Group 2A Mains – Daily Practice 21 (22 November 2026)

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Questions

1. Consider the following statements about the Ilbert Bill:
1. It was introduced in 1883 during the viceroyalty of Lord Ripon.
2. It sought to allow Indian judges to try Europeans in criminal cases.
3. After strong European protest it was passed in a compromise form that let Europeans claim a jury of which half were Europeans.
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. Consider the following statements about the ports of the Sangam age:
1. Korkai was the chief port of the Pandyas and was famous for pearl fishing.
2. Puhar (Kaveripoompattinam) was the port of the Cholas and is described in the Pattinappalai.
3. Musiri was a Pandya port on the east coast.
Which of the above are correct?

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

3. Match the Buddhist councils (List I) with their venues (List II):
(a) First council – 1. Kashmir (Kundalavana)
(b) Second council – 2. Pataliputra
(c) Third council – 3. Vaishali
(d) Fourth council – 4. Rajagriha

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

4. Consider the following statements about the schools of Indian sculpture:
1. Gandhara sculptures show Greco-Roman influence and mostly used grey schist and stucco.
2. The Mathura school used spotted red sandstone.
3. The Amaravati school developed in Kashmir under the Kushanas.
Which of the above are correct?

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

5. Consider the following statements about the Pallava–Chalukya conflict:
1. Narasimhavarman I captured the Chalukya capital Vatapi and took the title 'Vatapikonda'.
2. Earlier, Pulakeshin II had defeated Harsha on the banks of the Narmada.
3. The Aihole inscription of Ravikirti records the achievements of Pulakeshin II.
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. Consider the following statements about a Financial Emergency (Article 360):
1. The proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.
2. Once approved, it continues indefinitely until it is revoked.
3. A Financial Emergency was proclaimed in India once, in 1991.
Which of the above are correct?

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

7. Consider the following statements about Article 249:
1. For Parliament to make a law on a State List subject in the national interest, the Rajya Sabha must pass a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting.
2. The resolution remains in force for up to one year and can be extended by one year at a time.
3. A law made under it ceases to have effect six months after the resolution lapses.
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. Which of the following regarding the Public Accounts Committee is NOT correct?

A. It has 22 members – 15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha

B. Its members are elected by proportional representation through the single transferable vote

C. A Minister cannot be a member of the Committee

D. It examines the Budget estimates before they are voted by the Lok Sabha

9. To whom does the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha address his or her resignation?

A. The President

B. The Prime Minister

C. The Speaker

D. The Vice-President

10. Consider the following statements about Article 163:

1. There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor, except where he is required to act in his discretion.

2. If a question arises whether a matter is one in which the Governor is required to act in his discretion, the decision of the Governor is final.

3. Courts may inquire into what advice the Ministers tendered to the Governor.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

11. Arrange the following electromagnetic radiations in increasing order of wavelength (shortest first):

1. Microwaves

2. X-rays

3. Infrared rays

4. Ultraviolet rays

A. 4, 2, 3, 1

B. 2, 3, 4, 1

C. 2, 4, 3, 1

D. 1, 3, 4, 2

12. Assertion (A): Optical fibres carry light signals over long distances with very little loss.

Reason (R): The core of the fibre has a higher refractive index than the surrounding cladding, so light inside undergoes total internal reflection.

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

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13. Consider the following statements about the Unified Payments Interface (UPI):
1. It was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. NPCI is an initiative of the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association.
3. UPI was launched in 2016.
Which of the above are correct?

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

14. Consider the following statements about metals in biomolecules:
1. Chlorophyll has magnesium at its centre.
2. Haemoglobin contains iron.
3. Vitamin B12 contains zinc.
Which of the above are correct?

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

15. Assertion (A): Temporary hardness of water can be removed by boiling.
Reason (R): The bicarbonates that cause temporary hardness decompose on boiling – $Ca(HCO_3)_2$ gives insoluble $CaCO_3$ and $Mg(HCO_3)_2$ gives insoluble $Mg(OH)_2$.

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

16. Consider the following statements about the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act:
1. It was enacted in 2003.
2. The FRBM Review Committee (N.K. Singh, 2017) recommended a general government debt-to-GDP ratio of 60% as the main anchor.
3. FRBM was brought in through a constitutional amendment.
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. Assertion (A): A Gini coefficient of 0 indicates perfect equality in the distribution of income.
Reason (R): The Gini coefficient is derived from the Lorenz curve; it is the ratio of the area between the line of equality and the Lorenz curve to the total area under the line of equality.

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

18. Consider the following statements about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
1. They consist of 17 goals and 169 targets.
2. They were adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 as part of the 2030 Agenda.
3. In India, NITI Aayog publishes the SDG India Index.
Which of the above are correct?

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

19. Consider the following statements about the Minimum Support Price (MSP):
1. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is a statutory body.
2. MSP is announced for 22 crops, and a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane.
3. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) takes the final decision on the CACP's recommendations.
Which of the above are correct?

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

20. Consider the following statements about the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam):
1. It reserves one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha, the State Legislative Assemblies and the Delhi Assembly for women.
2. It also reserves one-third of the seats in the Rajya Sabha for women.
3. The reservation takes effect only after delimitation based on the first census held after the Act comes into force.
Which of the above are correct?

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

21. Consider the following statements about the Noyyal river:
1. It rises in the Velliangiri hills of the Western Ghats in Coimbatore district.
2. It flows through Coimbatore and Tiruppur, and the Orathupalayam dam is built across it.
3. It is a tributary of the Vaigai.
Which of the above are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

22. Which of the following regarding El Niño and La Niña is NOT correct?
A. El Niño is the abnormal warming of surface waters of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific
B. La Niña is the abnormal cooling of surface waters of the same region
C. El Niño years are often associated with a weak southwest monsoon in India
D. La Niña years are usually associated with drought in India

23. Consider the following statements about the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:
1. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is headquartered in Chennai.
2. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are set up at the level of local bodies.
3. The Act was enacted to give effect to India's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
Which of the above are correct?
A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

24. Match the local winds / seasonal rains (List I) with their nature (List II):
(a) Loo – 1. Evening thunderstorms in West Bengal and Assam
(b) Mango showers – 2. Winter rain in north-west India
(c) Kalbaisakhi – 3. Hot, dry summer winds over the north Indian plains
(d) Western disturbances – 4. Pre-monsoon showers in Keralam and coastal Karnataka
A. (a)-3, (b)-1, (c)-4, (d)-2
B. (a)-4, (b)-3, (c)-1, (d)-2
C. (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-2
D. (a)-2, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-3

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25. Consider the following statements about soil conservation:
1. Ploughing along contour lines on slopes reduces run-off.
2. Shelter belts of trees are planted to check wind erosion in dry areas.
3. Gully erosion is caused mainly by wind.
Which of the above are correct?

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

26. Find the next number in the series: 1, 4, 13, 40, 121, ?

A. 363
B. 365
C. 362
D. 364

27. A is the brother of B. C is the mother of A. D is the father of C. How is D related to B?

A. D is B's grandfather
B. D is B's father
C. D is B's uncle
D. D is B's brother

28. The population of a town is 20,000. If it increases by 10% in the first year and decreases by 10% in the second year, what will the population be after two years?

A. 20,000
B. 20,200
C. 19,800
D. 19,600

29. Walking at 3/4 of his usual speed, a man reaches his office 20 minutes late. What is his usual time for the journey?

A. 40 minutes
B. 45 minutes
C. 1 hour
D. 1 hour 20 minutes

30. What is the difference between the compound interest (compounded annually) and the simple interest on ₹5,000 at 8% per annum for 2 years?

A. ₹32
B. ₹40
C. ₹64
D. ₹16

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Answers with explanations

1. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. The European agitation against the bill of Law Member C.P. Ilbert exposed racial discrimination. Under the 1884 compromise Europeans could demand a jury half of whose members were Europeans; the episode sharpened Indian political awareness.

2. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: Musiri (Muziris) was a Chera port on the west coast and a centre of Roman trade. The statements on Korkai (Pandyas, pearls) and Puhar (Cholas; Pattinappalai, Silappathikaram) are correct.

3. **A) (a)-4, (b)-3, (c)-2, (d)-1** – First council – Rajagriha (Ajatashatru), second – Vaishali (Kalashoka), third – Pataliputra (Ashoka), fourth – Kundalavana in Kashmir (Kanishka). After the fourth council Buddhism divided into Mahayana and Hinayana.

4. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: the Amaravati school grew in the Andhra region (Krishna valley) in the Satavahana period. Gandhara – Greco-Roman influence, grey schist; Mathura – red sandstone and an indigenous tradition.

5. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Narasimhavarman I captured Vatapi in 642 CE; Mamallapuram is named after his title 'Mamalla'. The Aihole inscription composed by Ravikirti records Pulakeshin II's victory over Harsha.

6. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: a Financial Emergency has never been proclaimed in India, not even during the 1991 balance-of-payments crisis. Approval within two months and no maximum period are correct.

7. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Article 249 is a special power of the Rajya Sabha – the House of the States gives consent, which keeps the federal balance. The law lapses six months after the resolution ceases.

8. **D) It examines the Budget estimates before they are voted by the Lok Sabha** – The fourth is wrong: the PAC examines the appropriation accounts and CAG reports after the money is spent (a post-mortem). The estimates are examined by the Estimates Committee; since 1967 the PAC chairman has by convention come from the Opposition.

9. **C) The Speaker** – Under Article 94 the Deputy Speaker resigns by writing to the Speaker, and the Speaker to the Deputy Speaker. Both are elected by the Lok Sabha from among its members (Article 93).

10. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: Article 163(3) says no court shall inquire whether, and if so what, advice was tendered by the Ministers to the Governor. Statement 1 is Article 163(1) and statement 2 is Article 163(2).

11. **C) 2, 4, 3, 1** – Increasing wavelength: gamma < X-rays < ultraviolet < visible < infrared < microwaves < radio waves. As wavelength rises, frequency and energy fall – so X-rays carry far more energy than microwaves.

12. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) explains (A). Light going from a denser to a rarer medium at an angle greater than the critical angle is wholly reflected back inside. That is why optical fibres are used in the internet, telecom and endoscopy.

13. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. NPCI was set up as an initiative of the RBI and the IBA under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, and launched UPI in 2016. UPI links several bank accounts to one mobile app for instant transfers.

14. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: the metal in vitamin B12 is cobalt (hence the name cyanocobalamin). Chlorophyll – magnesium; haemoglobin – iron, which carries oxygen.

15. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) explains (A). On boiling, $Ca(HCO_3)_2$ gives insoluble $CaCO_3$ and $Mg(HCO_3)_2$ gives insoluble $Mg(OH)_2$, which can be filtered off. Permanent hardness (chlorides and sulphates) is not removed by boiling and needs methods such as ion exchange.

16. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: FRBM is an ordinary Act of Parliament (2003), not a constitutional amendment. The N.K. Singh Committee made debt the anchor, with a 60% target (Centre 40%, States 20%).

17. **A) Both (A) and (R) are true and (R) is the correct explanation of (A)** – Both are true and (R) explains (A). Under perfect equality the Lorenz curve coincides with the line of equality, so the area between them – and the coefficient – is 0. If one person had all the income, it would be 1 (perfect inequality).

18. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. The SDGs, which followed the Millennium Development Goals (2000–2015), rest on the pledge to 'leave no one behind'. NITI Aayog has published the SDG India Index since 2018 to compare States' progress.

19. **C) 2 and 3 only** – Statement 1 is wrong: the CACP is not a statutory body; it is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture (it began in 1965 as the Agricultural Prices Commission). The CCEA approves MSP for the 22 crops on its recommendation.

20. **B) 1 and 3 only** – Statement 2 is wrong: the quota does not apply to the Rajya Sabha or Legislative Councils. One-third of seats in the Lok Sabha (Article 330A), the Assemblies (Article 332A) and the Delhi Assembly – including within SC/ST seats – for 15 years after delimitation.

21. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: the Noyyal is a tributary of the Cauvery. It rises in the Velliangiri hills and flows through Coimbatore and Tiruppur; pollution from Tiruppur's dyeing effluents, which made the Orathupalayam dam water unfit for irrigation, is a well-known environmental issue.

22. **D) La Niña years are usually associated with drought in India** – The fourth is wrong: La Niña years are usually linked with normal or above-normal monsoon rain in India; the drought risk is higher in El Niño years. Together they are called ENSO (El Niño–Southern Oscillation).

23. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Three tiers: the NBA (Chennai, 2003), State Biodiversity Boards and local-level BMCs, which maintain People's Biodiversity Registers. Fair sharing of the benefits of biological resources (access and benefit sharing) is at the heart of the Act.

24. **C) (a)-3, (b)-4, (c)-1, (d)-2** – Loo – the hot summer wind of the northern plains; mango showers – pre-monsoon rain in Keralam and coastal Karnataka that helps mangoes ripen; Kalbaisakhi – evening storms of Bengal and Assam; western disturbances – systems from the Mediterranean region that bring winter rain to the north-west (useful for the rabi wheat crop).

25. **B) 1 and 2 only** – Statement 3 is wrong: gullies are cut by running water – the ravines of the Chambal valley are the classic example. Contour ploughing, terrace farming and shelter belts are key soil-conservation methods.

26. **D) 364** – Each term = previous term × 3 + 1: 1×3+1 = 4, 4×3+1 = 13, 13×3+1 = 40, 40×3+1 = 121; so 121×3+1 = 364.

27. **A) D is B's grandfather** – A and B are siblings, so C is the mother of both. D is C's father – that is, the father of B's mother. So D is B's (maternal) grandfather.

28. **C) 19,800** – Year 1: 20,000 × 110/100 = 22,000. Year 2: 22,000 × 90/100 = 19,800. An equal percentage rise and fall always gives a net loss (here 1%).

29. **C) 1 hour** – At 3/4 of the speed, time becomes 4/3 of the usual time. The extra time = 1/3 of the usual time = 20 minutes, so the usual time = 60 minutes = 1 hour.

30. **A) ₹32** – For 2 years the difference = $P \times (R/100)^2 = 5{,}000 \times (8/100)^2 = 5{,}000 \times 0.0064 = ₹32$. Check: simple interest ₹800; compound interest ₹832.

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