India post independence

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Q1.

With reference to Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution to post-independence India, consider the following statements:

1. The Planning Commission was established during Nehru's tenure to promote planned economic development.
2. The first general elections in independent India were conducted under the leadership of the Election Commission of India during his premiership.
3. The policy of non-alignment required India to maintain equal diplomatic and military distance from both Cold War blocs in every international situation.
4. Nehru supported the development of scientific research and higher education institutions as instruments of nation-building.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 4 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The Planning Commission was established in 1950 to formulate India's development plans.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** India's first general elections were held in 1951–52 under the Election Commission during Nehru's premiership.
3. **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Non-alignment meant independent foreign-policy decision-making, not rigid equidistance between power blocs.
4. **Statement 4 is correct:** Nehru promoted scientific research, technical education and institutions such as the IITs.

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Q2.

With reference to major political, social and governance-related events in post-independence India, consider the following statements:

1. The National Emergency declared in 1975 was proclaimed under Article 352 of the Constitution on the ground of internal disturbance.
2. The 1984 anti-Sikh violence raised questions concerning the state's responsibility to protect citizens and ensure accountability for communal violence.
3. The Bhopal Gas Tragedy of 1984 involved the leakage of methyl isocyanate from a pesticide plant.
4. The Bofors controversy primarily concerned allegations of irregularities in the procurement of aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

1. **Statement 1 is correct:** The 1975 Emergency was proclaimed under Article 352 on the ground of internal disturbance; the constitutional wording was later changed to armed rebellion.
2. **Statement 2 is correct:** The 1984 violence highlighted serious concerns regarding communal protection, policing and criminal accountability.
3. **Statement 3 is correct:** Methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal in December 1984.
4. **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The Bofors controversy concerned alleged kickbacks in the purchase of 155-mm howitzers, not aircraft.

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Q3.

Consider the following events:

1. The first democratically elected Communist Party government formed in a State in India.
2. India's then largest bank, Imperial Bank of India, was renamed State Bank of India.
3. Air India was nationalised and became the national carrier.
4. Goa became a part of independent India.

Which of the following is the correct chronological sequence of the above events?

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A. 4 – 1 – 2 – 3

B. 3 – 2 – 1 – 4

C. 4 – 2 – 1 – 3

D. 3 – 1 – 2 – 4

Correct answer: Option B — 3 – 2 – 1 – 4

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 3 – 2 – 1 – 4

The correct chronology is:

1. **Air India nationalisation — 1953:** Air India was nationalised and became India's national carrier.

2. **State Bank of India formation — 1955:** The Imperial Bank of India was transformed into the State Bank of India.
3. **First Communist government — 1957:** The first democratically elected Communist government came to power in Kerala.
4. **Goa's integration — 1961:** Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule and became part of India.

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Q4.

With reference to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the integration of princely states after India's independence, consider the following statements:

1. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel served as India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.
2. The integration of princely states was facilitated through instruments of accession and diplomatic negotiations.
3. V. P. Menon played an important administrative role in the integration of princely states.
4. All princely states were integrated into the Indian Union without any political or military challenges.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1, 2 and 3 only

C. 2, 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Correct answer: Option B — 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation

Correct Answer: (b) — 1, 2 and 3 only

1. **Correct:** Patel became India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister after independence.
2. **Correct:** The integration process involved instruments of accession, negotiations and political agreements with princely rulers.
3. **Correct:** V. P. Menon, a senior civil servant, assisted Patel and played a key role in negotiating and implementing the integration process.
4. **Incorrect:** Integration involved significant challenges, including the cases of Junagadh, Hyderabad and Jammu and Kashmir.

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