Group 2A Mains – Daily Practice 18 (19 November 2026)

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Questions

1. Consider the following statements about the later Pandyas and Madurai:
1. The Venetian traveller Marco Polo visited the Pandya country (Kayal) during the reign of Maravarman Kulasekara Pandya I.
2. Malik Kafur, the general of Alauddin Khalji, invaded Madurai in 1311.
3. The Madurai Sultanate was founded by Malik Kafur.
Which of the above are correct?

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

2. Match the centres of the Revolt of 1857 (List I) with those who led the revolt there (List II):
(a) Kanpur – 1. Begum Hazrat Mahal
(b) Lucknow – 2. Rani Lakshmibai
(c) Jagdishpur (Bihar) – 3. Nana Saheb
(d) Jhansi – 4. Kunwar Singh

A. (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-2
B. (a)-1, (b)-3, (c)-4, (d)-2
C. (a)-3, (b)-1, (c)-4, (d)-2
D. (a)-2, (b)-1, (c)-4, (d)-3

3. Assertion (A): In 1919 Gandhiji called for a nationwide satyagraha (hartal) against the Rowlatt Act.
Reason (R): The Act empowered the government to imprison political suspects without trial for up to two years.

A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
B. Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
C. (A) is true but (R) is false
D. (A) is false but (R) is true

4. Arrange the following revolutionary events in chronological order:

1. The Chittagong Armoury Raid

2. Founding of the Ghadar Party

3. The Kakori train action

4. Founding of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)

A. 2, 3, 4, 1

B. 3, 2, 4, 1

C. 2, 4, 3, 1

D. 2, 3, 1, 4

5. Which of the following regarding C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) is NOT correct?

A. He was born at Thorapalli in present-day Krishnagiri district

B. He was the Chief Minister when Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu

C. He served as the last Governor-General of independent India (1948–1950)

D. He was among the first recipients of the Bharat Ratna in 1954

6. Consider the following statements about parliamentary procedure:

1. In the Lok Sabha, the first hour of every sitting is normally the Question Hour.

2. A starred question is answered orally in the House, and supplementary questions may be asked on it.

3. The 'Zero Hour' is formally provided for in the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

7. Match the committees on Panchayati Raj (List I) with the year in which they were set up (List II):

(a) Balwant Rai Mehta Committee – 1. 1985

(b) Ashok Mehta Committee – 2. 1957

(c) G.V.K. Rao Committee – 3. 1986

(d) L.M. Singhvi Committee – 4. 1977

A. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1

B. (a)-4, (b)-2, (c)-1, (d)-3

C. (a)-2, (b)-1, (c)-4, (d)-3

D. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-3

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8. Assertion (A): The writ of Habeas Corpus can be issued not only against public authorities but also against private individuals.
Reason (R): The writ aims to protect personal liberty by ordering anyone who holds a person in unlawful detention to produce that person before the court.

A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
B. Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
C. (A) is true but (R) is false
D. (A) is false but (R) is true

9. Which of the following regarding Lok Adalats is NOT correct?

A. They received statutory status through the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987
B. An award of a Lok Adalat is deemed to be a decree of a civil court
C. No appeal lies to any court against the award of a Lok Adalat
D. When a case referred by a court is settled in a Lok Adalat, the court fee already paid is not refunded

10. Which Article of the Constitution gives the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction in disputes between the Government of India and one or more States?

A. Article 32
B. Article 131
C. Article 136
D. Article 143

11. Consider the following statements about the human endocrine glands:
1. Insulin is secreted by the beta cells of the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas.
2. Adrenaline (epinephrine) is secreted by the pituitary gland.
3. Deficiency of iodine in the diet causes goitre.
Which of the above are correct?

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

12. Match the alloys (List I) with their main constituents (List II):
(a) Brass – 1. Iron, chromium, nickel (with a little carbon)
(b) Bronze – 2. Copper and zinc
(c) Solder – 3. Lead and tin
(d) Stainless steel – 4. Copper and tin

A. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1
B. (a)-4, (b)-2, (c)-3, (d)-1
C. (a)-2, (b)-3, (c)-4, (d)-1
D. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-3

13. Assertion (A): Iron objects rust faster in coastal areas.
Reason (R): Iron rusts only in the absence of moisture.

A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
B. Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
C. (A) is true but (R) is false
D. (A) is false but (R) is true

14. Which of the following regarding cell organelles is NOT correct?

A. Mitochondria are the sites of cellular respiration – the 'powerhouse of the cell'
B. Ribosomes are the sites of protein synthesis
C. Lysosomes, which contain digestive enzymes, are called 'suicide bags'
D. Centrioles are found only in plant cells and are absent in animal cells

15. The Indian scientist G.N. Ramachandran, who worked at the University of Madras, is famous for:

A. The structure of proteins – the 'Ramachandran plot' and the triple-helix model of collagen
B. The 'Raman effect' in the scattering of light
C. The mass limit of white dwarf stars
D. High-yielding wheat varieties (Green Revolution)

16. Consider the following statements about the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976:
1. On the commencement of the Act, the bonded labour system stood abolished and every bonded labourer was freed from any obligation to render bonded labour.
2. Vigilance Committees are to be constituted at the district and sub-divisional levels.
3. Offences under the Act are non-cognizable.
Which of the above are correct?

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

17. Match the rural employment / livelihood programmes (List I) with the year in which they were launched (List II):
(a) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana – 1. 2011
(b) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) – 2. 1989
(c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (implementation) – 3. 2006
(d) National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM – Aajeevika) – 4. 1999

A. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-3
B. (a)-4, (b)-2, (c)-3, (d)-1
C. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1
D. (a)-2, (b)-3, (c)-4, (d)-1

18. Assertion (A): Devaluation of the rupee makes Indian goods cheaper for foreign buyers and encourages exports.
Reason (R): The Indian rupee was devalued in two steps in July 1991.

A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
B. Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
C. (A) is true but (R) is false
D. (A) is false but (R) is true

19. Which of the following regarding the Balance of Payments is NOT correct?

A. Trade in goods and services is recorded in the current account
B. Foreign direct investment (FDI) is recorded in the capital account
C. Remittances sent home by Indians working abroad are recorded in the capital account
D. A situation where the value of imports exceeds the value of exports is called a trade deficit

20. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) – life cover of ₹2 lakh for death due to any cause – what is the age group of those who can join?

A. 18 to 50 years
B. 18 to 70 years
C. 18 to 40 years
D. 21 to 60 years

21. Consider the following statements about the interior of the Earth:
1. The crust is the thinnest of the Earth's layers.
2. The boundary between the crust and the mantle is the Gutenberg discontinuity.
3. The outer core of the Earth is in a liquid state.
Which of the above are correct?

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

22. Match the waterfalls of India (List I) with the rivers on which they are located (List II):
(a) Jog Falls – 1. Indravati
(b) Dudhsagar Falls – 2. Sharavathi
(c) Athirappilly Falls – 3. Chalakudy
(d) Chitrakote Falls – 4. Mandovi

A. (a)-4, (b)-2, (c)-3, (d)-1
B. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1
C. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-3
D. (a)-2, (b)-3, (c)-4, (d)-1

23. Assertion (A): At the equator, day and night are of almost equal length throughout the year.
Reason (R): The Earth's axis is perpendicular to the plane of its orbit.

A. Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)
B. Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)
C. (A) is true but (R) is false
D. (A) is false but (R) is true

24. Which of the following regarding volcanoes is NOT correct?

A. Mount Fuji in Japan is a composite (strato) volcano
B. Molten rock that reaches the Earth's surface and flows out is called magma
C. Mauna Loa in Hawaii is a shield volcano
D. Most of the world's active volcanoes lie along the Pacific 'Ring of Fire'

25. Consider the following statements about the State symbols of Tamil Nadu:
1. The State animal of Tamil Nadu is the Nilgiri tahr.
2. In 2019 the Tamil Yeoman (Tamil Maravan) was declared the State butterfly of Tamil Nadu.
3. The State bird of Tamil Nadu is the peacock.
Which of the above are correct?

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

26. Find the next number in the series:
2, 10, 30, 68, 130, ?

A. 216
B. 222
C. 218
D. 226

27. A sum of money amounts to ₹7,260 in 2 years at 10% per annum compound interest, compounded annually. What is the principal?

A. ₹6,000
B. ₹6,050
C. ₹6,200
D. ₹5,800

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28. A and B together can complete a piece of work in 10 days. A alone can complete it in 15 days. In how many days can B alone complete the work?

A. 25 days
B. 30 days
C. 20 days
D. 35 days

29. What is the least number that must be added to 1,000 so that the sum is exactly divisible by 45?

A. 10
B. 45
C. 35
D. 25

30. In a certain code language MADRAS is written as NBESBT. How is CHENNAI written in that code?

A. DIFOOBJ
B. DIFNNBJ
C. BGDMMZH
D. DIFOOJB

Answers with explanations

1. **B) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. Marco Polo landed at the port of Kayal around 1292–93 and wrote about the pearl fishery and the horse trade of the Pandya country. Taking advantage of the war of succession between Kulasekara's sons Sundara Pandya and Vira Pandya, Malik Kafur raided up to Madurai in 1311. The Madurai Sultanate was founded in 1335 by Jalaluddin Ahsan Shah, who declared independence from the Delhi Sultan – not by Malik Kafur; it was ended by the campaign of the Vijayanagara prince Kumara Kampana. So 3 is wrong.

2. **C) (a)-3, (b)-1, (c)-4, (d)-2** – Kanpur – Nana Saheb, adopted son of the last Peshwa Baji Rao II; Lucknow (Awadh) – Begum Hazrat Mahal, who proclaimed her son Birjis Qadr the Nawab of Awadh; Jagdishpur (near Arrah, Bihar) – Kunwar Singh, a zamindar then about 80 years old; Jhansi – Rani Lakshmibai, whose State had been annexed under the Doctrine of Lapse; she died fighting near Gwalior in June 1858. The revolt broke out at Meerut on 10 May 1857.

3. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) correctly explains (A). The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, passed in March 1919 on the recommendation of the Sedition Committee headed by Justice S.A.T. Rowlatt, allowed detention without trial and denied the right of appeal ('no vakil, no appeal, no daleel'). Gandhiji's satyagraha day was 6 April 1919; the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 13 April 1919 followed. It was Gandhiji's first all-India struggle.

4. **A) 2, 3, 4, 1** – Ghadar Party – 1913, USA, headquartered at San Francisco (Lala Har Dayal, Sohan Singh Bhakna); Kakori action – 9 August 1925 (Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan); HSRA – September 1928 at Feroz Shah Kotla, Delhi (Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh); Chittagong Armoury Raid – 18 April 1930 (Surya Sen). So 2, 3, 4, 1.

5. **B) He was the Chief Minister when Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu** – When Madras State was renamed Tamil Nadu on 14 January 1969, the Chief Minister was C.N. Annadurai (Arignar Anna) – not Rajaji. Rajaji (1878–1972) was Premier of the Madras Presidency in 1937–39 and Chief Minister of Madras State in 1952–54; he was the only Indian and the last Governor-General of India; he received the first Bharat Ratna awards in 1954 along with Dr S. Radhakrishnan and Sir C.V. Raman; he founded the Swatantra Party in 1959.

6. **A) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. Under the Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure, unless the Speaker directs otherwise, the first hour of every sitting is available for questions. A starred question gets an oral answer and supplementaries are allowed; an unstarred question gets a written answer with no supplementaries. The 'Zero Hour', which starts at 12 noon right after Question Hour, is an informal Indian practice and is not mentioned in the Rules. So 3 is wrong.

7. **D) (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-3** – Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957) – a three-tier Panchayati Raj ('democratic decentralisation'); the first Panchayati Raj was launched at Nagaur, Rajasthan, on 2 October 1959. Ashok Mehta Committee (1977) – a two-tier system (Zila Parishad and Mandal Panchayat). G.V.K. Rao Committee (1985) – the district as the basic unit of development planning. L.M. Singhvi Committee (1986) – constitutional recognition for panchayats, achieved by the 73rd Amendment (1992).

8. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) correctly explains (A). 'Habeas Corpus' means 'to have the body'. Whether the detainer is the State or a private person, the court examines whether the detention is lawful and orders release if it is not. The Supreme Court issues writs under Article 32 and the High Courts under Article 226. By contrast, Mandamus does not lie against a private individual.

9. **D) When a case referred by a court is settled in a Lok Adalat, the court fee already paid is not refunded** – Under Section 21 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, when a case referred by a court is settled in a Lok Adalat, the court fee paid is refunded – so the last statement is wrong. A Lok Adalat award is deemed to be a decree of a civil court; it is final and binding on the parties, and no appeal lies against it. Free legal aid is a Directive Principle under Article 39A; 9 November, the day the Act came into force in 1995, is observed as National Legal Services Day.

10. **B) Article 131** – Article 131 – only the Supreme Court can hear Centre–State and inter-State disputes at first instance (its role as the federal umpire). Article 32 – writs for enforcing Fundamental Rights; Article 136 – appeal by special leave (SLP); Article 143 – reference by the President for the Court's opinion (advisory jurisdiction).

11. **C) 1 and 3 only** – 1 and 3 are correct. Insulin lowers blood sugar; its deficiency causes diabetes. Adrenaline is secreted by the adrenal medulla – not the pituitary; it is the 'emergency' or 'fight-or-flight' hormone. Iodine is needed to make thyroxine in the thyroid; its deficiency enlarges the thyroid (goitre) – hence iodised salt. So 2 is wrong.

12. **A) (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1** – Brass = copper + zinc (vessels, musical instruments); bronze = copper + tin (statues, medals – the Chola bronzes are famous); solder = lead + tin (low melting point, used to join electrical connections); stainless steel = iron + chromium + nickel (+ carbon) – the chromium prevents rusting.

13. **C) (A) is true but (R) is false** – (A) is true but (R) is false. Rusting of iron needs both oxygen and water (moisture); rust is hydrated iron oxide ($Fe_2O_3 \cdot xH_2O$). In coastal areas the high humidity and the salt in the air (which acts as an electrolyte) speed up rusting. Painting, oiling/greasing and galvanising (zinc coating) prevent rust.

14. **D) Centrioles are found only in plant cells and are absent in animal cells** – It is the reverse: centrioles occur in animal cells (they help form the spindle during cell division) and are absent in most higher plant cells. So the last statement is wrong. Mitochondria produce energy as ATP; ribosomes make proteins; lysosomes are 'suicide bags' because their enzymes can digest the cell itself if they burst. Features peculiar to plant cells: cell wall, chloroplasts and a large vacuole.

15. **A) The structure of proteins – the 'Ramachandran plot' and the triple-helix model of collagen** – G.N. Ramachandran (1922–2001), while at the Department of Physics, University of Madras, proposed the triple-helical structure of collagen with Gopinath Kartha in 1954; the 'Ramachandran plot', published in 1963 with V. Sasisekharan and C. Ramakrishnan, is still used worldwide to study protein structure. Raman effect – Sir C.V. Raman; white-dwarf mass limit – Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar; Green Revolution – M.S. Swaminathan.

16. **B) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. Section 4 abolishes the bonded labour system, and bonded debts are deemed extinguished. Section 13 provides for Vigilance Committees for each district and sub-division. Under Section 22, every offence under the Act is cognizable and bailable – so 3 is wrong. The constitutional basis is Article 23, which prohibits forced labour. Rescued labourers get rehabilitation assistance under the Union Government's scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

17. **C) (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1** – Jawahar Rozgar Yojana – April 1989 (merging NREP and RLEGP); SGSY – 1 April 1999 (a self-help-group based self-employment programme replacing IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA and others); MGNREGA – Act of 2005, implemented from 2 February 2006 in 200 districts (100 days of guaranteed work per household per year); NRLM – launched in June 2011 in place of SGSY, later renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – NRLM.

18. **B) Both (A) and (R) are true but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true, but (R) does not explain (A). After devaluation one dollar buys more rupees, so Indian goods become cheaper in dollar terms while imports become dearer – that is the explanation of (A). (R) is only a historical fact: during the balance-of-payments crisis the rupee was devalued on 1 July and 3 July 1991, followed by the New Economic Policy of 1991 (liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation).

19. **C) Remittances sent home by Indians working abroad are recorded in the capital account** – Remittances sent home by Indians abroad are unilateral (private) transfers and are recorded in the current account – not the capital account; so the third statement is wrong. India is the world's largest recipient of remittances, and these inflows offset much of its large trade deficit, narrowing the current account deficit. FDI, foreign portfolio investment and external borrowings go into the capital account. India's balance-of-payments data are compiled and released by the RBI.

20. **A) 18 to 50 years** – PMJJBY – launched on 9 May 2015; open to people aged 18–50 with a bank or post-office savings account; annual premium ₹436 (from 1 June 2022; earlier ₹330), auto-debited from the account; cover continues up to age 55 if the premium is paid. Compare: PMSBY (accident cover) – 18–70 years; Atal Pension Yojana – 18–40 years.

21. **C) 1 and 3 only** – 1 and 3 are correct. The crust is on average about 30 km thick under the continents and only about 5 km under the oceans. The crust–mantle boundary is the Mohorovičić discontinuity ('Moho'); the Gutenberg discontinuity is the mantle–core boundary at about 2,900 km depth – so 2 is wrong. Because seismic S-waves cannot pass through liquids, the outer core is known to be liquid; the inner core is solid owing to enormous pressure. The core is made mainly of nickel and iron (NIFE).

22. **B) (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-3, (d)-1** – Jog – on the Sharavathi, on the Shivamogga–Uttara Kannada border, Karnataka; Dudhsagar ('sea of milk') – on the Mandovi, Goa–Karnataka border; Athirappilly – on the Chalakudy river, Thrissur district, Keralam; Chitrakote – on the Indravati, Bastar, Chhattisgarh – called the 'Niagara of India' for its broad horseshoe shape.

23. **C) (A) is true but (R) is false** – (A) is true but (R) is false. The Earth's axis is tilted about 23½° from the perpendicular, i.e. it makes an angle of 66½° with the orbital plane; this tilt causes the seasons and the variation in day length at higher latitudes. But the circle of illumination always bisects the equator, so day and night there are about 12 hours each. On the equinoxes (21 March and 23 September) day and night are equal everywhere.

24. **B) Molten rock that reaches the Earth's surface and flows out is called magma** – Molten rock beneath the surface is magma; once it reaches the surface and flows out it is called lava – so the second statement is wrong. Composite volcanoes are cone-shaped, built of alternating layers of lava and ash (Fuji); shield volcanoes are broad and gently sloping, built of fluid basaltic lava (Mauna Loa). About three-quarters of the world's active volcanoes lie on the Ring of Fire along the plate boundaries around the Pacific Ocean.

25. **A) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. The Nilgiri tahr is endemic to the Western Ghats; its main habitats include Eravikulam (Keralam), Mukurthi and the Anamalais. The Tamil Yeoman is also endemic to the Western Ghats; Tamil Nadu was the fifth Indian State to declare a State butterfly. The State bird of Tamil Nadu is the Emerald Dove – not the peacock (the peacock is India's national bird). State flower – Gloriosa lily (Senthandhu/Kanthal); State tree – Palmyra; State fruit – Jackfruit. So 3 is wrong.

26. **B) 222** – Each term is $n^3 + n$: $1^3+1 = 2$, $2^3+2 = 10$, $3^3+3 = 30$, $4^3+4 = 68$, $5^3+5 = 130$. The next is $6^3+6 = 216 + 6 = 222$.

27. **A) ₹6,000** – Amount = $P \times (1 + 10/100)^2 = P \times 1.21$. So $P = 7{,}260 \div 1.21 = ₹6{,}000$. Check: 6,000 → 6,600 (first year) → 7,260 (second year).

28. **B) 30 days** – One day's work: (A + B) = 1/10, A = 1/15. So B = 1/10 − 1/15 = (3 − 2)/30 = 1/30. B alone takes 30 days.

29. **C) 35** – 1,000 ÷ 45 = 22, remainder 10 (45 × 22 = 990). The next multiple is 45 × 23 = 1,035. So the least number to add is 1,035 − 1,000 = 35 (i.e. 45 − 10).

30. **A) DIFOOBJ** – Each letter is replaced by the next letter of the English alphabet (+1): M→N, A→B, D→E, R→S, A→B, S→T. So C→D, H→I, E→F, N→O, N→O, A→B, I→J = DIFOOBJ.

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