meridian
 - Poles to equator
 - Equator to poles
- When can one record the lowest temperature of air?
 - Just before sunrise
 - At midnight
 - At 3 a.m.
 - At sunrise
- What is the difference between a geyser and a hot spring?
 - Water is ejected explosively in a geyser
 - Water from a geyser may be cold
 - Geysers are formed on volcanic mountains
 - Geysers are more common in cold countries
- The 9th Postal Zone of India covers
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Army Post Office
 - Goa
 - Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Answer

- (b) For an observer on the North Pole, the sun reaches the highest position in the sky once a year in June. The day this occurs is called the June solstice day. Similarly, for an observer on the South Pole, the sun reaches the highest position on December solstice day. When it is the summer solstice at one Pole, it is the winter solstice on the other. The sun's westerly motion never ceases as the Earth is continually in rotation. However, the sun's motion in declination comes to a stop at the moment of solstice. In that sense, solstice means "sun-standing".

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2. (d)
3. (a)
4. (a) A geyser is a spring characterized by intermittent discharge of water ejected turbulently and accompanied by steam. A hot spring is a spring produced by the emergence of geothermally heated groundwater that rises from the Earth's crust.
5. (b)

Example

1. The contentious Baglihar dam is built on the river
(a) Indus (b) Jheelum
(c) Chenab (d) Satlez
2. How many minutes for each degree of longitude does the local time of any place vary from the Greenwich time?
(a) Four minutes (b) Two minutes
(c) Eight minutes (d) Ten minutes
3. Which of the following is the largest peninsula in the world?
(a) Indian Peninsula
(b) Arabian Peninsula
(c) Malay Peninsula
(d) Chinese Peninsula
4. Social Forestry aims at
(a) Ensuring fuel and forest produces to weaker sections
(b) Medicinal and fruit plantation
(c) Large scale afforestation
(d) Scientific forestry
5. A nautical mile is equal to
(a) 1852 metres (b) 2000 metres
(c) 1575 metres (d) 2050 metres
6. Which of the following is concerned with land forms?

- (a) Geology (b) Geomorphology
(c) Ecology (d) Geography
7. The country known, as the Land of Midnight Sun
(a) Sweden (b) Norway
(c) Finland (d) Denmark
8. The World's largest river is
(a) Brahmaputra (b) Amazon
(c) Nile (d) Mississippi
9. Tsunami is caused by
(a) plate tectonics
(b) underwater ridges
(c) underwater volcanic activity
(d) pressure from Earth's core
10. The Indian Territory which fell under the states on the eve of Independence was:
(a) Only 20 Percent
(b) Over 80 percent
(c) 54 percent
(d) 46 percent

Answer

1. (c) Baglihar Dam also known as Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project, is a run-of-the-river power project on the Chenab River in the southern Doda district of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. (a)
3. (b) The Arabian Peninsula is a peninsula of Western Asia situated northeast of Africa on the Arabian plate. It is the largest peninsula in the world, at 3,237,500 km² (1,250,000 sq mi). The Arabian Peninsula consists of the countries Yemen, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates as well as parts of southern Iraq and Jordan.

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4. (c) Social forestry means the management and protection of forests and afforestation on barren lands with the purpose of helping in the environmental, social and rural development.
5. (a) A nautical mile is a unit of measurement defined as exactly 1852 meters.
6. (b)
7. (b) From late May to late July, the sun never completely descends beneath the horizon in areas north of the Arctic Circle (hence Norway's description as the "Land of the Midnight Sun"), and the rest of the country experiences up to 20 hours of daylight per day.
8. (b) The Amazon River in South America is the largest river by discharge of water in the world.
9. (c) Tsunami are waves caused by sudden movement of the ocean due to earthquakes, landslides on the sea floor, land slumping into the ocean, large volcanic eruptions or meteorite impact in the ocean.
10. (c)

Example

1. High sea is
 - (a) Sea lying more than 5 km beyond the coast of a country
 - (b) Sea lying beyond a distance of 3 miles from the coast of any country
 - (c) Sea beyond 200 km of a coast of any country
 - (d) Both (a) & (b)
2. If the original clay sediments are subjected to high temperature and pressure, they successfully change into rocks, the correct order of which is
 - (a) Slate, Shale, Schist

- (b) Slate, Schist, Shale
- (c) Shale, State, Schist
- (d) Shale, Schist, State
3. Exfoliation in granite is regarded as a process of
 - (a) Chemical weathering
 - (b) Mechanical weathering
 - (c) Faulting
 - (d) Folding
4. The tree species most commonly used in social forestry is
 - (a) Gulmohar (b) Mango
 - (c) Pipal (d) Eucalyptus
5. The Aswan Dam is constructed at a point where
 - (a) There are several waterfalls
 - (b) There are several cataracts
 - (c) There are several pigeon towers to facilitate the collection of droppings needed to keep the land productive
 - (d) The old traditional basic irrigation facility exists
6. The difference in time per degree longitude between any two places on globe is
 - (a) 4 minutes (b) 5 minutes
 - (c) 15 minutes (d) 30 minutes
7. From which river would the National River Project be started?
 - (a) Yamuna (b) Gomti
 - (c) Ganga (d) Krishna
8. The territorial waters of India extend up to?
 - (a) 12 Nautical Miles
 - (b) 6 Km
 - (c) 10 Nautical Miles
 - (d) 15 Nautical Miles

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9. Savannah grasslands are found in
(a) North America (b) Africa
(c) Australia (d) East Asia
10. Suez Canal connects
(a) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea
(b) Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea
(c) Baltic Sea and Red Sea
(d) Baltic Sea and Black Sea

Answer

-
1. (c)
2. (b)
3. (a) Exfoliation of granite is an example of chemical weathering.
4. (d) The principal species used in afforestation is a eucalyptus hybrid, Eucalyptus tereticornis, though E.globulus has also been employed.
5. (d)
6. (a)
7. (c) The National River Linking Project (NRLP) is designed to ease water shortages in western and southern India while mitigating the impacts of recurrent floods in the eastern parts of the Ganga basin.
8. (a)
9. (b)
10. (a) The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez.