Group 2A Mains – Daily Practice 20 (21 November 2026)

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Questions

1. Consider the following statements about Hoysala art:
1. The Hoysala capital was Dwarasamudra (present-day Halebidu).
2. The Chennakeshava temple at Belur was built by Vishnuvardhana.
3. The temples of Belur, Halebidu and Somanathapura were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2023 as the "Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas".
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. Assertion (A): The Kailasanatha temple at Ellora is a monolithic (rock-cut) temple.
Reason (R): It was created by carving a single rock mass from the top downwards.
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

3. Consider the following statements about the Theosophical Society:
1. It was founded at Adyar, Madras, in 1875.
2. Its headquarters was shifted to Adyar, Madras, in 1882.
3. Annie Besant became its President in 1907.
Which of the above are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

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4. Match the freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu (List I) with their birthplaces (List II):
(a) V.O. Chidambaram Pillai – 1. Chennimalai
(b) Subramania Bharati – 2. Sengottai
(c) Vanchinathan – 3. Ottapidaram
(d) Tiruppur Kumaran – 4. Ettayapuram

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

5. Consider the following statements about the Gandhi–Irwin Pact:
1. It was signed in March 1931.
2. Under it, the Congress suspended the Civil Disobedience Movement and agreed to attend the Second Round Table Conference.
3. Under it, Bhagat Singh's death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.
Which of the above are correct?

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

6. Match the Articles of the Constitution (List I) with their subjects (List II):
(a) Article 243K – 1. Instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage
(b) Article 300A – 2. State Election Commission
(c) Article 338 – 3. Right to property (a legal right)
(d) Article 350A – 4. National Commission for Scheduled Castes

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

7. Consider the following statements about the Zonal Councils:
1. They are statutory bodies set up under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.
2. The Prime Minister chairs each Zonal Council.
3. The north-eastern States are members of one of these five Zonal Councils.
Which of the above are correct?

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

8. Consider the following statements about the Monetary Policy Committee:

1. It was set up under the Reserve Bank of India Act as amended in 2016.

2. It has six members.

3. In case of a tie, the RBI Governor has a second (casting) vote.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

9. Consider the following statements about the official language:

1. Under Article 343, the official language of the Union is Hindi in the Devanagari script.

2. The form of numerals for official purposes is the international form of Indian numerals.

3. The Eighth Schedule had 22 languages from the beginning.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

10. Which of the following about the Governor of a State is NOT correct?

A. The Governor is appointed by the President

B. The Governor holds office during the pleasure of the President

C. The minimum age for the office of Governor is 30 years

D. The same person can be Governor of two or more States

11. Consider the following statements about Aditya-L1:

1. It was launched by a PSLV rocket in September 2023.

2. The L1 point is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.

3. It is India's first space-based observatory to study the Sun.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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12. Consider the following statements about Chandrayaan-3:

1. India became the first country in the world to soft-land on the Moon.

2. It landed near the lunar south polar region on 23 August 2023.

3. Its lander was Vikram and its rover Pragyan.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

13. Assertion (A): People with blood group O negative are called universal donors.

Reason (R): O-negative red cells carry neither the A and B antigens nor the Rh(D) antigen.

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. The normal pH of human blood is about:

A. 6.4

B. 7.0

C. 7.4

D. 8.4

15. Consider the following statements about semiconductors:

1. Silicon is a semiconductor.

2. Doping silicon with phosphorus gives an n-type semiconductor.

3. The resistance of a semiconductor increases with a rise in temperature.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

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16. Consider the following statements about the GST Council:

1. It was set up under Article 279A.

2. The Union Finance Minister is its chairperson.

3. Decisions need a three-fourths weighted majority, with the Centre's vote carrying one-third weight and the States' two-thirds.

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. Consider the following statements about Priority Sector Lending:

1. Domestic commercial banks must lend 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the priority sector.

2. Agriculture is part of the priority sector.

3. Education loans are also included in the priority sector.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

18. Which of the following is NOT a direct tax?

A. Income tax

B. Corporation tax

C. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

D. Securities Transaction Tax (STT)

19. Match the institutions (List I) with their headquarters (List II):

(a) SIDBI – 1. Mumbai

(b) National Housing Bank (NHB) – 2. Hyderabad

(c) IRDAI – 3. Lucknow

(d) NABARD – 4. New Delhi

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

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

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

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

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20. Assertion (A): India has the opportunity to reap a demographic dividend in the coming decades.
Reason (R): The share of the working-age population (15–64 years) in the total population is rising.

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

21. The Tropic of Cancer does NOT pass through which of the following States?

A. Odisha
B. Tripura
C. Jharkhand
D. Mizoram

22. Consider the following statements about the mangroves of Tamil Nadu:
1. The Pichavaram mangrove forest lies in Cuddalore district between the Vellar and Kollidam (Coleroon) estuaries.
2. The Muthupet mangrove forest is in Tiruvarur district.
3. Mangroves grow mostly in inland freshwater lakes.
Which of the above are correct?

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

23. Consider the following statements about the ozone layer:
1. The ozone layer lies mostly in the stratosphere.
2. The Montreal Protocol was adopted in 1987 to control ozone-depleting substances.
3. The Kigali Amendment (2016) to the Montreal Protocol phases down HFCs.
Which of the above are correct?

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

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24. Match the lakes (List I) with the State / Union Territory where they lie (List II):

(a) Kolleru – 1. Odisha

(b) Loktak – 2. Jammu and Kashmir

(c) Chilika – 3. Andhra Pradesh

(d) Wular – 4. Manipur

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

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

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

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

25. Which water body separates Tamil Nadu from the Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka?

A. Palk Strait

B. Ten Degree Channel

C. Gulf of Kutch

D. Nine Degree Channel

26. What is the simple interest on ₹8,000 at 6% per annum for 3 years?

A. ₹1,240

B. ₹1,440

C. ₹1,480

D. ₹1,640

27. In a code language CAT is written as DBU. How is DOG written in that code?

A. EPI

B. EPH

C. DPH

D. FQI

28. Pointing to a boy, Meena said, "He is the son of my father's only son." How is the boy related to Meena?

A. Brother

B. Son

C. Nephew

D. Cousin

29. If 1 January 2026 is a Thursday, what day of the week is 1 January 2027?

A. Thursday

B. Saturday

C. Friday

D. Wednesday

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30. Find the next number in the series: 3, 8, 15, 24, 35, ?

A. 46

B. 48

C. 49

D. 50

Answers with explanations

1. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. The Hoysala capital was Dwarasamudra (Halebidu). Vishnuvardhana built the Chennakeshava temple at Belur. These temples, built of soft soapstone on star-shaped platforms, became UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2023.

2. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) explains (A). Built under the Rashtrakuta king Krishna I (8th century), the temple was carved top-down out of a single rock – that is why it is monolithic.

3. **C) 2 and 3 only** – Statement 1 is wrong: the Society was founded in New York in 1875 by Madame Blavatsky and Henry Steel Olcott. Its headquarters moved to Adyar in 1882; after Olcott's death, Annie Besant became President in 1907.

4. **B) (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-2, (d)-1** – V.O.C. – Ottapidaram (Thoothukudi district); Bharati – Ettayapuram; Vanchinathan – Sengottai (shot Collector Ashe in 1911); Tiruppur Kumaran – Chennimalai (died holding the flag in 1932).

5. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong. The Pact was signed on 5 March 1931 and political prisoners not guilty of violence were released. But Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged on 23 March 1931.

6. **B) (a)-2, (b)-3, (c)-4, (d)-1** – 243K – State Election Commission (panchayat elections); 300A – right to property (a legal right since the 44th Amendment, 1978); 338 – National Commission for Scheduled Castes; 350A – facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage.

7. **A) 1 only** – Only statement 1 is correct. The Union Home Minister chairs all five Zonal Councils. The north-eastern States are not in them; they have a separate North Eastern Council set up under a 1971 Act.

8. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Set up under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934 (amended 2016), it has six members – three from the RBI including the Governor and three appointed by the Centre. It fixes the repo rate; the inflation target is 4% (±2%).

9. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: the Eighth Schedule originally had 14 languages; amendments raised it to 22 (last, the 92nd Amendment, 2003, added Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali). Statements 1 and 2 follow Article 343(1).

10. **C) The minimum age for the office of Governor is 30 years** – The minimum age is 35 (Article 157), so the third is wrong. Appointment – Article 155; pleasure of the President – Article 156; one person for two or more States – 7th Amendment (1956).

11. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Aditya-L1 was launched on 2 September 2023 by PSLV-C57 and placed in a halo orbit around L1 on 6 January 2024. L1 is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.

12. **C) 2 and 3 only** – Statement 1 is wrong: India was the fourth country to soft-land on the Moon, after the former USSR, the US and China – and the first near the south polar region. The landing site is the "Shiv Shakti point"; 23 August is National Space Day.

13. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) explains (A). Because the red cells lack A, B and Rh(D) antigens, the recipient's body generally does not react against them, so they can be given to any group in an emergency.

14. **C) 7.4** – Human blood has a pH of about 7.35–7.45 – slightly alkaline (about 7.4). The bicarbonate buffer system, the lungs and the kidneys keep it steady; below this range is acidosis, above it alkalosis.

15. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: as temperature rises, more charge carriers are freed, so a semiconductor's resistance falls (in metals it rises). Pentavalent phosphorus donates an extra electron, giving an n-type semiconductor.

16. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. The 101st Constitutional Amendment (2016) inserted Article 279A creating the GST Council. The Union Finance Minister chairs it; State Finance Ministers are members. Decisions need a 3/4 weighted majority – Centre 1/3, States 2/3.

17. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Under RBI norms the overall target for domestic commercial banks is 40% of ANBC. Agriculture, MSMEs, export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure and renewable energy are priority-sector categories.

18. **C) Goods and Services Tax (GST)** – GST is an indirect tax – its burden is passed on to the consumer. Income tax, corporation tax and securities transaction tax are direct taxes administered by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

19. **A) (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-2, (d)-1** – Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) – Lucknow; National Housing Bank – New Delhi; Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) – Hyderabad; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) – Mumbai.

20. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) explains (A). When working-age people outnumber dependants, savings, output and growth can rise – the demographic dividend; but it pays off only with education, skills and jobs.

21. **A) Odisha** – The Tropic of Cancer (about 23½° N) passes through eight States – Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram – but not Odisha.

22. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: mangroves grow in brackish estuarine and coastal areas where sea water and river water mix; they tolerate salt and have breathing roots. Pichavaram (Cuddalore) and Muthupet (Tiruvarur) are Tamil Nadu's main mangrove forests.

23. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. The stratospheric ozone layer absorbs the Sun's ultraviolet rays. The Montreal Protocol (1987) controlled CFCs and similar substances; the Kigali Amendment (2016) phases down HFCs, which warm the climate. World Ozone Day – 16 September.

24. **B) (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-2** – Kolleru – Andhra Pradesh (freshwater lake between the Godavari and Krishna deltas); Loktak – Manipur (floating 'phumdis'); Chilika – Odisha (India's largest brackish-water lagoon); Wular – Jammu and Kashmir (one of the largest freshwater lakes).

25. **A) Palk Strait** – The Palk Strait separates Tamil Nadu from northern Sri Lanka (Jaffna) and links the Bay of Bengal with Palk Bay. The Ten Degree Channel separates the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; the Nine Degree Channel lies in Lakshadweep, north of Minicoy.

26. **B) ₹1,440** – Simple interest = principal × rate × time ÷ 100 = 8,000 × 6 × 3 ÷ 100 = ₹1,440.

27. **B) EPH** – Each letter moves one step forward (+1): C → D, A → B, T → U. So D → E, O → P, G → H – EPH.

28. **C) Nephew** – Meena is a woman, so her father's only son is her brother. His son is Meena's nephew.

29. **C) Friday** – 2026 is not a leap year – 365 days = 52 weeks + 1 day. So the day moves forward by one: Thursday → Friday.

30. **B) 48** – The differences are 5, 7, 9, 11 – the next is 13; 35 + 13 = 48. (Or $n^2 - 1$: 2^2-1, 3^2-1, … $7^2-1 = 48$.)

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