

Q.1 Why are fats considered an essential part of a balanced diet, even though they are high in calories?

- A. They directly produce enzymes needed for digestion.
- B. They help in absorbing certain vitamins and provide long-term energy storage.
- C. They help in the breakdown of proteins into amino acids.
- D. They are the primary source of minerals in the body.

Answer: B

Sol: The correct answer is (b) They help in absorbing certain vitamins and provide long-term energy storage

- Fats assist in the **absorption of fat-soluble vitamins** (A, D, E, K) and serve as **long-term energy reserves** in the body.

Information Booster:

- Fats are classified into **saturated, unsaturated, and trans fats**.
- They provide **9 kcal/g**, making them the most energy-dense macronutrient.
- Essential fatty acids like **omega-3 and omega-6** cannot be synthesized by the body.
- Required for **cell membrane integrity, hormone production, and insulation**.

Q.2 By which among the following is the color of a planet determined?

- A. Its surface temperature
- B. Its average density
- C. Its total mass
- D. Its average distance from the Sun

Answer: A

Sol: Correct Answer: (a) Its surface temperature
Explanation:

- The **color of a planet** is determined mainly by its **surface temperature**, which influences the **wavelength of radiation it emits**.
- Hotter bodies emit more **blue or white light**, while cooler bodies emit **red or infrared light**.

Information Booster:

- Planet color can also be affected by **atmospheric composition** and **surface materials**.
- Stars follow a similar temperature–color pattern based on **Wien’s Law**.
- Reflection of **sunlight** contributes to planetary appearance but temperature plays the primary role in emitted color.
- Cooler planets appear **reddish**, while hotter ones appear **yellowish or bluish**.

Q.3 Which among the following is related to the human skeletal structure?

- A. Spleen
- B. Urethra
- C. Femur
- D. Iris

Answer: C

Sol: Correct Answer: (c) Femur
Explanation:

- The **femur** is the **longest and strongest bone** in the human skeletal system.
- It forms the **thigh bone** and supports body weight during standing, walking, and running.

Information Booster:

- Located between the **hip and knee joints**.
- Part of the **appendicular skeleton**.

- Plays a crucial role in **movement and posture**.
- Protects major blood vessels like the **femoral artery**..

Q.4 Ekamra Utsav is observed in which Indian state?

- A. Bihar
- B. West Bengal
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Odisha

Answer: D

Sol: The correct answer is (d) Odisha.

- Ekamra Utsav is a cultural festival of **Odisha**, especially celebrating Bhubaneswar’s heritage.
- It highlights dance, music, sculptures, and Odia food culture.

Information Booster:

- Bhubaneswar is known as the **Temple City** of India.
- Ekamra Kshetra is another name for old Bhubaneswar.
- The festival promotes tourism and classical dance forms.
- Major Odisha dances: Odissi, Chhau.
- Odisha Tourism Department organizes the festival.

Additional Knowledge:

- Odisha’s major festivals: Rath Yatra, Konark Festival, Bali Yatra.
- Ekamra Utsav includes food festival "Smaranika" and handloom exhibitions.
- The Lingaraj Temple is the spiritual center of Ekamra Kshetra.
- Odisha was formed on **1 April 1936** (Utkal Divas).

Q.5 Which of the following is NOT a common symptom of diabetes?

- A. Frequent urination
- B. Excessive thirst
- C. Slow healing of wounds
- D. High body temperature

Answer: D

Sol:

Correct Answer: (d) High body temperature

Explanation:

- A **high body temperature (fever)** is **not** a typical diabetes symptom.
- Diabetes symptoms mainly arise from **persistently high blood sugar (hyperglycemia)**.

Information Booster:

- **Frequent urination** and **excessive thirst** occur due to high glucose.
- **Slow healing** is caused by poor **blood circulation** and **nerve damage**.
- **Blurred vision** results from fluid imbalance in the eye lens.
- Early diagnosis prevents **kidney, heart, and eye complications**.

Q.6 In which year was Universal Children's Day (now World Children’s Day) first established by the United Nations?

- A. 1945
- B. 1950
- C. 1954
- D. 1959

Answer: C

Sol:

Correct Answer: (c) 1954

Explanation:

- **World Children’s Day** was first established as **Universal Children's Day** in **1954** by the United Nations.

The purpose was to promote international togetherness, raise awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare.

Information Booster:

- It is observed globally on **20th November** every year.

- This date also marks the UN’s adoption of two key child rights documents:
- **Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959)**
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)**

Q.7 The Olympic symbol – popularly known as the Olympic rings throughout the world – is the visible ambassador of the Olympics to millions of people. Which of the following color of rings is not included in it?

- A. White
- B. Black
- C. Green
- D. Red

Answer: A

Sol: Correct Answer: (a) White
Explanation:

- The **Olympic symbol** consists of **five rings** in the colors **Blue, Black, Red, Yellow, and Green**.
- **White** is **not** one of the ring colors; it is only the background color in the Olympic flag.

Information Booster:

- The rings represent the **union of five continents**.
- Designed by **Pierre de Coubertin** in 1913.
- Colors were chosen because **at least one of them appeared in every national flag** at that time.
- The rings symbolize **unity, harmony, and global participation** in sports.

Q.8 Which of the following dance forms has been included in the UNESCO Heritage Dances in the year 2010?

- A. Paika dance
- B. Chau dance
- C. Agni dance
- D. Mundari dance

Answer: B

Sol: Correct Answer: (B) Chau dance

Explanation:

- The **Chau dance** was recognized by **UNESCO** in **2010** and added to the **Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- It is a semi-classical Indian dance that combines **martial arts, acrobatics**, and **folk traditions**, often depicting stories from **epic tales like Ramayana and Mahabharata**.

Information Booster:

- **Geographical Spread:** Practiced mainly in **Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal**.
- **Styles:** Three sub-styles — **Seraikella Chau** (Jharkhand), **Purulia Chau** (West Bengal), and **Mayurbhanj Chau** (Odisha).
- **Costumes:** Dancers wear elaborate masks (except in Mayurbhanj style) and colorful costumes.
- **Music & Instruments:** Accompanied by traditional instruments like **dhol, shehnai**, and **dhamsa**.
- Chau reflects the region's **cultural diversity** and **ritualistic heritage**.

Q.9 What is the chief objective of Diagnostic testing in social studies teaching?

- A. Identification of weak pupil
- B. Intelligent pupil
- C. Favourite pupil of the teacher
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Sol:

The primary objective of diagnostic testing in Social Studies is to identify students who are struggling academically, allowing teachers to pinpoint the specific areas where they face learning difficulties. Diagnostic tests are not conducted to rank students or label them but to understand gaps in comprehension, misconceptions, or lack of skill mastery. Once these weaknesses are identified, the teacher can plan remedial teaching strategies tailored to the needs of the learner. This process ensures that no student is left behind and that learning outcomes improve effectively.

Information Booster:

- Diagnostic testing aims to detect specific learning difficulties in a subject.
- Helps in designing targeted remedial instruction.
- Conducted before or during the teaching process to address issues early.
- Focuses on skill gaps, misconceptions, and conceptual clarity.
- Encourages individual attention for weaker students.
- Improves overall classroom performance by addressing diverse needs.

Additional Knowledge:

- **Identification of weak pupil** – This is the primary purpose of diagnostic testing, helping teachers to tailor teaching plans and provide necessary remedial support to ensure improvement in weak areas.
 - **Favourite pupil of teacher** – This is irrelevant to the concept of diagnostic testing, as it is a professional tool aimed at educational improvement, not favoritism.
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Q.10 Which of the following will promote social learning of rules, regulations and values?

- A. Project work
- B. Group discussions
- C. Book reading
- D. Writing essays

Answer: B

Sol: The correct answer is (b) Group discussions.

Group discussions are one of the most effective methods for promoting social learning, particularly when it comes to understanding rules, regulations, and values. In a group setting, students interact with peers, express opinions, listen to others, and resolve conflicts. This collaborative communication naturally builds respect for rules, encourages tolerance of diverse views, and helps internalize ethical and democratic values.

Through group discussions, learners practice taking turns, active listening, critical thinking, and consensus-building, all of which are foundational to social behavior. Unlike individual tasks, discussions require students to adhere to social norms, such as speaking politely, disagreeing respectfully, and staying on topic. This environment simulates real-world social interactions and helps students learn how to behave responsibly in group settings.

In the context of child development and pedagogy, Vygotsky’s social development theory supports the idea that learning is a social process. He emphasized that cognitive development is influenced by social interaction, and group discussions are an ideal medium for that process.

Information Booster:

- Group discussions develop interpersonal and communication skills.
- They create opportunities for peer learning and mutual respect.
- Help students internalize democratic practices like voting, reasoning, and compromise.
- Encourage reflective thinking and the ability to view issues from multiple perspectives.
- Promote empathy, cooperation, and moral reasoning—key components of value education.

Additional Knowledge

- **Project work:** While project work fosters teamwork and problem-solving, it is more focused on task completion and cognitive goals. The social dimension may be limited if not explicitly designed to include value-based discussions.
- **Book reading:** This is a solitary activity, useful for building knowledge and comprehension, but it lacks interactive social engagement, which is essential for developing social values.
- **Writing essays:** Essay writing promotes individual reflection and expression, which is important for internalizing values but does not involve social interaction or negotiation, both key to social learning.

Q.11 Which of the following statements about Samudragupta of the Gupta dynasty is not correct?

1. He was the successor of Chandragupta I.
2. His court poet Bhimsen composed his eulogy known as the Gwalior Prashasti.
3. He was depicted playing the veena on his gold coins, showing his passion for music.
4. He adopted the title of Parama Bhagavata.

- A. Only statement 2
- B. Only statement 3
- C. Only statement 1
- D. Only statement 4

Answer: A

Sol: Correct Answer: (A) Only statement 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1:** Samudragupta was indeed the successor of Chandragupta I, continuing the Gupta dynasty after his father's reign.
- **Statement 2: The court poet of Samudragupta was not Bhimsen. The eulogy of Samudragupta, known as the Allahabad Pillar Inscription, was composed by the poet Harisena, not Bhimsen.**
- **Statement 3:** Samudragupta is indeed depicted playing the veena on his gold coins, symbolizing his love for music.
- **Statement 4:** Samudragupta did adopt the title of Parama Bhagavata, which reflects his devotion to Lord Vishnu.

Information Booster:

- **Samudragupta’s reign (c. 335–375 CE)** is considered one of the most important periods in Gupta history, marked by military expansion and cultural development.
- **Harisena**, the court poet, is known for his Allahabad Pillar Inscription, where he praises Samudragupta’s achievements and military conquests.
- **The Gwalior Prashasti** is a later inscription, associated with the Madhya Pradesh region, but it does not relate to Samudragupta.
- The depiction of Samudragupta playing the veena on his gold coins reflects his multifaceted persona, emphasizing his interest in arts and musical talents.
- **Samudragupta’s title of Parama Bhagavata** signifies his religious devotion, particularly to Vishnu, and reinforces his piety during his reign.

- Q.12

Consider the following statements about the Vedic religion and choose the correct option:
1. Early Vedic religion focused on the worship of natural forces like Indra and Agni.
2. In the Later Vedic period, Indra and Agni became the most important deities.
3. In the Later Vedic period, the Brahmanas gained power due to their control over rituals.
- A. 1 and 3 only

B. 1 and 2 only

C. 2 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Sol: Correct Answer: (A) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Early Vedic religion** indeed focused on the worship of natural forces like **Indra (God of thunder and war) and Agni (God of fire)**. The early Vedic period, particularly reflected in the **Rigveda**, shows a deep reverence for natural elements, including fire, rain, and storm, which were considered essential for life and survival.
- **Statement 2: In the Later Vedic period, Indra and Agni did not remain the most important deities. Instead, the focus shifted to Varuna, Mitra, and other deities associated with cosmic order and societal norms.** Indra and Agni became less central, with Brahmanical rituals gaining more prominence, focusing on ritual sacrifices and the worship of cosmic forces.
- **Statement 3: In the Later Vedic period, the Brahmanas (priests)** gained power due to their control over rituals. The increasing importance of ritual sacrifices and the need for priests to perform these rites elevated the Brahmanas, leading to their prominent role in society. The Brahmanas became key figures in maintaining religious and social order, and their influence grew as they controlled the performance of yajnas (sacrificial rituals).

Information Booster:

- Indra and Agni were among the most important deities in the Early Vedic religion, with Indra associated with war and Agni with fire and sacrifice.
- In the Later Vedic period, the religious focus shifted to more cosmic deities like Varuna and Mitra, while the significance of Indra and Agni diminished.
- The rise of Brahmanas during the Later Vedic period marked a shift towards more ritualistic and organized religious practices, where the priests had significant control over religious life.
- The Brahmanas not only conducted rituals but also compiled the Brahmanas texts, which provided instructions on how to perform sacrifices and rituals.
- The Brahmanas' influence in society was directly related to their ability to mediate between humans and the gods through complex rituals.
- The shift in religious focus during the Later Vedic period from warrior deities like Indra to more cosmic and moral deities reflects the changing social and spiritual needs of the Vedic society.

- Q.13

Match the following Rock Edict numbers with their correct contents:

Rock Edict	Description / Content
A. Major Rock Edict I	1. Appointment of Dhamma Mahamatras and their duties
B. Major Rock Edict V	2. Respect to Brahmanas
C. Major Rock Edict VI	3. Need for efficient organisation of administration
D. Major Rock Edict XIII	4. Conquest through Dhamma instead of war (Kalinga war)

A. A–2, B–1, C–3, D–4

B. A–1, B–2, C–4, D–3

C. A–3, B–2, C–1, D–4

D. A–2, B–3, C–1, D–4

Answer: A

Sol: Correct Answer: (A) A–2, B–1, C–3, D–4

Explanation:

- A. **Major Rock Edict I:** This edict deals with respect to Brahmanas and the promotion of religious tolerance. It emphasizes the respectful treatment of Brahmanas and other religious communities, promoting unity and moral conduct.
- B. **Major Rock Edict V:** This edict focuses on the appointment of Dhamma **Mahamatras** and their duties. Dhamma Mahamatras were officials appointed **by Emperor Ashoka** to oversee the implementation of Dhamma (moral code) and welfare activities in the empire.
- C. **Major Rock Edict VI:** This edict discusses the need for efficient organization of administration, urging officers to be just and efficient in their duties. The edict stresses the importance of good governance for the well-being of the people.
- D. **Major Rock Edict XIII:** This edict commemorates the Kalinga War and discusses the idea of conquest through Dhamma instead of war. Ashoka reflects on the pain and suffering caused by war and advocates for peaceful conquest through Dhamma (moral values).

Information Booster:

- Major Rock Edict I emphasizes the importance of religious tolerance and respect for Brahmanas and other religious figures, reinforcing Ashoka's policy of moral conduct based on Dhamma.
- Major Rock Edict V discusses the role of Dhamma Mahamatras, who were tasked with promoting Dhamma and ensuring social welfare through their duties of spreading peace and moral values.
- Major Rock Edict VI stresses the need for good governance and the importance of a well-organized administration. It encourages officials to govern justly and act in the welfare of the people.
- Major Rock Edict XIII reflects Ashoka's remorse over the Kalinga War and the immense human suffering it caused, leading him to adopt Dhamma as the guiding principle for his future conquests, emphasizing peace and non-violence.

Q.14 Consider the following statements regarding latitudes and choose the correct option:

1. Latitudes play a major role in determining the climate zones of the Earth.
2. Areas near the Equator receive direct sunlight and are hotter, while areas near the Poles receive slanting rays and are colder.

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

Answer: C

Sol: Correct Answer: (C) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- **Statement 1: Correct.** Latitudes indeed play a significant role in determining the climate zones of the Earth. The Earth is divided into different climate zones, such as tropical, temperate, and polar zones, which are largely influenced by the Earth's latitudinal divisions.
- **Statement 2: Correct.** Areas near the Equator receive direct sunlight, making them hotter because the Sun's rays are concentrated over a smaller area. Conversely, areas near the Poles receive slanting rays, which are spread over a larger area, resulting in less heat and colder temperatures.

Information Booster:

- The Equator is located at 0° latitude, and areas near it, like the tropical zones, receive the most direct sunlight year-round, contributing to a consistently warm climate.
- Polar regions (around 90° N and S latitudes) experience sunlight at a much lower angle, leading to less solar radiation and colder climates.
- Latitudes influence the distribution of solar energy across the Earth's surface, directly affecting climate, temperature, and weather patterns.
- The Earth is divided into five primary climate zones based on latitude: the tropical zone, subtropical zone, temperate zone, subpolar zone, and polar zone.
- Tropical regions (near the Equator) experience high temperatures year-round, whereas polar regions (near the Poles) have long, cold winters and short, cooler summers.
- The tilt of the Earth's axis also contributes to seasonal variations in the intensity of sunlight received at different latitudes, affecting climate patterns throughout the year.

Q.15 A location situated near a water supply source such as a river, lake, or waterfall is called:

- A. Dry point settlement
- B. Wet point settlement
- C. Defensive location
- D. Market settlement

Answer: B

Sol: Correct Answer: (B) Wet point settlement

Explanation:

- A wet point settlement refers to a location that is situated near a water supply source, such as a river, lake, or waterfall. Historically, such settlements were established near water bodies because water is essential for survival, agriculture, transportation, and industry.
- Access to water allows communities to meet their daily needs, facilitate trade and transport, and support agricultural activities. Such settlements were often located at places where fresh water is abundant, making them highly desirable for establishing human settlements.

Information Booster:

- Wet point settlements have been crucial in the development of early civilizations, as water sources are necessary for drinking, farming, and other economic activities. Ancient cities like Cairo (on the Nile River) and Rome (on the Tiber River) are prime examples of settlements located near water.
- The presence of water also promotes trade routes and transportation, as rivers, lakes, and coastal areas are natural highways for moving goods and people. → In modern times, cities near water bodies tend to have better access to water transport, playing a key role in global trade and commerce. Examples include New York (on the Hudson River) and Shanghai (on the Yangtze River).
- Wet point settlements are often contrasted with dry point settlements, which are located in areas less dependent on natural water sources and may rely on rainwater harvesting or man-made water systems.

Additional Information (Other Options):

- Option (A) Incorrect** because **dry point settlements** are located in areas with limited or no access to a water supply. These settlements are usually established on elevated ground or in places where water is less readily available.
- Option (C) Incorrect** because a **defensive location** refers to a site chosen for its strategic advantage, such as being on high ground or surrounded

by natural barriers like rivers or mountains, to protect the settlement from potential threats.

Option (D) Incorrect because a **market settlement** refers to a settlement that develops around a central marketplace, which can be located anywhere, and does not necessarily have to be near a water source.

Q.16 If the sunrise in Kolkata (88°30' East longitude) is at 6:10 AM, what will be the sunrise time in Mumbai (73° East longitude)?

- A. 7:00 AM
- B. 6:40 AM
- C. 7:12 AM
- D. 8:10 AM

Answer: C

Sol: Correct Answer: (C) 7:12 AM

Explanation:

→ To calculate the sunrise time in Mumbai based on the given information for Kolkata, we need to account for the difference in longitude. Each degree of longitude corresponds to a time difference of 4 minutes, because the Earth rotates 360° in 24 hours, and 360°/24 hours gives 15° per hour or 1° per 4 minutes.

→ **The difference in longitude between Kolkata and Mumbai is:**

- **Kolkata's longitude: 88°30' East**
- **Mumbai's longitude: 73° East**
- **Difference = 88°30' - 73° = 15°30'**

→ Since each degree of longitude corresponds to 4 minutes, the time difference between Kolkata and Mumbai is:

- Time difference = 15°30' × 4 minutes = 62 minutes.
- As Kolkata is to the east of Mumbai, the time in Kolkata will be ahead. Therefore, if the sunrise in Kolkata is at 6:10 AM, the sunrise in Mumbai will be 62 minutes later:
- 6:10 AM + 1 hour 2 minutes = 7:12 AM.

Information Booster:

→ The Earth's rotation causes time differences between places located at different longitudes. The Earth rotates approximately 15° every hour, which is why time zones are based on 15° intervals of longitude.

→ Local time at a given location is determined by the longitude, with each degree of longitude corresponding to 4 minutes of time.

→ When moving westward, the local time becomes later; when moving eastward, the local time becomes earlier. In this case, because Kolkata is to the east of Mumbai, the time in Kolkata is ahead.

Additional Information (Other Options):

Option (A) Incorrect: The time difference between Kolkata and Mumbai is not as large as 50 minutes, so the sunrise time in Mumbai will not be 7:00 AM.

Option (B) Incorrect: While 6:40 AM is close to the correct answer, it underestimates the time difference.

Option (D) Incorrect: The sunrise in Mumbai cannot be at 8:10 AM because it would imply a much greater time difference than the actual 62-minute difference.

Q.17 The significance of the right to constitutional remedies stems from which of the following?

- A. It ensures the voting rights.
- B. It guarantees rights regarding property.
- C. It allows the employment rights.
- D. It ensures citizens can petition courts to enforce their Fundamental Rights.

Answer: D

Sol: The correct answer is (d) It ensures citizens can petition courts to enforce their Fundamental Rights.

Explanation:

- The Right to Constitutional Remedies is provided under Article 32 of the Constitution of India.
- It empowers citizens to approach the Supreme Court (and High Courts under Article 226) to seek redressal in case of violation of their Fundamental Rights.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar called Article 32 the “heart and soul” of the Constitution.
- It allows the issuance of constitutional writs like Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari, and Quo-Warranto.
- It ensures judicial enforcement and protects citizens from arbitrary actions of the State.

Information Booster:

- The Supreme Court is the guardian and protector of Fundamental Rights.
- Article 32 is itself a Fundamental Right, which differentiates it from mere legal remedies.

Additional Knowledge:

It ensures the voting rights (Option a)

- Voting is a constitutional/statutory right, not a Fundamental Right.
- It is governed by Article 326, based on adult suffrage.

It guarantees rights regarding property (Option b)

- The Right to Property was removed from the list of Fundamental Rights by the 44th Amendment Act, 1978.
- It is now a legal right under Article 300A.

It allows the employment rights (Option c)

- Employment-related rights fall under Article 16 (Right to Equality in public employment).
- But the Right to Constitutional Remedies covers all Fundamental Rights, not just employment.

Q.18 Which of the following rights has NOT been interpreted as part of Article 21 by the Supreme Court?

- A. Right to Shelter
- B. Right to Privacy
- C. Right to Vote
- D. Right to Marry

Answer: C

Sol: The correct answer is (c) Right to Vote

Explanation:

- Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the Right to Life and Personal Liberty and has been interpreted broadly by the Supreme Court to include a wide range of derivative rights.
- However, the Right to Vote is not included under Article 21. It is a constitutional/statutory right, not a fundamental right.
- Article 326 of the Constitution governs the right to vote in India, which is subject to the provisions of the Representation of the People Act.

Information Booster:

- Article 21 reads: “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.”
- The Supreme Court has over time expanded its scope to include rights necessary to live a life with dignity, not just mere animal existence.

Additional Knowledge:

Right to Shelter (Option a)

- Recognized as a part of Article 21 in *Olga Tellis v. BMC* (1985) and *Chameli Singh v. State of U.P.* (1996)
- It ensures a minimum standard of living with dignity.

Right to Privacy (Option b)

- Declared a fundamental right under Article 21 in *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017)
- Encompasses bodily autonomy, data protection, personal choices, etc.

Right to Marry (Option d)

- Considered part of personal liberty under Article 21 in *Lata Singh v. State of U.P.* and *Shafin Jahan v. K.M. Asokan* (2018)
- Includes the freedom to choose a life partner, particularly in interfaith/inter-caste contexts.

Q.19 Which of the following was a key feature introduced by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976?

- A. Limiting the powers of the Parliament
- B. Strengthening judicial review
- C. Deletion of Directive Principles
- D. Insertion of the words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' in the Preamble

Answer: D

Sol: The correct answer is (d) Insertion of the words 'Socialist' and 'Secular' in the Preamble

Explanation:

- The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1976**, is often called the “**Mini-Constitution**” due to the extensive changes it introduced.
- It was passed during the **Emergency period (1975–77)** under the Indira Gandhi government.
- It amended the **Preamble** to include the words ‘**Socialist**’, ‘**Secular**’, and ‘**Integrity**’, emphasizing the government's commitment to social and economic justice and religious neutrality.
- This amendment aimed to give constitutional backing to the policies and ideology being pursued by the government at the time.

Information Booster:

- The 42nd Amendment also attempted to **curb judicial power, enhance centralization**, and **strengthen the role of Directive Principles** over Fundamental Rights.
- It added **new Directive Principles** like **free legal aid, participation of workers in industries**, and **protection of the environment**.

Additional Knowledge:

(a) Limiting the powers of the Parliament

- Incorrect. The amendment **enhanced** Parliamentary powers, especially related to constitutional amendments.

(b) Strengthening judicial review

- Incorrect. It actually **weakened** the judiciary by restricting the scope of judicial review and making constitutional amendments **non-justiciable**.

(c) Deletion of Directive Principles

- Incorrect. Instead of deleting, it **added more Directive Principles**, strengthening their role in governance.

Q.20 What vision and main aim did India's Ministry of Panchayati Raj possess?

- A. To attain decentralised and participatory local self-government through PRIs
- B. To centralise planning and governance
- C. To implement international rural development models
- D. To regulate Panchayati Raj finances

Answer: A

Sol: The correct answer is (a) To attain decentralised and participatory local self-government through PRIs

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj envisions decentralised and participatory governance through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- This vision is rooted in the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which institutionalised the three-tier Panchayati Raj system in India.
- The aim is to empower Gram Panchayats and promote bottom-up planning and governance at the grassroots level.
- Tools like the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and e-Gram Swaraj portal are used to enable transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance.
- The Ministry supports capacity building, financial empowerment, and inclusive decision-making processes.

Information Booster:

- PRIs are considered the third tier of governance, after the Union and State Governments.
- The Ministry also promotes Women and SC/ST representation, aligning with constitutional provisions.

Additional Knowledge:

(b) To centralise planning and governance:

- Opposite to the decentralisation ethos of Panchayati Raj.

(c) To implement international rural development models:

- India's Panchayati Raj is based on local context and constitutional mandates, not on international models.

(d) To regulate Panchayati Raj finances:

- Financial regulation is a component, not the core vision; the broader aim is empowerment and autonomy.
-